



# Messenger

**Our 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.*

May 2026

Catholic Daughters of the Americas® Court St. Rita #409

Perham, MN



Motto: Unity & Charity  
Patroness: Blessed Virgin Mary  
Court Chaplain: Fr. Omar Guanchez

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Spring is the most wonderful time of year. Although the temperatures are not very consistent, we see and hear all the fresh new changes around us and it sure can boost your mood. Court St. Rita #409 will see changes also in the next month. We had such a wonderful turnout at the April meeting! Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting. Let's try to repeat it in May! We will be voting on a new slate of officers. Thank you to the Nominating committee of Cheryl Keller and Pat Hager for reaching out to members. In this newsletter you will see the slate of officers that they have presented for the May meeting. We will ask for nominations from the floor for any vacant position and if there are any other nominations before the vote. I have had the pleasure of serving Court St. Rita #409 for 2 terms along with Lynn, Janel, Pat, Rosie, Jackie and Dianne who have all made the experience go smoothly. Please join me in thanking all these members for their time and talents! All the members who have been participating in all our many activities are the reason our court is strong, active, growing and 107 years old. Wow! Check out the photos of members in action during April. Thank you Janel, Lisa, Tammy and Pat for organizing the Faith Formation meal. Thank you to Cathy, Jolene, Sue, Cheryl, Janel, Judy, Mary and any other members I may be missing for Divine Mercy. Thank you Pat for sharing your Foster parent story at the April meeting. I know our next officers will keep the court going in the same direction with the support of all the members, encouraging them and with willingness to help in any way. We are blessed to have so many long-time members who have also served in different positions ready to answer questions or tell inspiring stories! I look forward to seeing all of you on May 5th!

God Bless, Regent Leanne



# Divine Mercy Sunday

## April 12, 2026



Divine Mercy Sunday was on April 12 and went very well. Fr. Nathaniel, Fr. Leroy and Fr. Arlie were there and Fr. Omar was there briefly. We had a wonderful lunch after, with Fr. Nathaniel, Fr. Arlie, and Janel and Deacon Randy, and about 7 CDA members, counting the cooks. Jeff Blickenstaff played guitar and he and Heidi Kalina sang. About 100 people attended.



## Foster Parent Talk

At our meeting on April 7, Pat Hager gave a talk about her experiences being a foster mother.

## National Convention

Minnesota will have 5 State Board members, 29 Delegates, and 30 Alternates attending. Pray for a successful convention. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws will be shared at our May 5th meeting.

## CDA Style Show

**SAVE the DATE!**  
**October 24, 2026**

**Theme:**  
**“O Christmas Tree”**



## Chaplain's Corner



Pray for Fr. Omar while he is on leave to Venezuela.



## Faith Formation Meal

The Catholic Daughters served a meal (baked potato bar) to Faith Formation students at St. Henry's on Wednesday, April 8.



## Election of Officers

Members, please see the Slate of Officers for the term June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2028

Presented by

Nominating Committee of Cheryl Keller and Pat Hager

Vote will take place at May 5, 2026 7:00 p.m. meeting at St. Henry's Catholic Church, Perham

**Regent: Lynn Schwanke**

**Vice Regent: Vacant**

**Recording Secretary: Dianne Rohde-Szarke**

**Financial Secretary: Janel Altstadt**

**Treasurer: Denise Hanson**

Nominations will be taken from the floor for any vacant position.



## Member Reflections

**Hello, I am Leanne Stoll** and I joined Court St. Rita #409 in 2012 because: I wanted to belong to a women's group that I had heard great things about from a friend.

**I continue to be a member** because I enjoy the activities we do, the friendships I have made, and the structure of the National Catholic Daughters of the America's® organization along with the spiritual growth I have experienced.

**Hello, I am Judy Thomas** and I joined Court St. Rita #409 2 years ago when we moved to Perham. I was eager to join to contribute my time and energy to a group that I had heard was passionate about helping others.

**I continue my membership** as I have learned a lot, enjoyed projects, and found a kinship I needed!

**Hello, I am Cheryl Keller** and I joined Court St. Rita #409 in 2023 because I wanted to belong to a Catholic, faith-filled, women's organization.

**I continue to be a member** because I enjoy the interaction with other CDA members as well as the selection of charitable projects that we do.

**Hello, I am Rachel Poser** and I joined Court St. Rita #409 in 2021 because: I was asked to chair the JCDA and in order to do that I had to be a member.

**I continue to be a member** because it is nice to belong to a group of Catholic women and interact with each other.

## May is the Month of Mary

The month of May is the month especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady. Catholics offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration.

This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were known to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion.

# Upcoming Events

- April 28, 2026 5:00 p.m. Financial Review - conference room St. Henry's  
May 2, 2026 5:00 p.m. May Crowning Mass at St. Henry's  
May 5, 2026 7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting - Including Election of Officers  
May 17, 2026 10:00 a.m. Graduation Social after Mass at St. Henry's – Refreshments  
June 2, 2026 6:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting at St. Henry's  
Installation of Officers, Reception of new members, Potluck and Meeting.  
(Mass (if possible) or Courtroom Installation)  
Aug. 16, 2026 Rural Life Mass – Moenkedick Farm  
Court St. Rita #409 helping with decorations.



## May Birthdays

Susan Rohde 13  
Joan Guck 15  
Betty Klein 24

## May Anniversaries

Mary & John Mercer 1  
Lisa & Jim Hemmelgarn 2  
Lynn & Jonathan Schwanke 4  
Cheryl & Jerry Keller 28

### CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS QUESTIONS?

Check out the Websites:

[National Catholic Daughters](http://www.catholicdaughters.org) www.catholicdaughters.org

[Minnesota Catholic Daughters](http://www.mncda.org) www.mncda.org

### COURT ST. RITA

Check out our web page!  
[parishfaith.com/catholic-daughters](http://parishfaith.com/catholic-daughters)

Our special **Seminarians** to pray for:

**Rev. Mr. Sebastian Spencer**, Saint Paul Seminary  
(from St. Charles Borromeo, St. Anthony)

**Jack Tyrrell**, Saint Paul Seminary  
(from Sacred Heart, Staples)

**Deacon Rich Stenger**,  
Maryland Seminary  
(from Sacred Heart, Dent)

**Will Koppl**, Saint Paul Seminary  
(from St Joseph, Waconia)

**John Bell**, Deacon Candidate  
(from St. Henry's, Perham)



Our special **Men and Women Religious** to pray for:

**Brother Jacob Berns** St. Johns Abbey  
(from St. Henry's, Perham)

**Franciscan Sisters** of Little Falls, Rochester,  
Sauk Rapids and Minneapolis.

**Sr. Elijah Marie**, Discalced Carmelite Nuns,  
Monastery of the Holy Name of Jesus  
in Denmark, Wisconsin.  
(from Sacred Heart, Dent)

*Chairperson: Jackie Hager*