



CATHOLIC
DAUGHTERS
OF THE
AMERICAS

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February:

- 1st Educ. Contest Due
- 10th CDA Meeting Program: CDA Officer Description
- 20th "Burgers & Pies" KCs Fundraiser

March:

- 10th CDA Meeting
- 22nd Easter Ham Raffle & Pie Sales
- TBD Confirmation Blankets/1st Communion Rosaries

April:

- 7th CDA Meeting Baby Shower—Pregnancy Options
- 18th Pillow Cleaning
- 22nd School Marathon

May:

- 12th CDA Meeting May Crowning
- TBD Schoenstatt Retreat

June:

- 8th Priest Appreciation
- TBD Salad Luncheon
- TBD Officer Installation

July:

- TBD Pro-Life booth at Waseca County Fair

August:

- 1st Pillow Cleaning

GABRIEL

COURT SACRED HEART #1424
WASECA, MINNESOTA



FEBRUARY
2026

Next CDA Gathering:
Tuesday February 10, 2026
6:00pm Rosary; 6:30pm Meeting
Program: CDA Officer Description

I CAN'T BE A LEADER!!!

Most of us don't give ourselves enough credit. Every person has unique talents, skills, and abilities. Some of these traits come naturally, and some are acquired. But we all have greatness! Leadership isn't all about standing in front of a group and directing meetings. Are you a person who enjoys talking with others? Do you like problem solving? Are you detail oriented? Do you write a "to-do" list each week, or month and attempt to complete each task? Do you like to learn or try new things? How well do you work with others? Maybe you prefer to take charge and are a self-starter. Are you a numbers person or a person who enjoys creative writing? Do you like the feeling of accomplishment? Or do you prefer to be one of the team?

You have skills. **You** have abilities. You are asked to **share** these talents.

In CDA, we have a motto of Unity and Charity. Unity - we are a group of women who have a common interest in our Faith. Some of us pray daily, some weekly, some only when we attend Mass. None of those is right for all, none of those is wrong. Regardless, we are a group of women united in our Sisterhood in CDA. We are all unique and we celebrate our differences while we work together or alongside each other on projects or events or at our meetings. We are Charitable towards each other and to those in our communities. We respect one another's thoughts and treat others how we would like to be treated. That's Unity and that's Charity!

Reflect for a moment on your talents, your unique gifts. Reflect on how you can be charitable with your unique abilities and bring them to this organization. There are several ways you can help. We need committee members - those who help carry out a project or event. We need committee or project chairs - those who lead a small group in brainstorming, organizing, detailing, and completing the task. We need members to assist with our publicity, newsletters, and tracking our membership lists. We need officers to organize the business part of our local court. We need a person who likes to take notes: Recording Secretary. We need a person who enjoys working with numbers and budgets: Treasurer. We need a person who is detail-oriented to record monies coming in and maintain membership lists: Financial Secretary/Membership Chair. We need a person who enjoys working with others (there is no "I" in "TEAM") and who can help other officers and chairpersons complete their tasks. We need a person who can prepare agendas and keep the meetings running smoothly: Vice Regent/Regent.

You **DO** fit in here somewhere. And CDA needs you. Reflect, pray, and consider what is in your heart. As you trust God in your life and with your family, trust Him to help you consider what you can do to help this organization thrive.

You can't be a leader? Are you sure about that?

Current Events

The topic of immigration is heated, emotional, and divisive. It's also complicated and difficult to truly understand all sides. The U.S. bishops published a special message in November about it and the Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis published a statement about recent events. Please review these statements from their websites to learn more about this important topic.

(for reference - these are the links to those statements)

Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis statement: <https://www.archspm.org/statement-regarding-deadly-ice-related-shooting-in-minneapolis/>

USCCB letter: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2025/us-bishops-issue-special-message-immigration-plenary-assembly-baltimore>

There are lots of big things in the news recently that consume the airwaves. It's easy to miss recent comments about the Hyde Amendment. In January 2025, there was an executive order issued to enforce the Hyde Amendment, which stops federal funds from being used for elective abortions and revoked previous orders that expanded abortion access. Now in January 2026, the Hyde Amendment is being discussed again. Some are encouraging flexibility or elimination of the Hyde Amendment. You may want to encourage your representative to continue to enforce the Hyde Amendment.

Pro-life issues are womb to tomb. In the U.S., the legality of medical aid in dying is decided at the state level, as there is no federal constitutional right to it. There were two new state laws that put euthanasia into law in December.

- **Illinois** Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the Medical Aid in Dying bill (known as "Deb's Law") into law on December 12, 2025. This makes Illinois the thirteenth state in the U.S. to legalize euthanasia. The law is set to take effect in September 2026.
- **New York** reached an agreement between Governor Kathy Hochul and state lawmakers on the "Medical Aid in Dying Act" in December 2025, which would allow terminally ill adults with a prognosis of six months or less to live to end their lives with prescribed medication. Hochul is expected to sign the amended bill into law in January 2026, with it taking effect six months later.

There have been euthanasia proposals in the state of Minnesota in the past, including an "End-of-Life Option Act" in 2024, but so far these proposals have not been voted into law in our state.

As a reminder, if you contact your state representatives about any of these topics, please do so as an individual citizen and not as part of this organization, as it may jeopardize our non-profit status. Thank you!

Also, there was an Operations Morningstar report in the latest national quarterly newsletter on page 21: FINAL Quarterly9_205 2-3.pdf.

In Unity and Charity,

Brandy Pelzel
CDA MN State Legislative Chair
Court St. Mary #509 - Moorhead, MN

Important State & National Dates

State deadline for Website, Education, Newsletter, and Facebook contests - March 1st, 2026

National application deadline for Campus Court Scholarship - May 15, 2026

National Biennial Convention July 22-26, 2026 in Coralville, Iowa

Letter from our Regent.....

Dear CDA Sisters,

As I listened to Fr. Frerichs homily at this past weekend's Mass, it got me thinking. His message was on Light - pondering the way light is seen. How it can be seen differently in a change of circumstances. There is so much division in this world, in our country, in our state, in our cities, and commonly in our own families. We all see things differently.

Everyone feels their position is the right one. And while it is good to have strong convictions, it can break down our Unity. In CDA, our motto incites us to be a united group, working together in charity.

I also listened to Bishop Barron's sermon online. His theme was "United in Christ" He also talked about division - going back to the Sunday readings, there has long been division. Re-read these or find Bishop's sermon online at Word On Fire <https://ac.wordonfire.org/lt.php?x=4LZY~GDIIqLK6HST.N-7VuOg~3RSjN9xkes0X5JKIIacEK7-Ey7xulu1HAgitJfODYxzKpKIInSe6H.KydPMUem-1X-nmN~zkugxYXT>

As humans, we aren't meant to be alone. Remember God created Eve, so Adam had a companion similar to himself. We are social creatures. This also means we need to get along with each other. We are, of course, all followers of the same God - and we can all agree there is only one.

I do not have an answer to this division, nor do I believe there is an answer. All I do know is that each one of us can look internally and examine our own thoughts, beliefs, etc. And can then determine how we can be charitable towards our neighbors, our friends, our family members, and yes even towards our enemies. It's OK to disagree. It's not OK to disagree and cause hurt. Here's a message I keep beside me on my desk. It reminds me to reflect on what I do in actions, what I type in these letters, how I am responding in other communication.

Proverbs 15:13 CEV "Happiness makes you smile; sorrow can crush you." So, what are your actions doing to others? Making someone smile or causing pain? Gotcha thinking!!

United In Christ's Love,

Lori Mickelson, Regent
Court Sacred Heart

2025-2026 CDA Officers

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Consider donating time, talent or treasures to support Pregnancy Options so they can continue their pro-life efforts and support the individuals who request their help

Wish List

- Post it Notes, copy paper
 - Paper Products—facial tissue, toilet tissue
 - Bottles with matching nipples
 - Tea bags—variety, hot chocolate, Kcups
 - Baby thermometers, baby monitors
 - Cleaning Supplies—wipes, bathroom cleaners
 - Diapers 4, 5, 6
 - Baby wipes and hygiene items
 - Volunteer Sonographer, Nurse, Receptionist
 - Clothing Newborn to 2T
 - Financial Contributions
- Remember us on Amazon
www.friendsofpregnancyoptions.org

Volunteers Needed

Receptionists

Client Advocates

Nursing Staff

Committee Members for events:

Run Baby Run (8/8/26)

Annual Gala

Light for Life

Contact Gina

507-686-0881

gina@pregnancyoptionsfbo.org



A YEAR OF YES!

One year, I had a cousin challenge me to have a year of “YES”. Saying yes to the social invitations I might normally say no to, yes to the chance of adventure and travel, yes to taking classes and trying new things. This challenge renewed a love of photography I had, and I now have a great camera which has become a source of great fun for me.

At the beginning of a new year, it’s common to take a look at yourself and your life and take stock of where you are, and where you might like to be. It’s January when I write this, and I’d like to challenge all of you to try a year of YES. Not to the things I said yes to many years ago, but to say YES to SPIRITUAL opportunities. Say yes to trying Eucharistic Adoration once a month, or going to a weekday Mass. Say yes to things that come up through our Parish or through the Diocese for speakers and special Masses. Yes to trying new uplifting music, or listening to an audio book or podcast about spiritual things when driving somewhere. Yes to saying the rosary with our parish or going on a retreat. Yes to adult learning about your faith. You don’t even have to seek these things out, just be open and aware of the opportunities that come your way and instead of saying “I’m too busy, too tired, wanting a jammies day”, drown out those thoughts and feelings and just say YES.

-Provided by CDA Member Patty Masberg

CDA Minutes January 13, 2026

The regular meeting of Court Sacred Heart #1424 was called to order by Regent Lori Mickelson on Tuesday, January 13, 2025 at 6:23 p.m. in the Parish Center dining room.

Pledge of Allegiance

Silent roll call of officers - There were 4 officers and 20 members present. Welcome to our guest, Bradley Thomas Battenfeld son of [Carmen Battenfeld](#).

A motion was made by JoAnn Earle to approve the November minutes printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and approved.

Correspondence was passed among members.

Bills were presented. Gifts for Seminarians - \$275.00 is in the budget. Shirley Kern bought gift cards for the Seminarians for Christmas.

Reports of Chairmen:

Adopt a Family, Christmas - JoAnn Earle bought gifts for a father and his 2 daughters. She spent \$242.41 on the gifts.

That's My Pan fundraiser - Thank you to Sue Harguth for organizing the pan sales. The court raised \$353.

Christmas Time at the Mill - Patty Masberg reported that Christmas trees for this event will be decorated and donated every other year. Our court budgeted for this event. We will participate next year donating and decorating a tree.

CDA Bake Sale - Jaye Sopkowiak and Diane Ytuarte - Dates for the bake sale are January 24 and 25 before and after Masses at Sacred Heart. Workers and baked goods are needed from members. A sign up was sent out to all members.

Habitat for Humanity - Lori Mickelson has been in contact with the Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity in charge of the build. They will let our court know when the home is ready for inside work for us to help. We need a court member to be the contact person for the build dates. The address of the build is 1475 Sage LN NE in Owatonna.

Unfinished Business:

Education Contest - Theme - "He who forgives an offense, seeks love." or "How do I feel when I forgive?" The deadline is February 1 for entries to Carol Schumacher. The contest form can be found in the newsletter.

KC Burger Fry and Pie Sale - Lori Mickelson and Lori Harris will co-chair the event on Feb 20, 2026 from 5-7 pm. Tickets are available for purchase, \$10 each. Please contact Lori Mickelson to purchase tickets (507-461-2446). Checks payable to SAL.

Easter Ham Raffle - Carmen Battenfeld and Geri Kassel will co-chair the raffle. Raffle ticket and pie sales will take place after Masses on March 14-15 and 21-22. One hundred raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 each. Pie pickup will be March 28-29.

New Business:

Sacred Heart Gym Equipment - Deb Wobschall - New basketball hoops were purchased for the Sacred Heart gym. Father asked if our CDA group could help over the cost. Sue Harguth made a motion to give \$200. Diane Yuarte amended the motion to give \$1000. After discussion a second amended motion was made to give \$500 now and more later if our budget allows. The motion was seconded and passed to give \$500 towards the purchase of basketball hoops. We will discuss the budget and the possibility of giving more at the February meeting.

The National CDA Convention is on July 22-26, 2026 and will be held in Coralville, Iowa. Members are encouraged to attend. We need 2 delegates and 4 alternates to represent our court.

Election of New Officers/Reception and Installation Mass - Elections will take place in May. Anyone interested in running for an office, please contact Lori Mickelson 507-461-2446 or Linda Groh 507-995-6520. Description of officers will be the program for our February meeting. It is our court's turn to host the installation Mass. Regents from Medford and Owatonna have been contacted by Lori Mickelson.

Circle of Love Chair Reports are due March 1. [Lori Mickelson](#) handed out forms to be filled out by each chairperson.

Business from the floor:

March for Life - [Jane Christian](#) reminded us of the March for Life on Jan 22, 2026. If you are interested in riding the coach bus to the rally in the Twin Cities, please call the parish office.

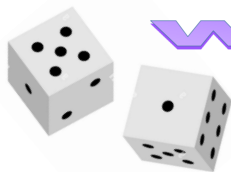
The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Closing Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m.



The saran wrap balls had us rolling with laughter!



Pictures from our January "Christmas" social!

CDA Court Sacred Heart #1424
February 10, 2026

Program: Description of Officers Skit

Call to Order – Regent Lori Mickelson

Opening Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the USA

Welcome to All – Acknowledge Visitors

Silent Roll Call of Officers – Recording Secretary Lori Harris

Approval of January Minutes as Printed in Newsletter

Reading of Correspondence - Recording Secretary Lori Harris

Treasurer's Report –Treasurer Jeanne Sexton

Reading of any Bills – Financial Secretary Patty Masberg

Reports of Chairmen: **(5 minutes or less, please)**

- Winter Bake Sale – Jaye Sopkowiak/Diane Ytuarte
- Habitat for Humanity Grant/Build – Lori Mickelson
1475 Sage LN NE Owatonna

Unfinished Business:

- Reports for State - Circle of Love, SOS, Publicity, Newsletter, etc - Due March 1st
- KC/CDA Burger Fry-Pie & Soda – Lori H/Lori M
- Ham Raffle/Pie Sales – Carmen Battenfeld/Geri Kassel
- Education Contest Entries – Carole Schumacher
- Sacred Heart Gymnasium Equipment – Deb Wobschall
- Convention July 2026 – Coralville, IA – 2 Delegates, 4 Alternates
- Reception and Installation of Officers Mass – date to be determined

New Business:

- 2026-28 Officer positions needed: Vice Regent, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer
- Nominating Committee for Election of Officers – 3 volunteers needed
- Retreat – Patty Masberg

Closing Prayer (Please Stand)

Next Meeting Date – March 10th

Social time will follow meeting – Feel free to stay and visit with friends!

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

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Waseca Court Sacred Heart #1424

Remembering our Seminarians in Prayer!

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Nicholas Swanson

The Saint Paul Seminary
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Prayer for Seminarians

God our Father, we thank you for calling men to serve in your Church and at the service of your Son's kingdom as priests. Grant these men the gift of understanding and send your Holy Spirit to help others to know your call. May Catholic Daughters support vocations by prayer and encouragement of our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Micah Lehnen

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