



“THE VOICE OF CDA”

# Spirit of North Dakota

## State Regent—Kathy Kennedy

*The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.* Psalm 28:7



Four years ago, I was elected to serve as the North Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas State Regent. I was nervous and didn't know if I was up to this most worthy task. That is why I selected Psalm 28:7 to be my verse of choice. God has not let me down and He has truly been my strength and I trust Him more than ever. He has not let me down...ever!

It was on August 8, 2013, that I wrote my first article for the Spirit of CDA newsletter as your State Regent. This will be my last article with that distinction. Some think that I should be relieved to be giving up this responsibility after four years. I guess the tears in my eyes as I type this

don't really support that sentiment.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the ND Catholic Daughters as the servant leader I've tried to be. I have met so many wonderful, loving and giving women as I visited courts for meetings and celebrations. I have witnessed their pride in being members of one of the finest organizations on this earth. I have seen how willing ND CDA members are to try to improve the quality of life for individuals, reach out to our youth, to support parish and community projects and to donate to state and national projects and charities. I could go

on and on about all the good that over 1,600 Catholic women are achieving in our state in unity and charity.

I don't even think once that I could have fulfilled my position without the help of the terrific State Board that I was blessed with. Next to me, the most experienced officer elected in 2013 had one two-year term under her belt. The other three officers were brand new. But with the Grace of God we meshed right away and worked as a team...always! And when we weren't sure what to do, we could always rely on our State Chaplain, Fr. Frank Miller, and our National Supervisor, Vickie Feist. The support of all members across the state was felt, also, and I am most appreciative of that. Every member is vital at all levels.

I won't take the time and space to talk of achievements and changes or any other matters that were accomplished. The one

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## State Chaplain—Fr. Franklin Miller



Dear Catholic Daughters,

The challenges of the Lenten season give way to the joy of the Easter season. The joyful Easter Season in the life of a Christian is the culmination of the joyful victories over the difficult challenges we often face in life and those experienced during Lent. The twelve apostles half-heartily faced the challenge of the Lord's passion in the Garden of Gethsemane and his crucifixion. They were with him, but left him, "all the disciples deserted him and fled" (Mt. 26:56b). However, the forgiving Lord's presence to them on Easter morning was an experience of joy that comes with the closeness of Christ in our lives, "At the sight of the Lord the disciples rejoiced. (Jn. 20:20b). The Lord said to Thomas a week later, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe" (Jn 20:27). "Faith is

*"The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love."*

not something decorative or for show. To have faith means to put Christ truly at the center of our lives" Pope Francis wrote on Twitter not long ago. As Christians, we know the Lord's goodness and we give thanks and praise often for all that the Lord blesses us with throughout our lives. Pope Francis told the youth in Brazil, "Put on love and your life will be like a house built on rock, your journey will be joyful because you will find many friends to journey with you." Membership in the CDA is meant to assist each of us in our life's journey with the necessary tools of faith, hope and love, along with "Unity and Charity" which brings about our call to service as disciples of our Lord. Pope Francis wrote on Twitter, "The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love."

The North Dakota CDA Convention is near at hand. Please consider attending the convention as a milestone in the life of North Dakota CDA. See you there!☺

## Editor's Corner—Colleen Wipf [codewipf@gondtc.com](mailto:codewipf@gondtc.com)

With grateful regards I thank you, Kathy Kennedy and the rest of the state board and CDA members for the great opportunity that I received as your editor again.

I wish the next editor the best in getting the CDA news out to the members of North Dakota.

To our Blessed Mother and all Mothers, "Happy Mother's Day!"



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## Second Vice National Regent—Vickie Feist



Such an exciting time- the earth awakening from its winter slumber to new life. Grass turning green, flowers and trees awakening, birds

returning, and the sounds of children playing outside are much more frequent with the warmer temperatures. This time of year, Lent gives way to the glorious celebration of Easter and the Easter Season- with the newness of life being felt in a deeply spiritual way!

So too, we are in the CDA State Convention season- a season of new life in our order. We hold in our hearts deep gratitude for

those women who have given so much time and energy as they have volunteered to our order on the state level. The state officers, the state chairmen and district deputies, the state convention committees- particularly those that are leaving their posts now, have given so much to us.

And with a new state term, we spring into new life in the state level of our order. We welcome new officers taking up their duties, newly appointed state chairmen and district deputies, and the many others who will serve the state over the next 2 years. The flavor of the state changes a bit every term as the new leadership- with their own strengths and interests, shapes the state. Let us support those ladies in the work they

do! Let us not compare or complain if they do things differently than another officer or chair has done in the past. Instead, let us rejoice that new ideas and personalities keep our order fresh.

May God's special blessings be on those leaving service on the state level of our order and on those taking on the service of the order for 2017-2019! God love each of you for all you do for the Catholic Daughters of North Dakota!



## Thank You!

## State Vice Regent —Laurel Ann Dukart



**In the Name of the Father . . . Amen.**

Early one morning (my time with God – He often wakes me at 3:16), I turned on

EWTN and stopped to listen to Susan Conroy speak of her favorite saints. She first mentioned St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and how the saint very deliberately made the Sign of the Cross. Then she spoke of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta (whom she spent much time with caring for the poor), who also deliberately crossed herself with this prayer. This made my heart smile, as these saints reminded me of Mom. I enjoy watching her each

evening as she (with holy water – lots of holy water) deliberately crosses herself, then her bed, before she crawls in and says her night prayers (crossing herself twice more).

How perfect I thought, to be reminded of the importance of making the Sign of the Cross during this Lent and Easter season. Since this day, when I make the Sign of the Cross, I try to remember what it means for us Catholics. It:

- ◆ 1. opens ourselves to grace, preparing us to receive God's blessing;
- ◆ 2. affirms our belief in the Holy Trinity, Incarnation and the crucifixion;
- ◆ 3. is an uprising of our mind to God, invoking the power of His name;

- ◆ 4. helps us remember the Passion of our Lord, marking ourselves for Christ;
- ◆ 5. seals ourselves in the Spirit, invoking His powerful intervention in our lives;
- ◆ 6. reaffirms our baptism and continues to ward off the devil;
- ◆ 7. is a simple way to witness our faith to others, a vow to defend that belief.

Reminder for us all: Each time we make the Sign of the Cross, to do so with reverence reflecting on its importance.

May God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) bless you.



## Second Vice State Regent—Mary Baer



It was Saturday morning and I was going over my “to do” list in my head; wondering how am I going to possibly get everything done.

After mentally going over my list I read my devotion for the day. I would like to share that with all of you; because I think all of us at one time or another have an overwhelming “to do” list.

“I am calling you to a life of constant communion with Me. Basic training includes learning to live above your circumstances, even while interacting on that cluttered plane of life. You yearn for a sim-

plified lifestyle, so that your communication with Me can be uninterrupted. But I challenge you to relinquish the fantasy of an uncluttered world. Accept each day just as it comes, and find Me in the midst of it all.

Talk with Me about every aspect of your day including your feelings. Remember that your ultimate goal is not to control or fix everything around you; it is to keep communing with Me. A successful day is one in which you have stayed in touch with Me, even if many things remain undone at the end of the day. Do not let your to-do list (written or mental) become an idol directing your life. Instead, ask My Spirit to guide you moment by moment. He will keep you close to

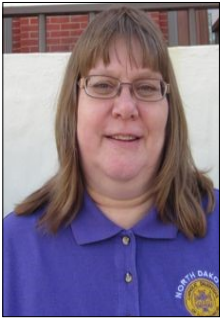
Me. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Proverbs 3:6 from Jesus Calling)

After reading this I realized it is one step at a time with God in the lead. Then I started thinking about the upcoming state convention and I got a warm feeling in my heart. I thoroughly enjoy convention; it is so rewarding to see old friends and make new ones. One of my favorite parts of convention is attending Mass. It is so fulfilling to attend a service where everyone participates fully; there is such a feeling of unity in this.

It is so nice to see all the robed officers at Mass as well. It makes for a grand procession. I know some people get a little disgusted with the robe protocol, but without it, the ceremony would not be as impressive. It looks so nice

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## State Secretary—Bonita Erickson



My parish was offering a bible study class during the Lenten season. I decided to sign up for the class even though I didn't know how I was going to fit it in

my busy schedule. Anyway, as it turned out I was asked to lead one of the two classes! Little did I know that by signing up for this class that I would have a more involved part in it! “Okay,” God I chuckled to myself, “What is THIS all about?” I can visualize Him smiling at me. I smile back and say “Yes” God I will do your will!

He always leads me on these interesting journeys. I figure He

wants me to say “yes” to things even though at times I am hesitant to involve myself with HIS plans! But you know, I learn something new each time He takes me on these pathways. And these pathways always have good results!

I wonder if Mary knew what she was getting herself into by her saying “yes!” Mary spoke a “yes” to the Father. She cooperated with the Father’s plan with obedience and faith. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church # 964 it states “Mary’s role in the church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it.” So I don't know why I was surprised to learn that the Blessed Virgin Mary is present at every Mass with Jesus renewing her maternal



compassion and exercising Her universal intercession. This explains why she so earnestly desires that we attend Mass frequently and fervently! Mary is always trying to point the way to her Son!

So as we are getting ready for the ND CDA State Convention, Let us put our hand into Mary's hand and ask Mary, Our Mother, help us say “Yes!”

## Mann recognized as a 72-year member of Court St. Catherine #323, Dickinson



Pictured L to R: Marie Wax, Vice Regent, Mary Mann, & Susan Ficek.

Mary Mann joined Court St. Catherine #323 in Dickinson on March 4, 1945. Grand Regent Olivia Murdy installed 18 new members along with Mann.

Meetings were held twice each month followed by playing cards, rolling bandages or other special projects.

Mann was presented with a recognition certificate and a corsage.

## Langdon celebrates 50 years!



### *In Loving Remembrance*

Rose Voeller  
Eugina Vetsch  
Mary Brendel  
Mary Volk  
Ethel Conlin  
Frances Visina  
Leona Skudlarek  
Lena Vetter  
Dorothy Kubas  
Eva Duletski  
Ida Mae Beaudoin  
Betty Bohl  
Margaret Stein  
Christine Koch



At left, Court Queen of the Prairies #1965 of Langdon, celebrated their 50th anniversary.



## 50th Biennial ND State Convention 2017

These are the four charities nominated to be our State Project for the next two years. Please look them over so you can let your court's delegates know what your feelings are in order for them to make informed choices at the State Convention in May.

### **Ct. St. Ann's Indian Mission** *Nominated by Ct.Sts. Anne and Joachim #2638, Fargo*

St. Ann's Indian Mission has served the Catholic Parishes of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation since 1885.

Children from Belcourt and four surrounding parishes attend St. Ann's Native American Catholic Elementary School. St. Ann's Native American Catholic Elementary School serves the youth of the Turtle Mountain Reservation in pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The main goal of the school is to educate each child to know and live the Catholic faith, to achieve academic success, and to continue lifelong learning as leaders and learners in their communities.

St. Ann's Mission Church and St. Ann's Native American Catholic Elementary School in Belcourt, ND, have immediate and pressing needs including the buildings and grounds, and lack needed resources as most families live at or are below the poverty level. St. Ann's School provides the children from these families a quality, faith-filled Catholic education at little or no cost to the families, while also providing food for the children while at school, and food to bring home since many of these families go without.

Regarding the financial needs of St. Ann's Mission, Bishop Folda stated: "Despite the challenges they face, St. Ann's Indian Mission continues to be a shining beacon of hope and God-centered stability in the lives of so many who are dealing with poverty and other social issues. Please consider lending a hand..." "Your gift of mercy can be life-changing for a child at St. Ann's School.

### **Ministry on the Margins** *Nominated by Ct. Fr. Tracy #2121, Bowman & Ct. St. Cecelia #362, Mandan*

"Ministry on the Margins" works with at-risk youth, prison inmates, the homeless, and others who need to encounter God's saving love. This charity was founded by Sister Kathleen Atkinson, a Benedictine Sister from the Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck.

"Ministry on the Margins" is a volunteer based ecumenical ministry committed to supporting those who fall through the cracks during times of transition. Programs are developed by listening to people on the margins and seeking to help them become self-sustaining. "Ministry on the Margins" supports people with basic needs for food, gas vouchers and household items. It serves to provide dignity to people as they try to get back on their feet.

Men and women in prison re-entry are provided with basic need and supportive mentors. It has the only local food pantry open in evenings and on weekends. A coffee house welcomes those who slept in their cars or on the street with breakfast and fellowship. Within the walls of the state prison system and county jail, Sister Kathleen and her volunteers are engaged in Bible studies, RCIA, and other spiritual programs.

The work through "Ministry on the Margins" is a true source of hope for people in physical and spiritual need and an inspirational example of spreading the light of Christ.

### **The Mission of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP)** *Nominated by Ct. St. Mary #268, Devils Lake*

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is dedicated to feeding, clothing, housing and healing individuals and families in our community who have nowhere else to turn for help. As important, SVdP provides meaningful opportunities for volunteers to serve their neighbors in need with love and compassion.

Individual conferences provide help

for people's physical, mental, and spiritual needs. By doing this with care and respect, we show them that they matter and they are children of God.

SVdP serves the state of ND. The ND district includes both the Fargo and Bismarck Dioceses.

The State SVdP District needs funding to continue to train future Vincentians, travel throughout the state for pulpit presentations on SVdP (to gain new conferences), provide for leadership training at the regional and national level, assist new conferences with start-up costs and materials, and (in the future if funding is secured) help with start-up costs for Thrift stores. Additionally, SVdP is in the process of training individual Vincentians in a new program designed **help get people out of poverty**. Quality training requires funding which the ND District has little of at this point in time.

Typically 100% of donations to local conferences goes directly to those in need. Administrative expenses are paid for by individual Vincentians through a 'secret collection' at meetings. No Vincentian in ND is currently paid for any position held on the conference or district level. The ND District is in great need of funding sources so that local conferences might continue to flourish, thus meeting a multitude of needs from those in financial difficulty and/or crisis.

### **Discalced Carmelite Nun** *Nominated by Ct. Immaculate Conception #322, Bismarck*

Since April 26, 2014 there have been four Discalced Carmelite Nuns living in Hague, ND. This is a cloistered contemplative community. They were invited to come to the Diocese of Bismarck by Bishop David Kagan.

Their life is one of solitude and silence, with constant prayer and penance willingly undertaken for the salvation and sanctification of souls.

They are the only Monastery in the world dedicated to the Holy Face of Jesus. They are also famous for the Brown Scapular.

One of the goals of the community and Diocese is to raise the funds to begin building a Monastery.

**Mary,  
Our Mother,  
Help Us  
Say “Yes!”**

**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**

Debra Hutzenbiler  
Kelly Obrigewitch  
Gayle Lee  
Joan Smith  
Kasey Burke  
Carol Foss  
Angela Severt  
Patricia Grabar  
Lilly Vasquez  
Linda Patterson  
Deborah Kaiser  
Kelly Obrigenitch  
Sharon Schneider  
Helen Schumacher  
Wanda Wolbaum  
Cynthia Knox  
Deborah Kaiser

**50th Biennial ND Catholic Daughters  
State Convention 2017 Schedule**



⇒ **May 5**      Registration **9-11:30 a.m.**  
Vocations Mass celebrated by Bishop Kagan  
Lunch  
Business Session **2:30 p.m.**  
Keynote Speaker: Fr. Michael Schommer  
Rosary  
Supper—Speaker: Claudia Bosch  
Entertainment by Sweet Adelines (On the Brink)  
and Live Auction of baskets

⇒ **May 6**      Memorial Mass **8:00 a.m.**  
Business Session with elections held during session  
Lunch—Speaker: Katie Vidmar  
from Badlands Choice Clinic  
Business session  
Social  
Banquet—Speaker: Monsignor Gene Lindemann  
Patty Armstrong

⇒ **May 7**      Installation Mass **9:00 a.m.**  
Brunch—Speaker: Mikey Hoeven  
Wrap-up and farewells

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## Current Resident Or



### *Kennedy cont. from pg. 1*

thing that you heard from me over and over in my newsletters, articles and talks was to “play nice and be kind.” I tried to keep you informed on the goings on of our organization, encouraged membership and strived to build you up spiritually. Those were all important to me. The very most important thing I stressed was to live as it says in Matthew 5:16.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

So let’s shine together in Unity and Charity!

God bless you all.

### *Baer cont. from pg. 4*

when all the robes are the same length and all are in white shoes. With this being said, I am going to review the ceremonial dress code. Robes are to be worn with dignity and respect. Robes are to be eleven inches from the floor with your shoes on (should be hemmed before you arrive to convention – not while you are lining up). Your dress must be shorter than your robe (it should not show). White shoes should be worn with robes at all times. The wearing of stockings is optional, if stockings are worn they are to be white or light colored. Robes are to be clean and well pressed. Small earrings, rings, and watches are allowed with

robes. Handbags are not to be carried when in procession with robe. Slacks or capris are not to be worn with robes at any time. Bow before entering your pew or at the altar if you are going around to enter the pew from the other side. If we all follow these rules when robed we will have a grand procession.

I am anxiously awaiting the state convention and I hope many of you are as well. Remember not to let your to-do list rule you. Officers please wear your robe with pride and dignity. Hope to see you in Bismarck in May.

Taken from *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young  
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