



“THE VOICE OF CDA”

Spirit of North Dakota

State Regent—Kathy Kennedy

As I write this, it is between the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The first one makes us reflect on that for which we are grateful, and the latter reminds of the Greatest Gift which makes us want to give gifts to others. When I reflect on the members of North Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas I think of how grateful I am for all of you and of the gift that all of you are to individuals, your parishes, communities, state and those in need across the nation and world. Through this past year you have shared your gifts freely and unselfishly and probably didn't even think much of it. To the ones they benefited, they were “a big deal.” You shared the gift of spirituality when you prayed for healing for our National Chaplain, Fr. Matthew Kuhn, and



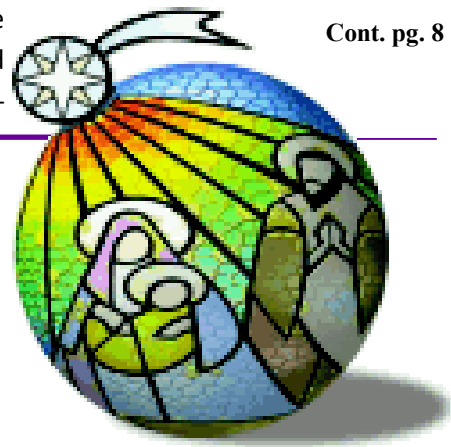
our National Secretary-Treasurer/ND National Supervisor, Vickie Feist, even though many of you haven't met them. (At this time, they are still in need of prayers for a return to good health.) I know you all pray before and after meetings, and some courts even start their meetings with a Mass or the Rosary. Some courts shared the gift of hospitality when they were asked to host one of our mini fall workshops. Without flinching, they responded with a “yes” and did a wonderful job for us State Officers and attendees. Oth-

er court shared monetary gifts when it was made known that our state funds were low. It was an appeal, not a request, but again there was a generous response to which we are most grateful. Your gift of punctuality in sending in required forms to state and national such as financial reviews is noted and appreciated. You have shared the gift of kindness when giving constructive criticism to the State Board. That is truly what it has been. We are open to ideas and suggestions and you have approached us politely and with concern. We have not felt that you were being critical, but trying to help. Another gift from you I most appreciate is the patience you have with me and the forgiveness you bestow on me when I make blunders or am

Cont. pg. 8

Inside this issue:

Chaplain's message / Editor's note	2
First Vice Regent's message	3
Second Vice Regent's message	4
Secretary's message	4
In loving memory	5
Local court news	6-7



State Chaplain—Fr. Franklin Miller



Our blessed Lord "... was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest" (CCC, 525). We never tire of singing the glory of Christmas night: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors" (LK 2:14 RSV)! Celebrating Christmas each year reminds us "to become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become 'children of God' we must be 'born from above' or 'born of God.' Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this 'marvelous

exchange.' O marvelous exchange! Man's Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity" (CCC, 526).

The celebration of our Lord's birth is preceded by the season of Ad-

GLORY
TO
GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST!

vent, which is a season of "ancient expectancy of the Messiah" (CCC, 524). As disciples, we await his expectant coming to renew our hearts and minds so that we can be witnesses and recipients of his glorious love and mercy. During this year's advent season the Church will begin the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy on

December 8th. Pope Francis said, "We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: 'Be merciful, even as you Father is merciful' (cf. Lk 6:36)." The Holy Father has the desire that everyone have a "genuine experience of the mercy of God."

Please consider participating in some way during the coming Jubilee as a court. I encourage each court to plan a pilgrimage to the Cathedral or the nearest parish that has a Holy Door. Those visiting a Holy Door during the Jubilee can receive a special indulgence while fulfilling the conditions ordinarily attached to an indulgence. The pertinent information can be found in the Dakota Catholic Action and the New Earth.

May everyone have a blessed and joyous Christmas and may the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy bring about for all a deep and personal experience of God's mercy!

Editor's Corner—Colleen Wipf & Mary Kennedy



Mary and I both have been surrounded with the anticipation of excitement of children at our feet as Christmas draws near.

As I get older (and wiser) I realize that all the work in preparation for Christmas is not a burden but such a JOY. My eight little grandchildren remind me of that wonderful spirit of Christmas. I'm sure I can speak for Mary also that she finds nothing but excitement when preparing for the season with her nieces and nephews. She was blessed with another niece, Rebec-

ca, just a few weeks ago.

Those joyful moments fill our hearts and souls with inspiration, gladness and togetherness.

We gather because of the birth of Christ, because of his birth we are inspired to fill our homes with love, kindness, gifts of joy and thankfulness for family and friends.

Wishing you the special JOY and PEACE that only Christmas brings!

State Vice Regent —Laurel Ann Dukart



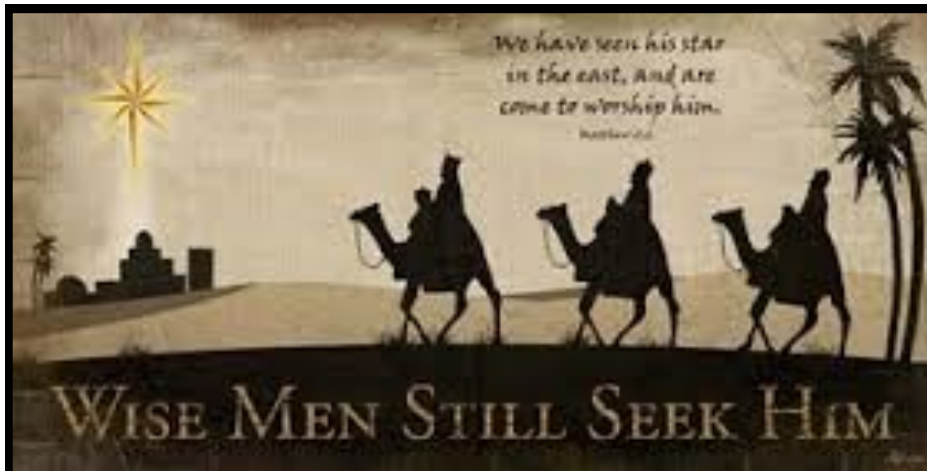
Remember these? It's a round TUIT! (of course mine is red) As I'm sending this article in, I promise that I am going to get 'around to it' more often. I made this promise because I missed too many chances to let someone know I was thinking of them and how much they've enriched my life.

Sr. Germana Marthaler was one of Ct. Marquette #677's members that I corresponded with through email/U.S. mail (but not as often as I meant to). Earlier in August,

I thought about emailing her on several occasions, I just didn't get 'around to it'. On August 31st, Sr. Germana passed. Not getting that email sent, reminded me it had been a long time since I sent a card or visited another member, Henrietta Smith (probably because they both lived in Crookston, MN). Of course, I got busy with other things and didn't get 'around to it'. Henrietta passed on November 5th. I'm dedicating my promise to get 'around to it' to two of my special Aunties (both had birthdays in November). Aunt Hilda (Dad's youngest sister) and Aunt Evon (Mom's sister-in-law) are two of the best at sending a card and calling for birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions,

holidays or just to say "Hello, how are you?" Early November, when wishing Aunt Hilda "Happy Birthday", she commented on the many cards (including one from Mom and me) she received. She mentioned that she enjoys looking at, touching and re-reading them – almost like the sender is there giving her a hug. I like cards, because someone special touched it, took the time to pick it out, added a little note and send it – all while thinking of me. We sent Aunt Evon's card early, as she traveled over her birthday (she was actually born on Thanksgiving). "Aunties, thank you both for getting 'around to it'! I love you very much." I challenge all Catholic Daughters to get around to it!

Merry Christmas!



The N.D. State C.D.A. Board will remember you this Christmas and pray your celebration brings a heart full of joy as you remember God's *amazing* love shown through His Son, Jesus!

*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!*

Fr. Franklin Miller
Kathy Kennedy
Laurel Ann Dukart
Mary Baer
Bonita Erickson
Sarah Topen

Second Vice State Regent—Mary Baer



This holiday season has been a time of reflection for me. I am so very thankful for many things in my life. Since the fire I have become much more observant and appreciative of the little things in life even more. I am thankful for all the caring people in my life as well. The kindness and generosity bestowed on us has been overwhelming. I know all the prayers are what helped us and continue to help us through this ordeal.

We have moved back into our house after seven months of liv-

ing in the camper. The house is still a work in progress but it is very livable. There are a few finishing touches left on the main floor; the top and bottom trim of the kitchen cupboards needs to be put on, closet shelves to be put in, and laundry room cupboards to put up. There is still quite a bit to do in the basement. We ended up putting in-floor heating in for the upstairs – so heating pipes were run in the ceiling of the basement. The ceiling needs to be insulated, ceiling tile and grid work needs to get put up, the bathroom needs to be redone, all walls painted, and new flooring laid. Once all that is done our house project may be complete. Then Bruce can concentrate on

getting the garage set up how he wants it. We still have quite a bit of stuff in storage since most of it came from the basement. We have learned to live with less, it certainly makes life simpler. I am looking forward to the day we can get everything out of storage so I can see what we have and don't have. We went through so much stuff in such a short amount of time I do not remember what we were able to keep.

I would like to once again thank all of you who have given us gifts and especially thank you for all your prayers. I wish the very best for all of you this Christmas Season – I am anxious to see what 2016 has in store.

State Secretary—Bonita Erickson



In December Pope Francis marks the opening of a jubilee year normally held every twenty-five years. However, the Holy Father has broken with tradition and called a special jubilee dedicated to the mercy of God. So what exactly is mercy? Mercy is the quality or condition of a person necessary for the performance of some action. Mercy is love when it encounters suffering. It's when love meets the poor, weak and the broken. Mercy is two movements that takes place within us when we see someone or something suffer. The first movement is a

movement of compassion that we feel in our hearts. Secondly, it is a movement of action. In other words, we see someone suffering and feel compassion for him. We soon find ourselves reaching out to alleviate his suffering. Mercy is love that feels compassion for those who suffer and reaches out to help.

The works of mercy are broken up into two categories. The Corporal works of mercy and the Spiritual works of mercy.

The Corporal works of mercy are concerned with meeting the physical needs of others. The Corporal works of mercy are: Feed the hungry; Give drink to the thirsty; Clothe the naked; Shelter the homeless; Visit the sick; Visit the imprisoned and Bury the dead.

The Spiritual works of mercy

on the other hand are designed to meet the spiritual needs of others. The Spiritual works of mercy are: Instruct the ignorant; Counsel the doubtful; Admonish the sinner; Bear wrongs patiently; Forgive offenses willingly; Comfort the afflicted; and Pray for the living and the dead.

When we put some of these into practice, the coming year of mercy will be a time of renewal and transformation for us. Not only will we come to a deeper experience of the mercy of God, but we will also become more fully the face of god's mercy to the people around us.

Lord, Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him, show us your face and we will be saved. from Pope Francis' prayer for the year of mercy

In Memory



Henrietta Frances Smith

Henrietta F. Smith, 99, of East Grand Forks, MN passed away Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015 in Villa St. Vincent in Crookston, MN

Henrietta Frances Matcha was born April 17, 1916 in Grafton, ND the daughter of Thomas and Frances (Kotrba) Matcha. She

was raised in Walsh County, ND and graduated from Grafton High School in 1935. She moved to East Grand Forks and attended Aaker's Business College in Grand Forks. Henrietta married Raphael Smith on Nov. 25, 1937 in St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Grafton. Following their marriage, they lived in East Grand Forks and Henrietta was employed at Penney's Department Store and as a bookkeeper with Vern Hagen Trucking. Raphael preceded her in death on July 14, 1979. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in East Grand Forks, former Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court Marquette #677, The Degree of Honor and The Trainmen's Auxiliary. She was an avid reader and enjoyed knitting and crocheting.

Henrietta served as a ND CDA State Regent.



In Loving Remembrance

Beverly Moran

Henrietta Smith

Germana Marthaler

Lucille Dosch

Annie Schmidt

Charlotte Lane

Clarine Urlacher

Rose Moos

Alice Power

Annette Kelsch

Betty Lleidingang

Frances Andrews

Margaret Patience

Ann Opp



Local Court News



Iain Reverend Michael Schommer. Past Court Regents were recognized as well as 50 years and over members: Agnes Regan, MaryAnn Vansteenvort, Shirley Uthke, Mary Kitsch, Shirley Kitsch, Estrella Garcia, Colleen Eresman, Jane Traynor, Genevieve Broden, Renilda Hanson and Delores Stromme. Elizabeth Schall was presented with her 50 year membership pin by National Regent Shirley Seyfried. The celebration ended with all members singing the Closing Ode.

Court St. Mary's celebrates 100 years

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Mary #268 of Devils Lake celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Court on October 4th, 2015. The celebration began with a Mass celebrated by Very Reverend Chad Wilhelm assisted by Deacon candidate Ken Severinson. Mass was followed with a Reception which began with a candlelight Rosary led by past

Court Regents: Carol Kuntz, Brenda Regan, Char Kitsch, Shirley Uthke and Rosie Wentz. Guests and speakers attending the Anniversary Celebration included National Regent Shirley Seyfried; National Secretary/Treasurer, Vickie Fiest; State Regent Kathy Kennedy; Court Regent Michelle DeFoe, and past State Chaplain/past St. Mary's Court Chap-



Future Events:

Jan. 22, 2016—March for Life, Washington

Feb. 21, 2016—JCDA Day

June 20, 2016—40th Anniversary, Ct. Our Mother of Perpetual Help #2148, Belfield

July 20-24, 2016—56th Biennial National CDA Convention, Pittsburgh, PA

Oct. 16, 2016—National CDA Sunday



Local Court News

40th anniversary celebrated in Wilton



Court St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Wilton, celebrated their 40th anniversary Sunday, Oct. 25. Members of the court were presented the Circle of Love Awards. Back, L to R: Sarah Gratton, Amy Beehler, Cindy Opp, LaVern Holkup, LaVonne Hochlater, Mary Ann Welder & Heidi Quinn. Front, L to R: Marge Conley, Ginger Haman, State Regent Kathy Kennedy, Virginia Emineth, Bev Bergquist & Sharon Peiler.

www.northdakotacatholicdaughters.org

Mission Statement

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the Advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Jo Winkler
Julie Henderson
Cynthia Houston
Margie Russ
Patty Landman
DeAnna Coon
Ann Thompson
Sue Solberg
Karen Lewis
Jacque Kitzan
Linda Kempel
Alvina Campbell
Andrea Schandore
Chelsie Engler
Lynn Waldner
Becci Cunningham
Karen Fryslie
Linda Dally
Sarah Voight
Ramona Marie Lincoln



Spirit of North Dakota

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State Regent cont. from pg. 1
forgetful. Sometimes I can almost feel your support physically, rather than just emotionally or mentally, and it really does give me strength to go on. St. Paul often started his letters out telling people he thanked God for them and their efforts. I'm pretty sure he wasn't just saying it and truly meant it, because that is how I feel about all of you. Please continue to be the gift that you are in all the ways you have been and the world will be a more beautiful place. As St. Paul would say, "I am confident of this that the one who began a good

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Mar. 1, 2016

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work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil 1:6).

Have a blessed Advent, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

