



CATHOLIC
DAUGHTERS
OF THE
AMERICAS

The Voice of the Lakes

MINNESOTA STATE
CDA NEWSLETTER

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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.

MOTTO

Unity and Charity

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Regent's Reflections Cathy Nelson, State Regent

Dear CDA Sisters,

Aren't beginnings exciting? This year's State CDA Convention marked the 1st Convention of our second century as Catholic Daughters in Minnesota. We've made a new beginning! If you had a chance to see the timeline of our first 100 years as MN Catholic Daughters at the 2023 State Convention, you would have noticed all the CDA courts that were established throughout those years. My dream, that of our State Board, and of all of you I'm sure, is to see new courts established in Minnesota in our second 100 years as well, beginning now!

At this year's convention, our National Supervisor, Brenda Anderson, led delegates in an exercise to identify communities that could be approached and invited to establish a new court. The delegates came up with a long list! So where do we go from here? I suspect that each of us knows someone from another community who we can introduce to Catholic Daughters and by extension, others she knows may be reached! Think about who that might be for you so we can share our CDA sisterhood with more Catholic women in our State.

It will take the efforts of all of us to increase membership and establish new courts but the benefits include bringing in new ideas, making new friends, sharing our work, growing spiritually, and making a positive difference in our communities; our ultimate goal being to "...let our light shine before all, so that they may see the good that we do, *and give Glory to God!*"

We have more beginnings to celebrate ... we welcome Father Jim Starasinich as our new State CDA Chaplain. Meet him through his Introduction in this issue! New homeowners will begin life in their CDA sponsored home now being built in Red Wing, our 25th CDA sponsored Habitat Build will begin soon, and MN Courts in Adrian, Caledonia, International Falls, and Perham are beginning to plan for your visit to this year's Summer Workshops in August and September.

As I begin my term as your State Regent, I offer you a new theme inspired by a small hand painted plaque I received at a CDA Summer Workshop many years ago. Our current 1st National Regent, Nancy Bambenek shared a variety of these plaques that had been made by youth in her community. I cannot credit the artist as I do not know who made it, but the colors, design, and message of the plaque caught my eye and my imagination and has reminded me all these years to be part of the light in our world, not the darkness. I feel that is what we as Catholic Daughters are striving to do through our mission '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'. So, I ask for your prayers, that I may lead with humility, work diligently, share my time and talents generously, listen and learn with understanding, and support you in prayer and friendship, so that together, in Unity and Charity, we may "**Be the Light**".



Your Sister in Christ,

Cathy Nelson

Meet
the
MN
State
Board

Greetings CDA Sisters!

If we've NOT YET met, let me introduce myself as your new State Regent, Cathy Nelson. Since I last introduced myself to you as 1st Vice Regent, my husband Greg and I have been blessed with a new grandchild. We have celebrated my parents' 77th Anniversary and our own 31st. We are blessed with four children, their spouses and six grandchildren. My CDA and community leadership experience include two terms each as Vice Regent and Regent of Court St. Anne #1840, Medford; two terms as District Deputy, two years as State Newsletter Chair and Editor, and volunteering at six CDA sponsored Habitat builds, attendance at seven State CDA Conventions, three National Conventions and three National Leadership Conferences. I have formerly served as lector, on funeral committees and as a 'Martha' in my parish, as a community 4-H Leader, Recycling Committee member, and ESL Tutor. I presently serve as a Spiritual Chair for Court St. Anne, as a Master Gardener Volunteer and County Extension Committee member. Since 2021, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with inspiring and dedicated CDA members on the State Board and to rely on the experience and insight available to us through Past State Regents. Our CDA liaisons with local courts-District Deputies, and our Circle of Love Chairs have offered valuable service to the Board and to our local courts. I have met Catholic Daughters from around the country and known the blessings of friendship with many of our own Minnesota CDA sisters. I have had the great pleasure of working with some of you on CDA projects, and have attended some of your court meetings, celebrations, and luncheons. And, I look forward to attending more such events and meeting many more of you in my term as State Regent.



Blessings, Cathy



Hi! My name is Lisa Ouderkirk, and I am so excited to serve as your 1st Vice State Regent for the next two years! I have served our local court in each of the five positions (with two stints as regent), along with two stints as District Deputy for Fergus Falls and Moorhead, and one and a half stints as Education Chair for the state. I look forward to seeing all of you at the summer workshops and finding out what I can do to help make your position, whether a court officer or a court member, an enjoyable and successful one. Please ask questions along the way as, if you don't, it is very easy to get frustrated and will make your job more difficult and less enjoyable. We (the state board) are here to work with you to help grow our state's membership numbers in an environment of Unity and Charity.

God Bless! Lisa

Hi! My name is Linda Schons. I was born and raised in Detroit Lakes. I've been a Catholic Daughter for 49 years and have been married for 52 years. I have 3 sons and 1 daughter, 11 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. I've held almost every office in our Court, plus I was a DD for four terms. For hobbies I love quilting, gardening, and baking. I still attend the church I was Baptized in, Confirmed and Married in! I've been retired since 2020.
Your State Secretary, Linda



Hello CDA Sisters!

My name is Lori Mickelson, and I am excited to be part of YOUR Minnesota State CDA Leadership Board as 2nd Vice Regent. I hope that my leadership skills will be an asset to this wonderful organization.

I have been a member of Catholic Daughters since 1986. I am currently serving as Regent for my local court, Sacred Heart – Waseca. I previously served as Vice Regent (2 terms) and as Regent (2 terms). I am a member of Divine Mercy Catholic Church in Faribault, which is where I reside with my husband, Bob (married 40 years), and our dog Syren (a high energy Brittany). I currently work at a chiropractic clinic in the Insurance/Billing office. We have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 grand-angel babies. I grew up in Fulda MN, went to SW State in Marshall, and Vocational Schools in Granite Falls and Austin, before living and working in Minneapolis. Since our marriage in 1985, we have lived in Lismore, Slayton, Waseca, and now Faribault.

My past leadership experience includes Sponsorship Coordinator for Infants Remembered In Silence (IRIS), Waseca Childcare Association President, Sacred Heart School Board President, Girl Scouts Troop Leader, Co-Chair Waseca County Relay for Life, Co-Chair Sacred Heart Fall Festival games, and President of Waseca Women of Today. I also operated my in-home childcare business for 20 years in Waseca.

In my spare time I enjoy long walks with my dog, reading, and spending time with my husband, children, and grandchildren. I enjoy communicating with others, am an organized and detail-oriented person, and hope to get to know many of you from across this state of Minnesota over these next years. Thank you for the opportunity to help lead our Minnesota CDA!

Lori



Hello CDA Sisters,

My name is Darlene Hight, and I am a proud member of Court St. Cabrini #1466 in Fergus Falls. I began my journey with the Catholic Daughters in 2004 as a member of Court St. Mary-Peter #1864 in Mazeppa-Bellechester. In 2017, when we moved to Osakis, MN, I transferred to Court St. Cabrini. Serving as your State Treasurer these past two years has flown by, and I look forward to the next two! I've also had the honor of serving my local courts as Regent, Vice Regent, and Financial Secretary. Please know that as one of your State Officers, I am here—and ready—to support your court in whatever way I can.

I earned my bachelor's degree in accounting through studies at North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton, ND, and Moorhead State University in Moorhead, MN. Since 2014, I've worked for Douglas County and currently serve as the Payroll Administrator.

I grew up in western North Dakota and moved to Minnesota after marrying my husband, Craig, in 1986. I'm the ninth of fifteen children—part of a big, loving family. Craig and I are looking forward to celebrating 40 years of marriage next year. We have three wonderful children—Rachel, Megan, and Keith—and are blessed with three grandchildren: Brooke, Derek, and Lillian.

In my free time, I enjoy gardening—both flowers and vegetables—and tend a small lavender field with 125+ plants. We also raise laying hens and have a rooster named "Mo." Since 2003, Craig and I have made homemade wine and always have a bottle to share. We also enjoy making fresh garden salsa—mild, not too hot! Fall is a busy and rewarding time of year for us.

I look forward to seeing you at the summer workshops and learning how I can support you in your role—whether as a court officer or member—for a successful and enjoyable next two years.

Darlene

MINNESOTA CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS INSTALL NEW BOARD AT 2025 STATE CONVENTION

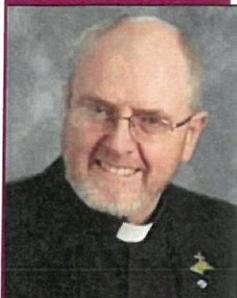
On Saturday, April 26, 2025, a new Minnesota Catholic Daughters of the Americas Board was installed at the 2025 Minnesota State Convention. The State Convention, co-hosted by Court St. Anne #1840 Medford, Court Owatonna #1180 Owatonna, Court Sacred Heart #1424 Waseca, and Court St. Mary Peter #1864 Mazeppa-Bellechester, was held at the Owatonna Eagles Club on April 25-26, 2025. We were honored to have National Secretary-Treasurer, Brenda Anderson present as our National Supervisor and Convention Advisor.

Thursday evening, April 24 featured pre-registration and a 'PROM' to 'Promote Revitalization of Membership', the opening of a Silent Auction, and an opportunity to meet and greet past and new CDA Sisters. Friday evening's Patriotic and Memorial Mass was held at St. Joseph's Church in Owatonna followed by a banquet at the Owatonna Eagles where David Rinaldi of Net Ministries addressed attendees. Saturday's Installation Mass was held at Christ the King Church in Medford where Father James Starasinich was installed as State Chaplain and where he in turn installed the 2025-2027 Board of Cathy Nelson, State Regent; Lisa Ouderkirk, 1st Vice State Regent; Lori Mickelson, 2nd Vice State Regent; Linda Schons, State Secretary; and Darlene Hight, State Treasurer. The closing Banquet was held at Torey's Restaurant in Owatonna where the State Chaplain and National Supervisor addressed attendees, words and a gift of appreciation were presented to Past State Regent Monica Capra, and new State Regent Cathy Nelson shared her two-year theme of 'Be the Light'.



2025-2027 Minnesota State Board and State Chaplain

Above l-r: State Treasurer Darlene Hight, 1st Vice State Regent Lisa Ouderkirk, State Chaplain Fr. James Starasinich, State Regent Cathy Nelson, 2nd Vice State Regent Lori Mickelson, State Secretary Linda Schons



**State
Chaplain,
Father Jim**

My heritage is Slovenian on my father's side and Irish and English on my mother's side. I have an older brother and sister followed by three younger brothers. My parents are deceased. I experienced the call to follow Jesus at the funeral of our pastor in 1978 but was reluctant to really follow that call. After a year of junior college, I joined the Air Force and served four years, the last assignment being in Italy, on the island of Sicily. I entered the Salesians of Don Bosco in New Jersey for one year after an honorable discharge from the Air Force. I returned to my hometown of Joliet, Illinois and received a B.A. in History from the College of St. Francis (now University of St. Francis). I met a charism in the Church that opened my heart to the vocation and once again found myself in New Jersey, at Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Newark. (God wanted me in New Jersey after I left the Salesian Seminary!) Ordained in 1999, I had been sent to Estonia (Eastern Europe) for a summer assignment after diaconal ordination in 1998. I would spend three summers there until being assigned there in 2001. Previous assignments included two parishes, St. Mary Star of the Sea (now Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich) in Bayonne, NJ and Holy Trinity in Westfield, NJ. In 2003 I was assigned rector of Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Guam, where I served until being called back to the Archdiocese of Newark in 2006. I served as pastor for 12 years at Sacred Heart Parish in Lyndhurst, NJ before arriving in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester in July 2018, where I served as Pastor at St. Joseph, Owatonna, Christ the King, Medford, and the Oratory of Corpus Christi in Deerfield. In February 2024 I came to St. Pius X in Rochester and, as I write this, I will be leaving soon for a new assignment as pastor of Queen of Angels in Austin beginning July 1st. I first met the Catholic Daughters while serving in Owatonna and Medford. I have been blessed to encounter so many realities in the Church over the years and see the need for ongoing spiritual growth for all. As a seminarian and newly ordained, I have been blessed to take part in the Legion of Mary and various prayer groups. I became a Knight of Columbus while in the seminary. I have attended a Taizé gathering in Budapest, Hungary, met members of Focolare, Communion and Liberation, and so many other communities and charisms that have flourished, truly fruits of the Second Vatican Council. St. John Paul II began gathering these folks on Pentecost every year at St. Peter's and recently Pope Leo XIV did the same. I am grateful for my association with the Serrans, the Seven Sisters Apostolate, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Neocatechumenal Way, and so many other initiatives in the Church that are a blessing for our times. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas are part of this great plan of God to "Be the Light" of Christ in our parishes and communities. I pray that I may do God's will in serving you as State Chaplain. Be assured of my prayers for all of you!

God Love You!!!

Rev. James E. Starasinich

REFLECTIONS ON MEMBERSHIP

Dear CDA Sisters, in this recurring article in our state newsletter, we hope to not only share one member's history of joining and belonging to Catholic Daughters, but to inspire you to invite others to join our sisterhood. As you'll see in this and upcoming articles, the path to CDA membership can occur in a variety of ways. If you are inspired to share your story, please let me know. Blessings, Cathy

Now, let me introduce you to Jackie Eggenberger...

I grew up with family roots in Catholic Daughters. My mother has been involved for about 30 years, my two sisters are in it, and once I moved back after ten years in Utah I was urged to join. I have been part of Catholic Daughters for 4 years now, starting in St. Charles and currently serve as Vice-Regent for Court St. Mary Peter Mazeppa Bellechester #1864.

I had a lot of catching up to do when I joined. Even though my family was involved, I never had paid much attention as a young teen/adult. Now that I was trying to get involved after relocating there were many new faces, court procedures, and a need to get a true understanding of what Catholic Daughters was all about. It can be overwhelming when you are a newbie!

There are SO MANY good things about this organization that I was not initially aware of and I don't think many women in our parishes realize that we do. We need to better educate women on the great work Catholic Daughters does. I was blessed to have strong, active courts welcome me in, encouraging me to go to national and state conventions, and getting involved with our many projects where you can see the direct impact that CDA sister's service and the fundraising can do within our communities. It is amazing to understand how this organization can combine the smaller projects all of our courts do to state and national levels that culminate into a much larger impact than I had realized.

My favorite part has been conventions. I encourage anyone who has never been to a state or national convention to attend. I was able to attend the 2024 National Convention in New Orleans and the 2025 State Convention in Owatonna. It is a phenomenal experience that really energizes you with the strength of what we can do as an organization. I can't wait for Iowa and to see the things our courts and the Minnesota State court accomplishes this year. Blessings,

Jackie Eggenberger

Court St. Mary Peter #1864, Mazeppa Bellechester

MN
State
Board
News



Passion Flower

MN Catholic Daughters of the Americas
SUMMER WORKSHOP 2025

SOW & GROW

In Unity and Charity

*Join us at our 2025 Minnesota CDA Summer Workshops for instruction and inspiration as we share topics addressed at the National Catholic Daughters Leadership Conference, ideas on how to **Sow** the seeds of faith and fellowship through Catholic Daughters, and explore ways to **Grow** by establishing new courts and increasing membership in our courts!*

Your participation is essential to our hopes and plans to Sow & Grow our CDA Sisterhood!

Saturday, August 23rd—Caledonia

Sunday, August 24th—Adrian

Saturday, September 27th—International Falls

Sunday, September 28th—Perham

ALL ARE INVITED! Please contact your Regent to get registered.

Our very own Nancy Bambenek will again be serving as our National Education Chair this year. On July 13th she'll be headed to the National Leadership Conference at which time they will select the themes for the upcoming Education Contest. It should be available by the time our Summer Workshops roll around.

One item of note is that we'll be addressing the use of AI. More information to follow. It's becoming a real issue.

Hope you are enjoying your summer! I will be serving as your Education Chair for Minnesota for the next two years.

Reach out to me if you have any questions.

Margee Keller – margeekeller@hotmail.com – 218.349.4566

**State
Chair
News**

TOOT YOUR OWN HORN



Hello CDA ladies! I am the newly appointed Publicity Chairman, Deb Lutmer of Ct. St. Bernard #886-Lismore. I look forward to serving you and helping you promote CDA and your court activities.

How can you increase awareness of Catholic Daughters in your own community? You need to "toot your own horn" so to speak. Publicity about your activities lets your own members know what's happening and can also be a potential inspiration to new members. Isn't membership our ultimate goal?

There are many ways to "toot your own horn" that are free or inexpensive.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Newspaper | Radio | Court Website |
| Telephone Tree | Emails | Diocesan Newspaper |
| Bulletin Boards | Church Bulletin | Visit Other Courts |
| Word of Mouth | State Website | Work on Habitat Build |
| Court Newsletter | Mailed Minutes | Co-Sponsor Events |
| Flyers | Posters_____ | Membership Drives |
| One on One Visits | CDA Sunday | |

Each of these can increase the awareness of CDA in your community. Let me know if I can help!

In Unity & Charity,
Deb Lutmer
State Publicity Chairman

51ST STATE CONVENTION

THOUGHTS FROM COURT OWATONNA #1180 DELEGATES, ALTERNATES, AND ATTENDEES

I attended my 3rd CDA State Convention this past April. It was a different experience than the other two since it was held here in Owatonna and I went home to my own bed each night, but it also had the opportunity for fellowship and sharing of ideas. The location had to be moved so I'm sure it was unsettling for the officers and organizers of the event, but it was well run, and everything seemed to stay on the published schedule. One of the most interesting sections to me was when we broke into groups and talked about how and where to add more courts in Minnesota. Some of the towns were brought up by more than one small group and certainly would be a good place to start. We also don't necessarily want to compete with other similar women's groups so some towns will not be pursued.

The court reports and those from each of the circle of love chairs were printed and included in our packets. There are some good ideas that would be something our court might want to try. We will need some new officers and committee chairs in the next couple of years. I encourage you to consider your level of involvement and let any of the current officers know if you want to know more information about what their role entails. There is a lot of support available – you won't be alone. Attending the state convention reinforced that for me.

We remembered those CDA members we lost at Friday evening's mass at St. Joes. And on Saturday evening at Christ the King in Medford we installed Fr. Jim as the new state Chaplain and the new officers for 2024-2026, including Cathy Nelson as the new state Regent. Both were beautiful opportunities to pray together.

~ Martha Kearin, Vice-Regent

The 51st MN Biennial State Convention held here in Owatonna, April 24-26, 2025, was my 5th CDA State Convention (4 in-person and 1 video-conference). For all the roadblocks that the planning Committee faced, I have to say it was very enjoyable.

The Eagles Club really were welcoming, there was always a hot cup of coffee or ice water available. They even served yummy cinnamon rolls and fruit for breakfast. All the meals that were provided were very good and the decorations were beautiful. With all the event location changes, all who were involved with making this convention run smoothly should be proud of their effort.

Our new National Supervisor and National Secretary-Treasurer, Brenda Anderson was in attendance. She spoke about listening to the Holy Spirit and about establishing more courts in MN before our next convention. Our Past State Regent, Lois Nelson, wanted us all to think about having the 2027 National Convention in MN.

It was good to see so many from our court at the Convention. It was also good to see friends made at past conventions and to meet new CDA members from other courts in MN. It was good to see Father Jim, and to have him installed as our new State Chaplain.

I did get lots of pictures, and will get a photo book put together soon, as the official photographer for the convention. I think I got a few good pictures and thank you to Janet McDonald for taking some great photos too.

I was also installed as the 2025-2027 State Family Chair along with other Chairs (picture of me and Deb Lutmer, Publicity Chair), at the convention.

~Ruth Broumley



This was the third biennial Catholic Daughters Convention that I attended. It was nice to hold the events locally. I was glad to see many of our local members attending and helping at the events. Even though plans had changed just days ahead of time, we were all so thankful that it all worked out perfectly! The Marriott Courtyard Hotel accommodated all the guests and had good space to set up for Registration, Adoration space and the Country Store and Silent Auction items. The Eagles Club took good care of setting up for the Meetings and lunches on short notice. There was breakfast items set up both Friday and Saturday mornings for the attendees. The lunches were great. Our dinner was wonderful on Friday night. They have a great chef at the Eagles! Our dinner Saturday night was at Torey's. They did a great job serving wonderful food also.

The meetings were well run. Discussions went well. Officer nominations and voting went very well also. All the people that gave reports spoke and were well prepared and easy to listen to.

It was nice to have the National Secretary-Treasurer from South Dakota, Brenda Anderson, with us. On Saturday afternoon, we formed small groups and discussed how we could expand to more areas in our State. She helped us to think about where and how we could expand in order to have three new Courts formed in the next couple of years. The Priests of the Parishes should be consulted first to see if they are in favor of it.

The Masses we attended were very nice. On Friday night, the Officers were wearing white tops and black pants or skirts with special medallions, which is the new "Regalia", and we all processed in together. We honored all the ladies who had passed away since the last Convention in 2023. Father Jim Starasinich celebrated Mass Saturday afternoon at Christ the King in Medford and he was installed at the new State Chaplain for Catholic Daughters. We were happy to see him. He installed the new State Officers.

We were all happy with how everything fell into place for this State Convention.

~ Julie Bosshardt, Financial Secretary



Back row (L to R): Tammy Ebeling, Philomena Seykora, Julie Bosshardt, Tracie Peterson, Martha Kearin, Carol Rypka, Ellyn Jardine, Joan Salomonsen, and Lisa Kern
Front Row (L to R): Nancy Janke, Rose Ann Kubicek, Janet McDonald, and Ruth Broumley

I was honored to be an alternate to the Minnesota State Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the America's.

I have attended many conventions in my years as a Catholic Daughter and firmly believe this was one of the best. If we hadn't known about the glitches that occurred, we would have believed the locations to have been in the original plans. The Memorial Mass on Friday evening and the Mass of Installation on Saturday were beautiful, liturgical and had beautiful music.

It was so good to see so many women I had met in years past. Catholic Daughters is truly a group of beautiful, women -- and I'm proud to be a member. I look forward to the 2027 Convention in Moorhead!

~Nancy Janke



50-year members (L to R): Millie Spindler, Mary Alice Miller, Janet Miller, and Anita May

I wasn't a delegate to the State Convention, but I was honored to be asked to be an Honor Guard for opening and closing the convention and for the Honor Guard at the Mass for Installation of new State Officers.

The other great times were meeting other friends I have made from other towns over the years.

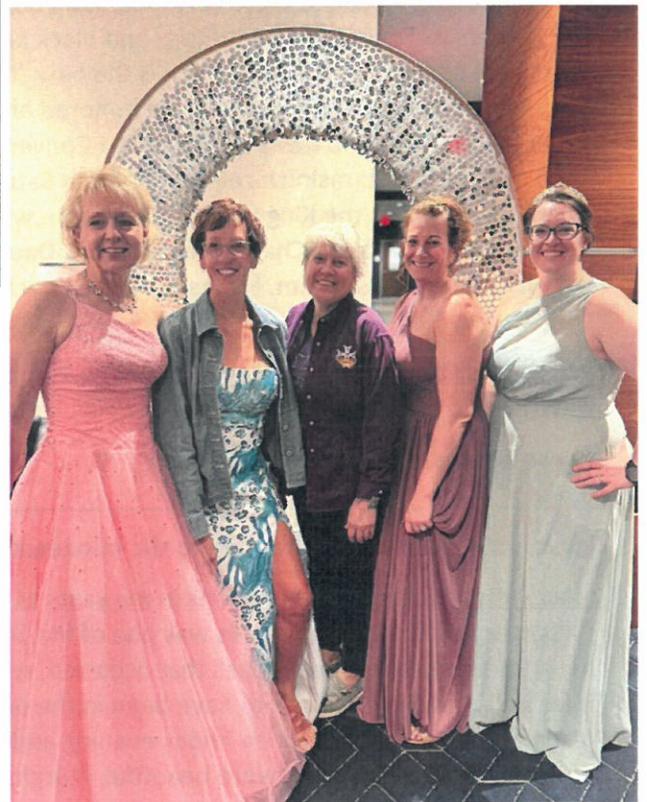
~ Janet McDonald

Ct St. Charles #1791, St. Charles



Left: Delegates to the State CDA Convention were (l-r) Tina Lewis, Tammy Volkman, Tara Miller and Irene Novak

Below: Ct St Charles had a fun time dressing up for the Prom themed fun evening at the state CDA convention. Pictured (l-r) Irene Novak, Tammy Volkman, Nancy Bambenek, Tara Miller and Tina Lewis.



MN State CDA Convention 2025 Awards Received



Left: The Court St. Rita #409 Officers brought awards back from the State Convention and presented them at our May meeting to the Court.

Pictured are: Vice Regent Lynn Schwanke, Regent Leanne Stoll, front. Back: Financial Secretary Pat Hager-Spiritual Enhancement -Advent Prayer Sister project, 60 year member Fuzz Hammers-Membership- speaking about her involvement in CDA encouraging current members, JCDA mentor Rachel Poser-Newsletter & Website awards.



Left: CDA officer Bev Philion presents our annual scholarship to Jacob Harmoning, senior student at Lafayette High School and grandson of CDA member Susan Harmoning.

Below: New 50-year member certificates were presented at our May meeting to Elaine Salentiny, JoAnn Brunelle and Carol Tongen (not pictured). So proud of our dedicated, long-time members.



Ct Winona #191, Winona



Left: Winona Court helps Birthright
Ct Winona #191 held its annual Birthright Baby Shower at the May meeting. Members (L to R) Muriel Arnold, Sue Kamrowski, Mary C. Speltz, Pat Kriesel, Vicky Haessig, Anne Galewski, and Ann Bronk are pictured with the many wonderful baby items collected for Winona Birthright. Monetary donations were given by members. Thank you to Muriel Arnold for hosting the May Crowning and CDA meeting at her home.

INSTALLATION OF COURT OWATONNA #180's NEW CHAPLAIN



At our Court meeting on June 16, Father Marreddy Pothireddy was installed as our court Chaplain by our District Deputy and court member, Tracie Peterson.



THIRTY SEVEN BAGS OF BIRTHDAY GOODNESS

Ct. St. Bernard #886-Lismore has continued to collect “birthday bags”. The bags are filled with the makings of a “happy birthday” to be given out at the local food shelves. The thought behind the project was that if people are utilizing the food shelf, it is unlikely that they are able to purchase any extras for a birthday. Some of the items in a birthday bag include: cake mix & frosting, paper plates, and candles. Optional items include plastic forks, balloons, party hats, etc. Catholic Daughters hope to bring the “happy” into someone’s birthday. District Deputy Lisa Diekmann delivered 37 bags of birthday goodness from our court along with Ct. Santa Maria #247-Adrian and Ct. Madonna-Wilmont. With the donation being made during the month of March, the Manna Food pantry received matching funds.



Pictured are: Lydia Diekman, Regent Mary Metz, Julie Brake, Denise Lynn, Pearl Wieneke, Ellen Henning, Mindy Kemper, Laura Foodness, Deb Lutmer, Jen Brake, and Donna Dew. Thank you District Deputy Lisa for being the photographer.



Education Contest Winners Announced

Ct. St. Bernard #886-Lismore is happy to announce the winners in the National Catholic Daughters of America Education contest. The winners on the local level are Regan Penning for her essay, Alex Hoffman for her photography, and Olivia Morrison for her poem. All of the entries related to the theme of spreading “How I Feel When I Forgive”. These entries will compete with other first place winners from the local courts in Minnesota and may even be selected to advance to the national competition.

Left: Faith Formation instructor Julie Brake, Regan Penning, Alex Hoffman, and Olivia Morrison. Congratulations, ladies!

EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK



Members of Ct. St. Bernard #886 decided at the February meeting to promote a “fun” contribution to the local food shelf. In honor of March Madness, members of the parish cluster were invited to donate “everything but the kitchen sink” during the month of March. A bin was set up in the foyer area of St. Anthony church to collect the many donations. March is a “matching grant” month for the Manna Food Pantry in Worthington, where the items were donated. Pictured are the 238 pounds of items collected.

Above: The Manna Food Pantry accepted a matching grant check of \$73,011.98 from the Worthington Regional Health Care Foundation for the “March Food & Donation Campaign”. We’re so glad we contributed to their successful campaign! Our motto of Unity and Charity at work!

COURT FRIENDSHIPS

Right: Ct. St. Bernard #886-Lismore was overjoyed to see so many area **CDA** members attend their salad and hot dish luncheon on June 11th. Courts represented were Ct. Santa Maria #247-Adrian; Ct. St Joan of Arc #1291-Marshall, and Ct. Queen of Peace #1558-Slayton as well as State Regent Cathy Nelson, Ct. St. Anne #1840-Medford. Not shown are members from Ct. Madonna #839-Wilmon. A fun day for everyone.



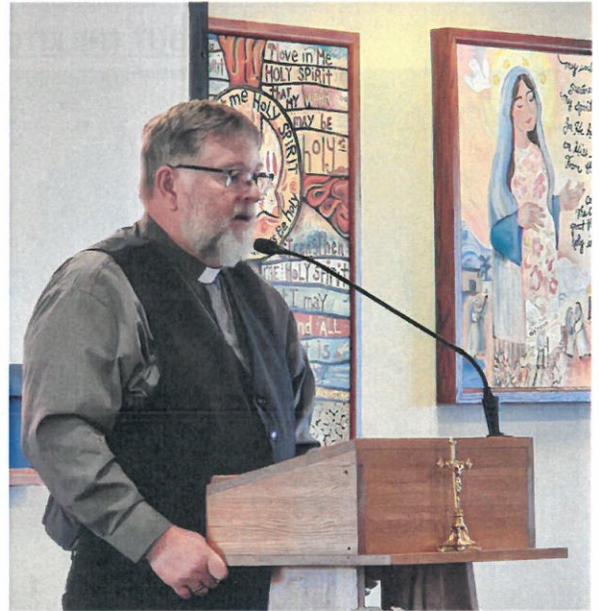
STATE REGENT'S SURPRISE VISIT

Right: Ct. St. Bernard #886 was honored to have State Regent Cathy Nelson surprise them at their annual salad and hotdish luncheon. Jeaneen Nelson (Ct. Queen of Peace #1558-Slayton and former State Secretary) is all smiles to see Cathy and her sister.



Right: Deacon Jack LaValla hosted a Lenten Retreat for St Charles CDA members and guests

Below: Ct St Charles CDA sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt. Over 600 plastic eggs were filled with candy and hidden on Church grounds. Pictured are the Easter Bunny helpers (l-r) Gina Wimmer, Kris Jones, Easter Bunny, Tara Miller, Maureen Doffing and Tina Lewis.



Right: CDA member Bev Puterbaugh is pictured with her First Communion Pray Partner Gabriella. CDA members were excited to share this special day with the child they have been praying for and sending encouraging notes.

Right: Geraldine Holzer (seated) was honored by Court St Charles Catholic Daughters for her 50 years of membership. Pictured with Geraldine are CDA court officers (l-r) Tammy Volkman, Tara Miller, Irene Novak & Vicki Gathje.





Left: Denise Sackreiter, Court St Charles CDA member, delivered frozen turkeys donated by Hormel Foods in Austin, MN for the CDA to distribute to local food shelves.

Below: Court St Charles hosted a St Patrick's Day Ham Dinner for the community. Pictured (l-r) serving guests are Deb Rowekamp, Tammy Volkman, Irene Novak, Joann Small and Carol Swiggum. What a fun and successful fund raiser this was!



Ct St. Anne #1840, Medford

Court St. Anne #1840 hosted B-I-N-G-O at Straight River Days on June 14th in the Medford Park open to the public. The weather cooperated this year with no rain. The event was well received with as many as 45 people playing at one time. Members donated or solicited gift cards for the event so all proceeds were profit netting the court just over \$700.



Above left: Pictured left to right are Jean Gillis, Carla Brady, Sharon Langerfeld, Gail Heim.

Above right: The crowd who came to play BINGO

Ct Queen of Peace #1558, Slayton



Left: May Crowning occurred at St. Ann Church on May 18, 2025 with Court Queen of Peace #1558 members processing into church carrying flowers to be placed before the Blessed Virgin Mary. Gwenna Keleher, daughter of Tracy and Michael Keleher crowned Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Below: Ct Queen of Peace #1558 also collected clothing and toiletries for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and poverty in the Sioux Falls, SD area. The items were delivered to the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House for distribution to those in need.



M Is for the Many things she gave me,
O Means only that she's growing Old.
T Is for the Tears she shed to save me,
H Is for her Heart of purest gold.
E Is for her Eyes with love light shining,
R Means Right and Right she'll always be.

*Put them all together, They spell **MOTHER***

A word that means the world to me.

Mothers & Daughters

A Prayer for Catholic Daughters- by Letty Calvetti

Dear Jesus, Help us to remember that the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is composed of all types of women, all of whom are children of God. Our Courts will be filled, if we fill them. They will do great work, if we work. They will make generous gifts to many causes if we are generous. They will bring other women into its fellowship, if we bring them.

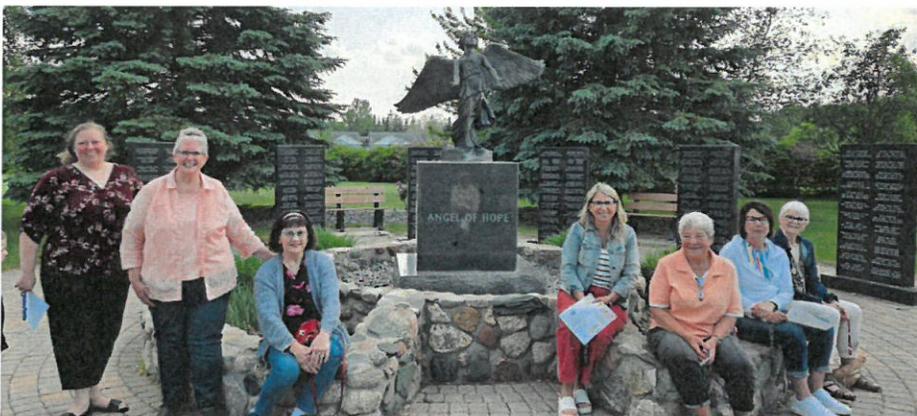
Catholic Daughters will be an organization of loyalty, love, faith, and noble spirit, if its members, who make it what it is, are filled with those qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, we dedicate ourselves to the task of being all that we can be so that our Order continues to contribute to the benefit of Catholic womanhood, and that it may spread Unity and Charity among all members.

Amen



Left: We welcomed these new members to Court St. Rita #409 at our December meeting and potluck. *L-R* Big sister Dianne Rohde-Szarke, new member Judy Thomas, big sister Vice Regent Lynn Schwanke, new member Denise Hanson, new member Joanne Knuttilla, and big sister Florence Hammers.

Right: Divine Mercy Sunday Service at St. Henry's Catholic Church was organized by member Cathy Doll. Pictured are members: Karen Hammers, Judy Christopherson, Fuzz Hammers, Cathy Doll, Mary Kerekes, Dianne Rohde-Szarke, Janel Altstadt & Mary Mercer. Along with retired Priests Leroy Schik & Arlie Sowada, Deacon Randy Altstadt, Father (and Court St. Rita chaplain) Omar Guanchez, Michael Mettler & Theresa Ingebrand-Musicians, and Father Tom Skaja and youth servers. The afternoon service included confessions, Stations of the Cross, readings, Adoration, quiet reflection and singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with an attendance around 100. Additional members not pictured who assisted with planning and serving a light lunch to clergy: Gina Cavanaugh, Deb Roman, Jolene Miller & Cheryl Wacker. This all took place while Regent Leanne Stoll and Vice Regent Lynn Schwanke travelled back from the State CDA Convention in Owatonna. Working together in Unity and Charity!



Left: On June 3rd, Court St Rita #409 gathered at Perham Angel of Hope Park at 6 p.m. to Pray the Rosary together for special intentions and our monthly committed prayers. Beforehand the Officer's and Lunch committee prepared for our Potluck and Monthly meeting in the church basement. Everyone present enjoyed sitting outside in a beautiful space under the sunny

bluebird sky and a gentle breeze to pray and share conversation-learning from each other about the park-before going to the church where we continued to enjoy our Sisterhood around the table of delicious food and finishing with the business meeting. It was a great evening!

On May 9, 2025 we celebrated May Crowning with the Holy Redeemer 1st through 8th grade students. The



3rd and 4th grade students placed floral bouquets in a large basket in front of the Statue of Blessed Mary, a boy and girl then crowned the Blessed Mother Mary Statue with a floral wreath. These students formed a huge circle to pray the Rosary, each saying the Hail Mary. We had Catholic Daughters volunteer to say the Our Father's. It was the most beautiful day, Fr. Dennis Labat gave the opening prayers, Anna Lenz, the music teacher played piano while Quinton Bronsvold began the ceremony

with singing "Ave Maria" and closed with the song, "Immaculate Mary!" The whole school body attended along with many family members and Holy Redeemer parishioners. A very special day indeed!





June 9, 2025 Priest Appreciation Potluck

With great respect and sincere gratitude, we thank our Chaplin and Sr. Associate Pastor, Fr. Denny Labat; our Pastor Fr. Steve Verhelst; Sr. Associate Fr. Andy Michels; retired Priest in resident, Fr. Paul Schumacher and Deacon Ken Noyes.

We had the most lovely potluck supper with over 40 delicious dishes shared and served. Many in our court enjoyed this special wonderful evening. God has blessed us with faithfulness.



Note from National Supervisor

Dear Minnesota State Officers and Members,

Thank you to each of you who attended the MN State Convention in Owatonna. The entire weekend was outstanding and considering the problems and pitfalls, you all rose to the occasion and the good Lord provided all that was needed. Sometimes God laughs at our well laid plans and throws a curve ball, but your officers and the Chamber of Owatonna made sure that our CDA Convention went well. Thank you to Monica Capra for each little detail you prayed about and who was given the answers. I have seen you as an awe-inspiring leader for your state and I can see that the others that will follow you have a great role-model.

So many things were discussed at the convention, the reports by all the committees, the fundraising successes, and a glimpse into the future of MN local courts. I loved spending time with you and if I gave you an idea or inspired you in any way, then I am blessed. I truly am here for each of you and please do not be afraid to contact me if you have a question about national items. Otherwise, I know your new State Regent, Cathy Nelson, will be sure to answer your questions.

Workshops are coming in August and September. Be sure that you send a couple of ladies from your Court to a workshop. The officers work hard on content and effective presentations so without you there, it will not be the same. I am hoping to be present one or two depending on my timeline as well. AND --- when you get that FIRST new Court, I will be there. How is that coming? We had so many towns mentioned that would be great CDA places. Have you asked one person for May, June and now July yet? Asking makes a difference. Ask one, bring one. Maybe bring her to a meeting so she can hear and feel the CDA difference that we try to make for our Parish and Community.

Congratulations go out to all the Award winners, to those who have served faithfully and to those who said yes for this upcoming term; State Officers, State Regent Cathy, 1st Vice State Regent, Lisa; 2nd Vice State Regent, Lori; State Secretary, Linda and State Treasurer, Darlene. Together we are all Stronger, Together we can make a difference, Together we are all daughters of the King, Our Lord Jesus.

May you have a beautiful and bountiful Summer. My prayers for safety from storms and healing if you are not feeling well. May you always walk with God as he shows us the Light and the Way. "Be the Light" Matthew 5: 14-16.

*My CDA Blessings ~
Brenda Anderson, National Sec-Treas
MN State Supervisor*



Right: St Charles Jr Catholic Daughters held a Mother/Daughter Tea in May. Pictured are Jr. CDA members in Mary's Garden at St Charles Borromeo Church.



Upcoming Anniversary

JCDA Ct St. Cecilia, Slayton
5 years—8/10/2019

Upcoming Court Anniversaries

Court St. Mary #509—Moorhead—105 years—6/29/1920
Court Caledonia—Caledonia—105 years—10/10/1920

SAVE THE DATE!

Court St. Rita #409 Perham

56th Style Show Fundraiser! October 25th, 2025

Join us for a morning of Hawaiian themed Fun, Fellowship and Fund-raising while enjoying a fantastic Brunch. Styles featured from Perham Businesses! Hope to see you there!

COURT OWATONNA #1180

ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR – CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

Mark your calendars for our Court's Annual CDA Fall Bazaar

Saturday, November 8th @ St. Joseph's Church, 512 S Elm Avenue, Owatonna MN, 8:30am - 1pm. There will be baked goods, cookies, raffle items, crafts, and lunch items.

Reminder Note from National Regent Regarding Texas Flooding

Dear Catholic Daughters,

The terrible flooding and loss of life of so many in Texas has captured the world as we watch the unbelievable videos coming to us every day. Many sad stories of the victims. Many from the same family. It is impossible to even imagine being in this situation. It seems surreal like I'm watching a drama movie. But it is all real and heart breaking. We sit feeling so helpless and all we can do is pray.

I have received a request for help from Texas CDA and some members around the country have called the office. As you know we have our general disaster fund for just this purpose to be able to assist immediately with some help.

I once again am putting a disaster request to my generous CDA sisters to help with what you can. Any state or local court or individual member that wishes to help with a donation, you can send checks to National CDA Headquarters at 10 W 71st St., New York, NY 10023

Make the checks out to Catholic Daughters of the Americas and in the memo write; Texas Flood Relief.

I am thanking you in advance for whatever you are able to do. Remember any amount helps.

I ask all my Catholic Daughters to pray for all those who were affected by this terrible disaster and especially for the many lost souls and their families that the Lord will hold them in His loving arms. —

God bless all of you and keep all of us safe.

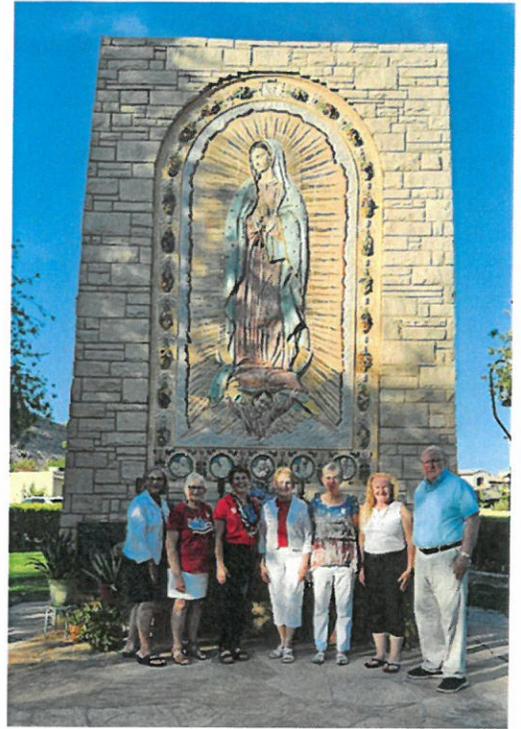
Susan Moné
National Regent



STATE OFFICERS ATTEND NATIONAL CDA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN ARIZONA

The Minnesota State CDA Board recently attended the National Leadership Conference in Scottsdale Arizona. This conference draws State Officers from all across the United States to join in spiritual, educational, and inspirational activities which they in turn will share with CDA members in their own states. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this conference presented by members of the National Board and are excited to share the information and inspiration we gained there with you!

Here we are pictured in front of the Shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe on the grounds of the Franciscan Renewal Center where the conference was held. *(l-r) Pictured* are MN State Supervisor and National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson, State Secretary Linda Schons, MN 2nd Vice State Regent Lori Mickelson, State Regent Cathy Nelson, 1st Vice State Regent Lisa Ouderkirk, State Treasurer Darlene Hight, and Deacon Dennis Ouderkirk who joined us and assisted at all conference masses.



CDA MEMBERS WORK TOGETHER IN 'UNITY AND CHARITY' AT 2024 HABITAT HOME

On Saturday, May 17, 2025 State Regent Cathy Nelson joined members of Court St. Mary Peter #1864, Mazeppa-Bellechester and homeowners of the 2024 CDA sponsored home for a day of painting in Red Wing.

Another CDA Build Day is being planned for a Saturday in August. When the date has been determined, information will be sent out to all local Court Regents to share with their members. Join us in some yard work in anticipation of the home's completion. All members are invited; it's a fun and rewarding experience!



Pictured (back to front and left to right) are Past State Regent Ellen Huneke, State Regent Cathy Nelson, Donna Bautch, Immediate Past State Regent Monica Capra, Linda Kazmierczak, and homeowner Anne.



Minnesota Catholic Daughters

Cathy Nelson
MN CDA State Regent
404 Barney Street
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Minnesota CDA:
mncda.org-or-mncda.com
National CDA:
catholicdaughters.org

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to Jackie Svenby (addresses above)

Newsletter Guidelines:

- Story should be 50-125 words
- Include who, what, when, where, and why in your story
- Include Court name, number & city
- If submitting photo, attach it as a .jpeg file to email with article-give photo a caption & identity each person
- Deadlines to submit articles:
July 10—Nov 10—Feb 10
- Include your name, court, phone and/or email so we can contact you if we need more information.

Welcome to our New Members!

Ct Our Lady of the Field #2107, Argyle

Bernadette Borowicz, Renae Lindgren

Ct Joan of Arc #691, Blue Earth

Jeanne Gardner

Ct St. Cabrini #1466, Fergus Falls

Betty Bowman

Ct Sacred Heart #1424, Waseca

Pamela Fossum

Ct Plainview #497, Plainview

Monica Evers

Ct St. Joan of Arc #1291, Marshall

Carol Moore, Diane Moose, Ms. Patti Welvaert, Janet DeVos-Dobrenski

Ct St. Mary #509, Moorhead

Donna Dawson, Carol Heltemes, Deborah Willard

Ct Owatonna #1180, Owatonna

Terry Schneider

Ct St. Rita #409, Perham

Denise Hanson, JoAnne Knutilla, Judy Thomas

Ct Queen of Peace #1558, Slayton

Sandy Anderson, Wendy Samper

Ct St. Charles #1791, St. Charles

Jude Eggert, Gretchen Keefe, Phyllis Onstad

Blessed Be Their Memory

Ct Our Lady of the Fields #2107, Argyle

Jenna Grabowska, Betty Larenger

Ct Caledonia #555, Caledonia

Winifred Schulte

Ct St. Joan of Arc #1291, Marshall

Jane Fisher, Elaine Wyffels, Harriet Tholen

Ct St. Mary Peter #1864, Mazeppa-Bellechester

Josephine Befort

Ct Sacred Heart #1424, Waseca

Theresa Neigebauer, Beatrice O'Brien, Mary Strand

Ct Queen of Peace #1558, Slayton

Esther Schmidt

Ct St. James #1820, St. James

Audrey Schmidke

Ct St. Peter #1601, St. Peter

Maureen Dvorak, Elizabeth Burke

Eternal rest
grant unto
her Oh
Lord,

...and may
perpetual
light shine
upon them.