



# Spirit of North Dakota

## State Regent — Laurel Ann Dukart

Dear Catholic Daughters,

On behalf of the State Board, I would like to take this opportunity to invite each and every one of you to the 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial North Dakota State CDA Convention, May 3-5 in Devils Lake.

The members of Ct. St. Mary #268 will be our hosts. All Holy Masses will be held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church and business meetings at their Parish Center. It is wonderful to experience this with your CDA sisters. It is a time of worshiping, meeting, learning, sharing, etc. with women of like-beliefs. North Dakota has many amazing ladies, this is a perfect time to get to know them better. I hope many of you choose to attend all or part of the convention. [The snowy season may be over by then.]

Lent is upon us, as I’ve mentioned before, I usually don’t give anything up. Instead, I try to increase the positive things in my life [time with God, learning about being a better Catholic, learning about a ‘new’ saint, time with family and friends, using/improving my God-given talents, helping those in

need, take time to notice someone is in need of a friend, alms giving,] and decrease the negative ones / do things in moderation [the too much’s — like watching TV, playing computer games putting off things until tomorrow.] I try to listen to what the Holy Spirit in my heart is asking me to do.

In the name of the same Holy Spirit, I would like to make a special request of all North Dakota Catholic Daughters, that you make an extra devotion through our Patroness, the Blessed Mother Mary, the intermediary between our world and her Most Beloved Son, † Jesus. Pray for Pro-Life, pray for CDA members, pray for our country, pray for your family, pray for your friends, pray for your enemies, pray for anything, just remember to pray, pray, pray. Mary, our Mother, will take these prayers to Jesus on our behalf.

I want to share with you the best thing I did recently. On November 5, 2018, the reading in my online morning offerings from The Catholic Company, included

day 1 of a 33-day preparation to consecrate oneself to Jesus Christ through Mary. This was the answer to my desire/prayer to become closer to Jesus. I completed my 33-day preparation on December 7 and consecrated myself on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8. I am now closer to Jesus and Mary and can feel their presence along with the Holy Spirit’s in my heart. I highly recommend this to everyone, it is truly a spiritual experience. It was nice to share this with Johnnette Benkovic-Williams. She mentioned she had consecrated herself some years ago in her recent talk in Fargo..



*Have a Blessed Easter!*



*In Unity and Charity,  
Laurel Ann Dukart*

### 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial North Dakota State CDA Convention

May 3-5, 2019, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church & Parish Center, Devils Lake

*“Gentle Mother, Teach Us Wisdom, Teach Us Love”*

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### 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.

# State Chaplain – Fr. Franklin Miller



Dear Catholic Daughters;

“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). Our Blessed Lord is always desiring a more profound and personal relationship with each of us. We are created in God’s image and likeness and the realization of this truth requires on our part an openness to the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives. St. Augustine wrote: “You made us for yourself, Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” With another Lent near at hand; the practices of the Lenten season help us to eliminate the obstacles in our

hearts that keep the Lord from fully reigning as the beloved bridegroom. Pope Francis wrote in last year’s message for Lent; “By devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well.” The more we allow Christ to reign in our hearts the more loving we become. “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor 13:4-8).



It is an everyday struggle, due to our fallen nature, to love others as the Lord desires us to do, “everyone will

know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:34-35). The sincere practices of Lent facilitate the dying to self, so that all our actions will be Christ-like. “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20a). The Church encourages us to participate in the traditional practice of Lent, which include prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Stations of the Cross is always a good pious exercise for Lent or any time of the year. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, writes; “Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all it is a ‘time of grace’ (2 Cor 6:2). God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. ‘We love because he first has loved us’ (1 Jn 4:19).

I hope to see many of you at this year’s state convention in Devils Lake. It is a wonderful time to meet other Catholic Daughters, to learn many new things, and to pray. See you soon!

## National Office Directory & Duties

Office Manager

**Martha Hambousie**

[cdofanat1@aol.com](mailto:cdofanat1@aol.com)

Orders, Stat & Local Court officer lists

**Kelly Miller** [cdofanat1@aol.com](mailto:cdofanat1@aol.com)

Handles all new courts, reprieves, disbandments, and banners

**Gloria Linley** [cdaroster@aol.com](mailto:cdaroster@aol.com)

Handles rosters, financial reviews, and Gold/SS jewelry orders.

**Alyssa D'Angelo** [cdadues@aol.com](mailto:cdadues@aol.com)

Handles all payments and invoices/dues

**Gigi Barreca** [cdafiles@aol.com](mailto:cdafiles@aol.com)

Handles all the membership information, additions, transfer, renewal applications, and deletions.

**Joe Delgado** [cdashipping@aol.com](mailto:cdashipping@aol.com)

Handles shipping

**Tom Panas** [cdashare@aol.com](mailto:cdashare@aol.com)

Handles SHARE questions

### National Office:

10 West 71st Street  
New York, NY 10023  
(212) 877-3041

## State Office Directory

Regent, Laurel Ann Dukart

[dukartcda@outlook.com](mailto:dukartcda@outlook.com)

1st Vice Regent, Mary Baer

[mary.baer@k12.nd.us](mailto:mary.baer@k12.nd.us)

2nd Vice Regent, Bonita Erickson

[bonitacda@yahoo.com](mailto:bonitacda@yahoo.com)

Secretary, Sue Judd

[sjuddcda@gmail.com](mailto:sjuddcda@gmail.com)

Treasurer, Deb Johnson

[debjohns@cablone.com](mailto:debjohns@cablone.com)

Chaplain, Rev. Franklin Miller

[franklin.miller@fargodiocese.org](mailto:franklin.miller@fargodiocese.org)



Find us on facebook and the web:

[www.facebook.com/ND-Catholic-Daughters-of-the-Americas](http://www.facebook.com/ND-Catholic-Daughters-of-the-Americas)

[www.northdakotacatholicdaughters.org](http://www.northdakotacatholicdaughters.org)

## Welcome New Members

Ct. St. Ann #261

Jean Thielman

Ct. St. Mary #268

Deborah Bustos  
Elizabeth Nelson

Ct. Immaculate Conception #322

Della Rae Granrud

Ct. St. Catherine #323

Christina Hirschfeld

Ct. Fr. Tracy #2121

Debbie Bucholtz [R]

Breanne Beylund / Amy Burke  
Beth Criswell / Katie Foust

Ct. Holy Cross #2718

Marlene Hendrickson / Elisa Bower  
Christine Roob / Kathleen Weigel  
Kathy Haaland / Barb Sinner  
Carol Steidl / Janet Quinn  
Brenda Sagert / Fran Lee

T = Transfer / R = Renewal

# National Supervisor – Emily Guilherme



My  
Dear  
Sisters,

As spring approaches and the ground begins to thaw, we are reminded of the coming of Lent and the gift that it brings us. Some may regard Lent as a solemn time of preparation and fasting; it absolutely is. I regard Lent as a time of spiritual “spring cleaning” for my heart and soul. For those who know me, I love to be tidy and organized. So, when its time to clean out a closet or mop a floor, I’m ready to go. All of us have a junk drawer in our homes; some may even have a junk closet - the drawer or closet that *nobody* should see. The place in our home that we know is a little disorganized but we’re the only ones who know about it, so it’s okay. It’s the place for rubber bands, loose keys that go to nothing, bobby pins, pennies, dried out pens, and that roll of old scotch tape you’re never going to use.



Our hearts can be like that as well. There may be a place in your heart that you maybe haven’t given to Jesus Christ just yet; the junk drawer of our hearts that we feel is too cluttered or messy for Jesus to get into.

We stand between Jesus and that drawer, and instead direct Him to the pristine looking living room of our hearts. After all, why should Jesus focus on that? It’s too disorganized and chaotic, right?

WRONG! In Lent, its time for us to step aside from that junk drawer and let Jesus weed out all those pieces of junk that we think are too much for Jesus to handle. Our penchant for gossip, the feelings of inadequacy, the desire to be preferred, our annoyance at *that* person who we really can’t stand; in a very real way, these things can keep us at arm’s length from Jesus Christ. Lent is that time to wipe out whatever is in the junk drawer. Ask Jesus to come into that drawer and ransack it; let Him purge it and let this Lent be the most meaningful Lent you’ve ever experienced. Take on extra tasks that help you grow in a specific virtue or Spiritual Work of Mercy; lead a bible study for the women at your parish; find a spiritual director to journey with you during this wonderful season.

I am praying for each of you during the coming season of Lent. May the junk drawers of our hearts be cleaned out for Him, so we may all the more joyfully sing “Alleluia” at the coming of Easter Morning. God be with each of you.



## In Loving Memory

### Ct. St. Ann #261

Dorothy Gregg  
Lowella Bushaw  
Barbara Stransky

### Ct. Immaculate Conception #322

Kathleen Kuntz  
Cecelia Schumacher  
Mary Deichert  
Audrey Cleary  
Joyce Johnson

### Ct. St. Catherine

Catherine Moore  
Mariana Wosepka  
Magdalena Pribyl  
Clara Lisko

### Ct. Marquette #677

Delores Stocker

### Ct. St. Therese #956

Marjorie Andre  
Shirley Korenchen  
Mary Ann Koch  
Mavis Sogard

### Ct. Cardinal Muench #1852

Jane Gilles

### Ct. Queen of the Prairies #1965

Iris Lothspeich  
Mary Louise Shankar

### Ct. Father Tracy #2121

Maggie Schaaf

### Ct. St. Gerard #2518

Pat Braunberger



## Happy 100th Anniversary Ct. St. Cecelia #362 Mandan



Established April 29, 1919  
Current Regent, Mary Mann



## State Vice Regent – Mary Baer



Do you ever feel so exhausted, burdened, or overwhelmed with things that need to be done at home and or work? I believe this is normal for everyone at some point in

their life. All of us need to learn how to deal with this – one good place to start is to set aside some time for “you” and some time for “you and God”. Remember that God is the Source of all energy. Keep a bible nearby and open it to the Psalms. Be energized through the power and presence of God’s Word.



Finding time to pray can be difficult – try to incorporate it throughout your day. A little bit here and there adds up quickly. Remember too it doesn’t need to be just the “big” stuff that you take to Jesus in prayer; he

cares about everything, even if it seems small in nature to you. We are reminded in Philippians 4:6-7; “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your heart and mind as you live in Christ Jesus.”

As stated by Tricia Goyer “Do you have anxieties? Turn them over to Jesus. Thank Him for His answers, and soon His peace will guard your heart and mind. These are free gifts from Jesus, but it’s our job to turn over whatever burdens us for the peace that only He can give.”

Going to the State CDA convention in Devils Lake in May could be just the thing you need for “you”. It is a great time to spend with new and old Catholic Daughter friends. A time for laughing, sharing, crying, praying, listening, and a time to rejuvenate your spirit in CDA. The weekend is what you make of it, but it is so comforting to come together with other ladies that have the same

beliefs and concerns as you. One of my favorite events of the convention are the liturgies. I love the feeling of “oneness” at these masses and it is so nice to worship together when everyone fully participates. If you have never attended a convention, please give it some serious thought. It would be a wonderful gift to yourself.

I would like to close with a little reminder about the yearly fundraiser.



The April calendar raffle tickets will soon be arriving in the mail. Please consider buying or selling one or more of your tickets and get them returned before April 1 so you have as many chances as possible to win during the month of April.

Hope to see you in Devils Lake May 3-5!



## Second Vice State Regent – Bonita Erickson



I recently made a prayer request to the Lord for help in slowing me down in my busy life and to find more time to spend with Him. Shortly

after this request, I fell and bruised my tailbone. I chuckled to myself after this happened. It wasn’t exactly the answer that I had in mind, Lord! I don’t know really what I had in mind. Maybe I was looking for a surprise tropical vacation for some R & R.

Anyway, God assured me with His answer that he would be there for

me in the trials and struggles of my life. I just needed to persevere, hang in there and trust in Him.

I started to think about Catholic Daughters and how sometimes we are looking for answers too. The loss of a dedicated member can make us so sad. We get discouraged. Like the weebles toy that wobbles but they don’t fall down, we need to persevere, not give up, hang in there and put our trust in the Lord.

We need to remember to pray. Prayer is what sets Catholic Daughters of the Americas apart from other organizations. Prayer impacts personal service. The reluctance to serve comes from forgetting who we are and why we do

what we do. Who are we? Prayer helps us to remember.

Court members should pray to find out where the Lord wants us to serve and where He wants the court to serve and when. God will reveal, if we ask, the gifts and talents of the members of the court. What you must know is that the Lord answers prayers. Keep your eyes and ears open. Listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit.



I am looking forward to seeing you all at the North Dakota State convention in Devils Lake in May.

## State Secretary — Sue Judd



Hi,  
from your  
State Secretary!!

First, I want to thank the courts who have checked their rosters updated them and gotten them to me. If your court has not had the time to get that done yet, I would appreciate it very much if you would try to work on them soon.

Next, I just want to share with you about a pilgrimage that I was blessed to be a part of. Our church, St Catherine of Alexandria in Valley City, sponsored a pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the end of January for 10 days. Msgr. Skonseng was our spiritual leader and 27 other people went on the pilgrimage. 18 from Valley City, 3 from Fargo, 6 from Nebraska, and 1 from Florida. The one from Florida was my sister, Anne, and it was because of her and her husband, Gary, that I was able to go on this pilgrimage. It was a trip of a lifetime. Not only was it wonderful to spend 10 days with my sister, it was incredible being in the same places where Jesus was born, grew up, walked, preached, suffered and died.

The first day after arriving in Nazareth, we traveled to the Mount of the Beatitudes and enjoyed Mass at the St. Matthew Altar which was outside. We then proceeded to the Sea of Galilee and rode on a wooden fishing boat, like what Jesus would have been in. Even tried fishing with a net, but no success. We visited the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves, and the Church of the Primacy of Saint Peter. There we were able to go down and walk on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and put our foot in the water. It was so peaceful there. Then off to Capharnaum, The Town of Jesus. We saw remains of the late 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. "White Synagogue" that was built upon the remains of the "Synagogue of Jesus" and the sun set on the Sea of Galilee.

The Second day we set out to The Cana Catholic Wedding Church. There were ten couples on the pilgrimage that renewed their wedding vows there. That was so beautiful!! Next, we proceeded to the Basilica of the Annunciation and held Mass at the main altar. It is the largest Church in Nazareth. Then to the Church of St. Joseph where there are 3 altars, each dedicated to special times in Joseph's life: the betrothal to Mary, his dream when the angel told him to take Jesus and Mary and flee to Egypt, and one in his sickness. This church is built where Joseph's Carpentry Shop and home were. We went back to the Basilica of the Annunciation and headed to the lower level to where the home of Mary was. Next, we traveled to Mount Tabor to the Church of the Transfiguration. We moved part way up the mountain in the bus, then finished going up in vans. There were 17 hairpin curves to get to the top. That was quite the ride going up and down that mountain.

Day three, we left Nazareth and headed for Bethlehem. On the way we stopped at the Carmelite Monastery on Mount Carmel and had Mass. Then traveled to Cesarea and stopped by the Mediterranean Sea, where a 13-mile Water Channel had been built from Mount Carmel to Cesarea by King Herod at the time of Jesus. It was quite impressive to think that had been built so long ago and was still there. It was the way to get water to Cesarea. We saw many towns on the way. Stopped at Shepherds' Field about one mile outside of Bethlehem where the shepherds were as they heard about Jesus being born. We also saw ruins of a Monastery and Byzantine Church from the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries.

Day four, we headed to Jericho. Jericho is the oldest and lowest city on earth. It is desert between Jerusalem and Jericho. We proceeded

to the Church of the Good Shepherd for Mass when we arrived in Jericho. From there, went to the base of the Mount of Temptation where Jesus was tempted by the Devil. I rode a camel, tasted dates, figs, and sycamore nuts they called "Love Nuts." From there we drove to the Jordan River, renewed our baptism promises, and were blessed with the water from the Jordan River by Msgr. Skonseng. We then headed to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found and last to the Dead Sea where we could float in the water or walk in on the edge. I just walked in on the edge.

Day five, we started the day with Mass at the Church of the Grotto Gethsemane, then to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of all Nations where the Rock of Gethsemane is at where Jesus prayed and sweated blood. We walked through the old city of Jerusalem, went to the Church of St. Anne and saw Mary's birthplace. Then we walked the Via Dolorosa, the Stations of the Cross. Monsignor carried a cross as we walked and prayed all the Stations. Stations 10-14 are in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, so we visited them the next day. Last of all that day we visited the Wailing Wall.



[Msgr. Skonseng and Deacon Jack Konsef celebrating Mass at 11th Station]

Day six, we woke at 4 AM to leave by 5 to have Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at 6. We had Mass at the Eleventh Station, where Jesus is nailed to the cross.

(continued on page 6)

## State Secretary, Sue Judd—cont. from page 5

We visited the rest of the Stations while we were there. Saw where Jesus was crucified, the stone that He was laid on, and went in His tomb. From there we went to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer. Then to the Chapel of the Ascension, where Jesus ascended into heaven, the Tear Chapel, where Jesus wept for Jerusalem, and we saw Mount Zion and Mount Moriah, where Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac took place.



[The traveling companions]

Day Seven, went to visit the Good Shepherd School. It is a private school for children from age three through eighteen. We visited a few

classrooms, where the children, danced for us, sang songs, counted backwards, and then we went outside to their playground. From there we traveled to the Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria. We enjoyed Mass downstairs in the cave of St. Jerome. The Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria is right next to the Church of the Nativity, Jesus' birthplace, so we visited there. It is the oldest church in the world. Then around the corner and up the hill, we walked to the Milk Grotto, where Mary breast fed baby Jesus. From there we rode the bus to the Museum of Israel and saw the Dead Sea Scrolls and a model of Old Jerusalem and then visited the Holocaust Museum. After leaving the museum we descended to the city of Haikim and visited St John the Baptist Church, which is his burial place. We ended the pilgrimage at a restaurant called 'The Tent' with a great dinner and dancing for entertainment.

The pilgrimage was rather fast paced, and sometimes I felt I didn't have much time to devote to any one place. But since I've been home and have

had a chance to contemplate the trip, read and listen to scripture every day, it is really sinking in, that I was there. I walked on the ground where Jesus walked. Wow!!! It is humbling and amazing all at the same time. Words cannot express the gratitude I have in my heart. I am so thankful to God and my sister and brother-in-law for the chance of a lifetime to walk where Jesus did. I also believe that those who went on this pilgrimage grew closer to one another in friendship and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And I have to say, if you ever have an opportunity to experience a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, GO!!! God is good, all the time!!!



[Sue & Anne—St. Peter at Capharnaum]

## State Treasurer—Deb Johnson



New Year,  
New You,  
New Court  
Activities!

As we and our courts reflect on the old, look forward to the new, know that

YOU have the power to change your world! Every small choice you do in the name of the Lord adds up to make a BIG difference in someone's life. Our state charity is St. Ann's Mission in Belcourt until a new charity is chosen at the convention in May.

As of January our CDA courts have given \$3,913.63 to St. Ann's Mission. Way to go!



**Catholic Daughters  
of the Americas®**

If we look at each day in a new way — as an abundance of small miracles, if you say yes to life's blessings — Life will bring you even more!



Till we see each other in May —  
In Unity and Charity,  
Deb Johnson  
State Treasurer

Luncheon with

**Johnnette Benkovic**

*"Missionary Discipleship for the  
Gospel of Life"*

Cherished. Chosen. Sent.

February 18, 2019 — Fargo

Sts. Anne & Joachim Catholic Church



Bonita Erickson/Johnnette/Laurel Ann Dukart

**#362 COURT SAINT CECELIA—MANDAN**



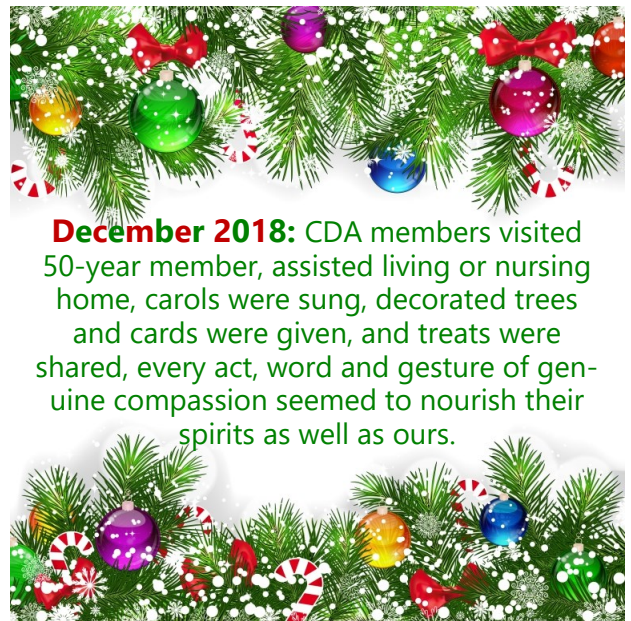
Lynn Waldner presenting a Christmas tree to a Veteran.



Edna Fleck presenting a Christmas tree to a Veteran.



Part of Ct. St. Cecelia's Christmas program at nursing home.



Alice Ereth  
Jeanette Friesz  
Lynn Waldner  
Eileen Ereth



Sue Owens, Jeanie Deichert, Delores Frohnauer, Alice Ereth, Eileen Seifert (keyboard player), Julie Schwab (activities director), Bonnie Quast, Mary Mann (Regent), Kathy Wagner and Darlene Leingang.

# Spirit of North Dakota

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## "THE VOICE OF CDA"

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State Regent / Editor - Laurel Ann Dukart  
2650 26th Ave S #215  
Grand Forks ND 58201

Current Resident Or



Catholic Daughters  
of the Americas®

## INVITATION

*Dear North Dakota Catholic Daughters,*

*The members of Court St. Mary #268 in Devils Lake are pleased to be hosting and extend a warm welcome inviting you to attend the 2019 ND State Catholic Daughters of the Americas Convention May 3 - 5, 2019.*

*Our Court along with surrounding Courts and the State Officers are working hard to plan an enjoyable and informational weekend for all of you. The liturgies, speakers and business meeting will prove to be spiritual, enriching, and informational. We look forward to gathering with all of you and your guests in May to celebrate the accomplishments of the past two years.*

*In Unity and Charity  
Marylin Aune, Regent  
Court St. Mary #268*

