



COURT CEDAR RAPIDS 1768 · ST. THERESE, THE LITTLE FLOWER NEWSLETTER

May 2026

NOTE: Regular member meetings will move BACK to the 2nd Tuesday, beginning in September 2025. We will use the St. Pius X Parish Hall.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Events:

Our Court normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month (Sept-Dec; Feb-June)

~ * ~

Our Next meeting is:
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
St. Pius X, Parish Hall

Doors open: 5:30 pm

Officer Installation at 6:00 pm
St. Pius X Church

Thank you for being prompt.

Refreshments: 6:30 pm

Potluck: Officers provide meat/main dish;
Jan-June Birthdays: Desserts
July-December Birthdays: Sides

Business Meeting: 7:00 pm

June Donations Accepted:

Cleaning Kits: TBA

Comfort Bags: Soap (full-size);

Nail Clippers; Dental Floss & Flossers

Guests are always welcome

to attend our meetings.

Need a ride to our meeting?

Call or text

Stephanie Guzman

319-540-7193

slguzman1992@gmail.com



Contact info for our Court

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“You Say It’s Your Birthday? Well, Happy Birthday to You!”

Our April 14th member meeting was held on a somewhat “dark and stormy night,” which caused many members to stay home. As ladies in attendance lined up to visit the Ice Cream Sundae and Dessert Bar, the stormy weather was rolling in. We chose to lower the blinds and proceed with the celebration planned by our April Refreshments crew and the Birthday Committee.



January: (left)

Carnation & Snowdrop

Judy Scott, Elaine Boes, Carol Steiner.

Not shown: Marianne Riester, Laurie Jamison, Berta Larkin, Gretchen Brown



Three of the adorable Birthday Celebration center pieces made by Erika Brockmeyer. Thank you, Erika! And, thank you, Angie Eltze for supplying the flowers!

February:

Violet & Primrose

Not shown:

Pat Semelroth, Jean Randolph, Bernita Beltz

April:

Daisy & Sweet Pea

Not shown:

Marla Tursi



March: (left)

Daffodil (Jonquil) Mary Morgan

Not shown: Dolores Hawkins, Patty Wilcox, Theresa Gasper, Georgia Stoeber, Lois Hickman



May: (left)

Hawthorn & Lily of the Valley

Guest, Brenda O’Neill (caught by surprise)

Not shown: Maggie LaKose, Judy Borelli, Libbie Sellors, May McGinness, Virginia Pilcher, Judy Ann Quint, Pam Geraghty



June: (above) Rose & Honeysuckle

Stephanie Guzman, Ginger Brown, Jan Casey, Erika Brockmeyer, Julia Fitzgerald; Not shown: Rosie Martin, Judy Hensley, Alexandra McGeary, Diane Dave



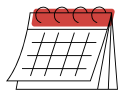
Birthday Committee co-chairs, Judy Scott & Erika Brockmeyer, announcing the birthday month, flowers, and member names. (Absent: Jean Randolph)

Catholic Daughter-in-training, Mariel Coates and her mom, Rita, enjoy the sweet treats of our evening celebration. (right)



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.

“Mark Your Calendar!”



Tuesday, May 12, 2026

- May Member Meeting 6:00 pm
- May Crowning of Mary, Patron of CDA
- Refreshments: Mexican/Tacos
- Business meeting
- Peach & Pecan Sale Kickoff



Saturday, May 23rd & Sunday, May 24th

- Jacob Francois' Ordination to Priesthood and First Mass of Thanksgiving



Tuesday, June 9, 2026

- June Member Meeting 6:00 pm
- Meet in Church for the Installation of Officers
- Potluck; Business meeting
- Photos taken for the 2026-2027 program book

Thursday, June 11, 2026

- KMMK 8th Spring Anniversary Celebration
- 5:00 - 8:30 pm, Cedar Ridge Winery
- This is a FREE event; register by June 8th.

July 6th or 7th

- Peaches & Pecans Arrive!
- Customer pickup the next day.



Wednesday, July 22 - Saturday, July 25, 2026

- 2026 CDA National Convention
- Regency Hotel and Conference Center
- 300 East Street, Coralville, IA
- **NOTE:** We are still waiting for details on the daily schedule.

W. W. M. D. ~ What Would Mary Do?

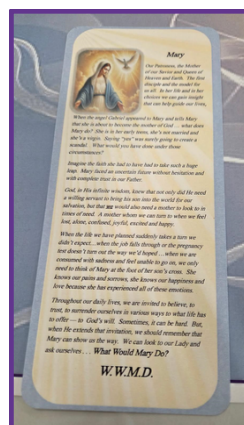


Iowa National Regents' Day was held on Sunday, April 26, 2026 in Algona, Iowa. Court St. Cecelia #283 hosted the celebration at Divine Mercy St. Cecelia Catholic Church. Our past Court Regent, **Erika Brockmeyer**, graciously represented our Court, meeting up with our **District Deputy, Diana Stewart** to share the ride and the day's activities.

The day's theme: “W.W.M.D. ~ What Would Mary Do?” was evident through the centerpieces, table settings and other decorations in the hall. Throughout the month of May we should keep this question in our hearts and minds as well.

Photos: (left) A table setting; (below, l-r) District Deputy Diana Stewart and Erika Brockmeyer; Front: Poem on a bookmark; Back: The Magnificat and a W.W.M.D. pin.

*Erika,
Thank you for
representing
Court #1768!*



July: (left)
Larkspur & Water Lily
Claire Ahart, Patty Kauffman,
Ann Hunter, Bertha Rodriguez,
Joan Auterman
Not shown: Betty Bockenstedt,
Sue Begley, Pat Contentos



October: (right)
Cosmos & Marigold
Diane Reyland,
Jean Derby,
Sue May
Not shown: Kelly Brummer



August: (left)
Poppy & Gladiolus
Rita Coates, Noreen Koch,
Kit Umscheid, Mary Beth Myers
Not shown:
Sr. Trudy Keefe, Josia Mary Jacob,
Lorraine Bailey, Vicki Davenport



November: (right)
Chrysanthemum
Grace Meyer,
Guest Sandy Wingert, Jean Bean
Not shown: Cecelia Gustafson, Linda
Brandt, Lola Scott, Mary Jean O'Leary



September: (left)
Aster & Morning Glory
Roberta Peters, Barb Heishman,
Mary Jo Evers, Anne Reynolds,
Rita Holmes
Not shown: Shirley Bush,
Jeanne Philipp, Dani Woods



December: (right)
Holly & Narcissus
Karen Meade, Angie Eltze,
Coe Molumby, Mary Johnson,
Mariel Coates
Not shown: Deacon Bob & Barb
Hurych, Mary Lou Hess, Joan Leahy



Dues (\$28) may be paid at any time. Check with Mary Jo Evers on the status of your dues if you are unsure. Cash or checks may be given to Mary Jo at our meetings. Checks should be made payable to: **CDA #1768** Or you may mail her a check: 336 Windsor Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



2025-2026 Program Year



Members joining between April 1st - August 31st have their dues applied toward membership through the next CDA fiscal year. Please note that some members are paid ahead; Mary Jo Evers maintains a list of those members.

If you have any changes or corrections to your contact information (including address, phone or email), please report them to Mary Jo Evers. She will share the updated information with National, State, and Court offices.

Email: eversmaryjo@gmail.com
Cell: (319)389-2568



What is the CDA Circle of Love?

The image on the right is symbolic of our CIRCLE OF LOVE program. By definition, a circle is a curved line with every point equal distance from the point of the center and bound together by the common interest. The seven point program of the CIRCLE OF LOVE is bound together by the common interest - LOVE.



The small heart in the center is taken from the logo of the HEART SPEAKS TO HEART program. By utilizing this portion of the logo and part of the Heart Speaks to Heart program that is compatible with the Circle of Love, a smooth transition occurs.

The Cross and Crown in the center of the heart is the national symbol of the Order - the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

The seven points selected indicate the needs of the Church and community best served by the Catholic Daughters. The program itemizes these needs with suggestions on how Catholic Daughters can effectively serve.


The “CIRCLE OF LOVE” program portions of the National CDA web site are gathered to assist Catholic Daughters in working with the Church and community. We are indeed very aware of the needs in society that are deeply affecting today’s generation, the elderly and human life. To be effective in promoting good works, we must reach out and make a difference in the lives of those who are suffering, whether it be through their own fault or the circumstances in which they find themselves. If we are to be “Jesus’ hands and feet” as is pledged in the Act of Consecration during the Installation Ceremony, then we must use the talents He gave us, become educated in new fields, volunteer our services and financial assistance where needed.


Local courts are asked to select those portions of the programs that their members feel comfortable working on in their area. If many projects are selected, the task can become burdensome and little is accomplished. Members need to experience fulfillment when the projects are completed. This can happen when courts are selective in choosing their programs.

Many persons were involved in the formation of “Circle of Love.” The National Board, members of the National Office and State Officers all had a part in the final adaptation. Thanks goes to each one of them.

<https://www.catholicdaughters.org/circle-of-love>

Court #1768 - - Youth Circle of Love Winner! February 1, 2025 - February 1, 2026

As a Court, we took on the responsibility of hosting two Soup Supper Fundraisers within a year's time to support our Seminarians and Religious. (February 22, 2025 & January 31, 2026.) Both were well-supported and well-attended. It was nice to see so many of our Court members contribute to the success of the events. 

These two fundraisers were submitted as one entry in the most recent Circle of Love contest. While attending the Iowa National Regents' Day, our Past Regent Erika Brockmeyer learned that this project had won at the State level and had been submitted to the next level. The National Circle of Love winners will be announced at the convention in July. 

Society of the Little Flower

The mission of the Society of the Little Flower is to promote devotion to St. Therese of the Child Jesus, the Carmelite Nun and Doctor of the Church.

Through prayers and donations, friends of St. Therese enable Carmelites throughout the world to make a difference in peoples lives.

*St. Therese, The Little Flower
Patron Saint of Court #1768
Feast Day: October 1st*

*“When charity is deeply rooted in the soul it shows itself on the outside.” —
St. Thérèse of Lisieux*




Smile for the Camera!

Would you like a new photo taken for the 2026-2027 Program Booklet? We will be taking new photos at the end of the June 9th member meeting. This is also a good time to verify your information for the member section (address, phone, email).



Power of Prayer—Rosary for Life

Power of Prayer is held on Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:30 pm at St. Wenceslaus. ~ Elaine Boes 

If your schedule allows, please join the Pro-Life Rosary at All Saints Church on Friday mornings. See below.

Pro-Life Rosary

Friday's After the 8:00 am Mass at All Saints Church
Begins around 8:30 am ~ ALL are Welcome!

Learn More About CDA and Court #1768

Our latest Court Newsletter can always be found on our Court website.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CDACourt1768
Court #1768 Website: www.catholicdaughterscr.org
Iowa CDA website: www.IowaCatholicDaughters.org
National CDA website: www.CatholicDaughters.org

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The Kolbe

Korner

By Sue May



SAVE THE DATE | THUR., JUNE 11, 2026 | 5-8:30 PM



KMMK 88.7 FM

8th Anniversary Fundraising Celebration

Cedar Ridge Winery, 1441 Marak Road, Swisher, IA



Featured Speaker:
Camille Pauley,
Co-founder & President
of Healing the Culture

Evening Order of Events:

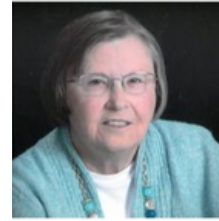
- 4:45 Doors Open
- 5:00 Holy Rosary - ROSARY CREW with Keith Nester
- 5:30 Complimentary Cedar Ridge wine.
Cash Bar available for beer and cocktails
- 6:00 Cedar Ridge Premium Buffet Dinner
- 7:00 KMMK Co-Manager Remarks - Tony & Sue May, OFS
- 7:15 Camille Pauley - "Healing the Culture:
Restoring Truth & Hope in a Broken World"
- 8:00 Support for KMMK

This event is **FREE**, but reservations are needed. Please RSVP to attend by **MONDAY, JUNE 8**.
To register: Go to the KMMK web page www.kmmk-fm.org and click on the **EVENTS** tab.

Poetry

Pause ...

By Phyllis Mae Mussman
11/1/1936 - 9/30/2021



Phyllis Mussman, a member of our court, was a regular 1st Place Winner of the annual CDA Poetry Contest. Her work is showcased here for you to enjoy.

Mothers' Day



Mothers' Day is that national day when we Honor our mothers in a special way. Some serve breakfast in bed or the treat of A brunch downtown, Others choose some type of flowers or a Pretty gown.



Mothers are on the job 24/7
They certainly earn their place in heaven.
Sometimes we don't realize all that they do,
Until we grow up and become mothers too.

Something magical happens when you become A mother,
You are filled with emotions like no other.
From the moment of birth, you bond together,
Holding this gift from God gives you such Pleasure.



Remember as a child you awoke ill in the Middle of the night,
Your mother's presence at your bedside was A comforting sight.
And remember when your child in little league Hit his first home run,
You were right there in the bleachers cheering
And sharing his fun.

Mothers come shaped as tall, short, slim or wide,
They have a heart so full of love inside.
Although sometimes it is hard, they try to be Happy and bright,
After all our mothers walk in the shadow of God's Light.



Happy Mothers' Day!

Peaches & Pecans Sale



- **Chair:** Karen Meade
 - Phone: 319-361-6410
 - Email: meadekaren@aol.com
- **Members taking phone orders:**
 - Barb Heishman: 319-350-9955
 - Mary Johnson: 319-929-1491
- **Kickoff: May 12th Meeting**
 - Pick up yard signs, posters, order forms
 - Learn how to order online
 - Sign up to volunteer
- **Details:**
 - Genuine Georgia (grower/supplier)
 - 15# box of 35-42 Peaches -- \$35.00
 - 16 oz. bags of Natural and Cinnamon Pecans -- \$15.00
- **Peaches & Pecans Expected:**
 - July 6th or 7th
- **Planned Customer Pickup at St. Pius X:**
 - July 7th or 8th
- **NEW This Year:**
 - Online ordering & payment
 - Pro-Life Payments will process the payments.
- **Orders may be placed:**
 - Online, by phone, or mail-in order
 - Orders & checks are sent to our new PO Box:
 - CDA Court #1768
 - PO Box 1131
 - Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1131
- **Still Needed:**
 - A **recipe** to include with the Peach care instructions handed to the customers when they pick up their orders.
 - **Suggestions** for more organizations to receive donations from the fundraiser:
 - Camp Courageous
 - His Hands Free Clinic
 - KMMK Radio
 - Catherine McCauly Center
 - Etc.



2026 National Convention

- I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Third Call to Convention. It should contain a LOT of important information. Details will be shared when it arrives.
- If you want to attend, there is still room for more members. Talk to me!
 - Regent Roberta Peters



2026 "Homemade with Heart"

Bazaar

It's time to start planning for our next "Homemade with Heart" Bazaar!

- **Proposed date:** Saturday, November 14th.
- **Setup:** Friday, November 13th.
- **Leadership Team:**
 - Advisor: Cecelia Gustafson
 - Co-Chairs: Jean Bean, Grace Meyer, and Mary Morgan
 - Regent Roberta Peters
- **Sub-Committees:**
 - Cookie Walk*
 - Baked Goods area*
 - Crafts*
 - Cafe*
 - Pecans*
 - Advertising/Marketing*
 - Setup - including "atmospheric" touches
 - Cashier area
 - Welcome
 - Volunteer sign-up



*Sign-up for all areas at June meeting and planning for these areas will begin late June.

Are You a "Snowbird?"

- If you "fly" to a warmer climate during the cold months in Iowa, you are a "Snowbird."
- Are you active in a CDA Court in the area you travel to?
- If so, consider Dual Membership. Talk to Regent Roberta Peters about the simple process. She can help!

2026 Lifesaver Campaign



Preliminary numbers show that we will had another record year for the Lifesaver Campaign. Collections were held at Fareway, All Saints, St. Joseph, St. Patrick, St. Pius X, St. John XXIII, and IC/SW resulting is a total of **\$5,294.89!** This is an **11% increase** over our record 2025 year. Thank you to **Anne Reynolds** and all of you and your parishes for making this possible!