



# Spirit of North Dakota

## State Regent—Kathy Kennedy

*Jesus said to his disciples: “Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. Mk 9:41*

Yesterday, when I wanted to write my article, I couldn't get started because nothing was coming to me. Then today, when I read Mark 9:41, I knew what I wanted to share with you. The part that spoke to me wasn't that “we will not lose our reward,” but that we do things for others because **we belong in Christ**. Isn't that what being a member of Catholic Daughters is all about? I'm pretty sure that when you joined this worthwhile organization you wanted to be with other women who wanted to grow spiritually and serve others. All of this week, the readings have been from the letter of James in which he speaks of faith and action; how the two go



together. To me, that sums up Catholic Daughters. We must do our good works with the charity and love of a giving, Catholic Christian. Sometimes we get so caught up in the “doing” that we forget our purpose. Please remember to do all that you do in the name of CDA out of love and faith. And please don't scrimp on the spiritual aspect of CDA. I was at a meeting once where the Regent mentioned the meeting was getting long and so she asked the member who had gotten a devotional ready if it could wait until next time. I wanted to stand up and scream, “No!

Take the ten minutes!” but I didn't. It still bothers me that I didn't say something, but now I'm asking all of you to keep your focus centered on Christ and on your spiritual growth as well as your deeds. When I visit with women from other parishes and ask them why they aren't a Catholic Daughter, they tell me, “They work too hard.” or “All they do is fundraise.” That's the part that they see. They don't see that you are raising money because you need to have in order to give. Maybe it would be okay to let people know how you donate those funds in the parish, community, state and nation. But mostly, let them see that we act with “unity and charity.” A lot can be said in that simple three word motto by our words and actions. If I sound preachy, I'm sorry. I just want all people to see CDA members in the very best light because you are “the salt of the earth.”

### Inside this issue:

Chaplain's message	2
National Supervisor's message	3
First Vice Regent's message	3
Second Vice Regent's message	4
Treasurer's message	4
Secretary's message	5
Legislation	5



## State Chaplain—Fr. Franklin Miller

---



The cold weather seems to be dragging on and on. However, as North Dakotans we are always optimistic about the coming of spring and the change that comes about in such a marvelous way each year. As Christians we know that along with the coming of spring comes Lent and Easter. Each year Lent is the season in the Liturgical Year that facilitates the transformation that we desire in our hearts for a more intimate relationship with our Lord. As our Lord instructed us, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with

all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mk 12:30) and to “love one another” (Jn 15:12).

Each year Lent begins with Ash Wednesday with the blessing and imposition of ashes, and ends with the celebration of the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord. It is a period of 40 days, in imitation of our Lord’s 40 days and 40 nights in the desert, with prescribed days of fasting and abstinence, exclusive of Sunday’s since fasting never occurs on the Lord’s Day. The activities of Lent that we do each year helps build character, to “shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart” (2 Tim 2:22). Lent is a very im-

portant time of penance and interior renewal in preparation for the celebration of the Lord’s resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Lenten practices aid us with the desire for purity of heart, which leads to a partaking of the spirit of Christ in an ever-greater way, “what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Cor 2:9).

Lent offers us the opportunity to pray more intensely and to experience the love of our loving Father by meditating on the passion of our Lord as we pray the Stations of the Cross.

May all of you have a blessed and joy filled Lent!

*Wishing you the glory that is Easter’s*

*The beauty that is Spring’s*

*And all the joy and peace of mind*

*That God our Father brings*

**HAPPY EASTER**

*From your state board:*

*Kathy, Laurel Ann, Mary,*

*Bonita, Deb & Father Miller*

## National Supervisor—Vickie Feist

---



Greeting my dear Catholic Daughters! So quickly Christmas season has passed away and we are making our Lenten preparations.

One of my Lenten focuses this year is to spend more time each day listening to God. In our busy world it is too easy to plan, plan, plan, and run, run, run, and do, do, do. I too frequently find my time with God filled with me talking and focusing on what I think either God or I need to do next. Sometimes it can be that way in our relationship with CDA. We

spend so much time focused on DOING that we don't spend time BEING with one another and growing in our spirituality together. God, help me (us) to remember that we are human BEINGS who need YOU and our Catholic Daughter Sisters- not just human DOINGS.

Twice yearly, I field a number of calls from CDA officers who are concerned about the dues bill they received from the National Office or the State Board. The conversation almost always starts with something like "I got this bill for our court and they billed for people who aren't members anymore". They are upset for what they see as over-billing.

With your patience, I ask that you please allow me to explain the billing numbers.

As you likely understand, when a member joins a court (as new, transferred, or renewal member) the Financial Secretary sends a copy of the completed membership form to the national office. When a membership ends (due to death, forfeiture, termination, or transfer) the Financial Secretary notifies the national office in writing via email or snail mail.

Twice yearly, national dues are billed based on the current membership roster for each court. If someone's membership ended

**Continued on pg. 8**

## First Vice State Regent—Laurel Ann Dukart

---



As Lent is a time of almsgiving, I would like to share four more of the ten National Charities the Catholic Daughters of the Americas support.

**Catholic Relief Services:** In 1943 this international project was started to provide assistance to the people in the poorest parts of the world. They reach out to more than 100 countries with support such as food, medical supplies, religious assistance.

**Apostelship of the Sea:** In 1920, Port Ministry was conceived. Its goal is to provide spiritual, physi-

cal, and psychological services to seamen at port locations in the United States. They are always happy to receive toilet articles to place on board ships in ports at Christmas time.

**Covenant House:** Covenant House was founded 38 years ago with the mission to help homeless children. Today, it is the largest privately-funded agency in the Americas - providing food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and essential service to the homeless, throwaway, and runaway children.

**Project Handclasp:** Project Handclasp, adopted in 1974, is an official Navy overseas people-to-people program. Donated materials are transported over-

seas on Navy ships.

Lent brings to mind, "The woman who offered two copper coins (worth less than a penny)", "It is more blessed to give than receive" and "Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing". It's not what or how much you give, but how you give it. Always give from the heart, keeping the feelings of the receiver in mind.

In Unity and Charity, wishing everyone a blessed Easter.



## Second Vice State Regent—Mary Baer



The Lenten journey has begun, I hope all of you can take some extra time to reflect and prepare yourself for the upcoming Easter Season. May

your fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday be a way to clear away the clutter in your life and help you to see God more clearly. May your longing for meat and other food, help you to focus your life today more outside yourself. And may you be aware of those who are in so

much more need than yourself.

With this thought in mind I would like to explain two more of our National Charitable Projects. Last newsletter I talked about the Holy Cross Family Rosary and Smile Train, this time I will tell you a little bit about The Disaster Relief and SOAR.

### The Disaster Relief

The Catholic Daughters maintain a Disaster Fund to which our members contribute. At the request of the State Regent where a disaster occurs, monetary assistance is forwarded to the Bishop of that diocese for distribution. Recently donations were made to Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi,

and Texas due to hurricanes. Relief was sent to Mexico, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio and Texas experiencing major flooding. Dioceses received funds in Arkansas following tornadoes and West Virginia during a mine disaster.

### SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious)

SOAR was founded in 1986 with \$25,000 seed money received from Catholic Daughters. Augmenting the efforts of the institutional Church, SOAR! is a non-profit organization of persons who are committed to assuring financially stable and personally secure futures for elderly and frail members of Catholic religious congregations.

I would like to close with this Lenten prayer:

*Lord,*

*Let everything I do this day and in this season of Lent come from you, be inspired by you. I long to be closer to you. Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies you in some way. It's so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life and keep saying, "Tomorrow, I will spend more time in prayer," but now my longing meets your love and I want to do it now. Help me to rely on you for help. The pray asks you that I reach perfection. Please, Lord, remind me that "perfection" isn't the crazy, "successful" way I try to live my life, but a perfection of my most authentic, real self. My "perfection" might be holding my many flaws in my open hands, asking you to help me accept them. Heal me Lord, and help me to find you in the darkness of my life. Let me reach out in this darkness and feel your hand and love there to guide me. Amen.*

### HE POINTED HIS FINGER AT ME

THEY ASKED ME TO BE AN OFFICER OF CDA  
I SAID, "OH, NO, I COULDN'T DO THAT  
MY PLATE IS ALREADY FULL  
BUT GOD POINTED HIS FINGER AT ME.

I SAID, "I'M JUST A SMALL TOWN GIRL  
SOMEONE ELSE MAY DO BETTER, YOU SEE"  
HE SAID, "MY DISCIPLES WERE SIMPLE FOLK"  
AND HE POINTED HIS FINGER AT ME.

I SAID, "MY FAMILY DEMANDS ALL MY TIME,  
SO THE HAPPIER THEY WILL BE."  
HE SAID, "YOU'LL GROW IN PATIENCE AND LOVE"  
AND HE POINTED HIS FINGER AT ME.

I SAID, "I CAN'T, FOR I GET SO NERVOUS,  
SO NERVOUS I CAN SCARCELY SEE"  
BUT HE PROMISED HE WOULD CALM MY FEARS,  
AS HE POINTED HIS FINGER AT ME.

SO I SAID A PRAYER AND ANSWERED "YES."  
TO THIS FINE OPPORTUNITY.  
MY LIFE HAS BEEN BLESSED IN SO MANY WAYS  
SINCE HE POINTED HIS FINGER AT ME.

IF YOU ARE CALLED, THE LORD'S WORK TO DO  
SAY "YES, I GIVE ALL TO THEE"  
AND YOU, TOO, WILL BE GLAD AS I HAVE BEEN GLAD  
THAT GOD POINTED HIS FINGER AT ME.

## State Secretary—Bonita Erickson



Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the warmer spring like temperatures have returned along with the beautiful sunshine. The Easter season brings us such hope, renewal, new beginnings and celebration.

I have been thinking a lot lately about the Blessed Virgin Mary and her fiat or her yes to God. She has been a great role model for me to follow. I find myself wanting to say NO to this and NO to that. But by thinking of Mary's yes to God, it has made it less difficult to say Yes to the many things that God has seemed to call me to do. The funny thing is by saying yes, I find it less dif-

ficult to follow God's plan for me. The words Yes are not as difficult as I thought they were earlier to say. I find that by saying yes, God has blessed me in so many ways. I am so thankful for all his many blessings he has given me.

Soon you might be called by the Nominating Committee Chairman to take a leadership role and become an officer. Please don't say NO, but do ask for time to consider it. Pray that the Spirit will guide you in your decision. Each court needs members to step forward and lead it into a new term in order to revitalize and renew the Court.

A few years ago someone gave me this list. It was supposed to be used for our Lenten journey to give us ideas of what to give up for Lent, but I really think we

could also use it for our spiritual journey throughout the year:

Give up complaining—*focus on gratitude*

Give up pessimism—*become an optimist*

Give up harsh judgments—*think kindly thoughts*

Give up worry—*trust Divine Providence*

Give up discouragement—*be full of hope*

Give up bitterness—*turn to forgiveness*

Give up hatred----*return good for evil*

Give up negativism—*be positive*

Give up anger—*be more patient*

Give up pettiness—*become mature*

Give up gloom—*enjoy the beauty around you*

Give up jealousy—*pray for trust*

Give up gossiping—*control your tongue*

Give up sin—*turn to virtue*

Give up giving up—*hang in there.*

***“Be still, and know that I am God” Psalms 46:10***

## Legislation—Monique Kraemer

### *Human Life Amendment*

By Monique Kraemer,

ND CDA State Legislation Chairperson

Last Spring our State Legislators passed SCR 4009. This bill places the following language into the state constitution “the inalienable right to life of every human being at any stage of development must be recognized and protected.” Since both Chambers passed it, it will be going to a vote by the public this November. As Catholic Daughters we need to support this pro-life bill because it will protect our unborn brothers and sisters. Not only do we need to vote in support of this bill, but we need to spread the word and encourage others to do the same.

The ND Human Life Amendment Committee is a group of Catholic and Christian groups which have united to campaign in support of SCR 4009. I will be sending out updates from the Committee on how you can get involved. This may be as simple as forwarding the email to your friends and family members, or talking to your fellow parishioners about it. Please email me if you would like to receive these updates at [ndcdalegis@gmail.com](mailto:ndcdalegis@gmail.com).

## Court Highlights

*“Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world.”*

Sacred Heart Women’s Ministry celebrated their 5th annual Festival of Tables. This year’s theme SHOES included a quote from Bette Midler “Give a girl the right SHOES, and she can conquer the world.” This is the second year Ct. Marquette attended. Members decorated a multi-colored table “Welcome to walk with us in Unity & Charity”.

They displayed information about their court, the CDA mission statement and motto, and descriptions of the five National Projects and the 10 National Charities. It was a great time to meet and visit with many Catholic women, enjoy delicious food, and even win prizes.

Court members attending the Festival of Tablers were: Virgie Wilson, Marion Vasek, Doris Stocker, Mary Jo Schill, Mary Sass, Marge Ruder, Emily Rapaz, Therese Linnertz, Bev Letexier, Patty Griggs, Cec Grembowski, and Laurel Ann Dukart.



### *5th Annual Festival of Tables*

Seated at the table were L to R: Mary Jo Schill, Therese Linnertz, Mary Sass, Patty Griggs, Laurel Ann Dukart, Cec Grambowski, Virgie Wilson and Marge Ruder.



### *50-year Member*

Leona Czapiewski, 50 -year member of Ct. Marquette #677 stands with Rev. Dan Mmarevic.



*“Welcome to walk with us in Unity & Charity”*

CDA Table during the 5th Annual Festival of Tables.

## Court Highlights



### *Tie Blankets for Project Ignite-Light*

Ct. St. Catherine #323, Dickinson ND, met at Queen of Peace Community Room to make Fleece Tie Blankets for the State Project, Project Ignite-Light. They made a total of 15 blankets. Back row—L to R: Ida Mae Dietz, Emma Sadowsky, Cecelia Samels, Barb Nelson, Marie Fichter, Jaylene Kovash. Front row—L to R: Shelly Stoltz, Mildred Wegh, Linda Meyer, Jean Privratsky, Geri Pavlicek. Not pictured: Desiree Meyer, Photographer.

**Next deadline for  
“The Voice of CDA”  
June 1, 2014**

Email: [codewipf@gondtc.com](mailto:codewipf@gondtc.com)

Or mail:

Colleen Wipf, Editor  
712 Burke Ave. Harvey, ND 58341

### **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.

# Spirit of North Dakota

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
93  
HARVEY, ND  
58341

## “THE VOICE OF CDA”

Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
State Regent - Kathy Kennedy  
POSTMASTER - Send address corrections to:  
115 Brewster St E  
Harvey, ND 58341

Editor: Colleen Wipf  
Assistant Editor: Mary Kennedy  
Email: [codewipf@gondtc.com](mailto:codewipf@gondtc.com)  
Phone: 701-324-4342

## Current Resident Or



## National Director—continued from pg. 3

due to one of the above reasons but the notification wasn't received by the national office, they are still considered to be a member and will remain on the roster. If they remain on the roster, the court is obligated to pay dues. That is why it is critical that the financial secretary get the notifications to the national office in a timely manner. It is also important for the financial secretary to get a copy of their official court roster from the national office at least twice a year- to compare with their records and make any corrections where the paperwork was inadvertently missed. Getting your roster (usually within about a day via email) several

weeks before each billing should help your court to keep billing accurate.

State dues billing are based on the official court membership numbers received from the na-

tional office when they do their billing so it is again critical that courts keep their membership records up to date with the national office. I hope the above helps to make the process easier to follow.

Court Holy Rosary in Detroit Lakes, MN is trying to get enough ladies to ride a bus to **National Convention in Billings, MT.**

**The cost is \$85 round trip.**

They would go on Tuesday, July 15 and return on Sunday, July 20. They are wondering if any ladies across North Dakota would like to join them to get the bus full. They need 50 people to get the bus and need to know **by June 1** at the latest. If interested, you may contact

**Linda Schons** at [jldairy1@loretel.net](mailto:jldairy1@loretel.net), phone # (281) 841-2959 or  
**Kathy Kennedy** at [kennedycda@hotmail.com](mailto:kennedycda@hotmail.com) or (701) 324-2328.

