Court St Mary 1423 nominates Patty Fuegen for the SD CDA Member Achievement Award. Patty embraces the motto of "Unity and Charity" both in leading our court as regent several times and as being a good and faithful member.

She started a Seminarian project with the elementary children. At the beginning of religious ed, Patty posted the seminarians' pictures with a little bio identifying each one. Each child chose one seminarian. During the year the children prayed for that seminarian at each class and remembered them during their night prayers. Each child wrote a letters and cards as well. That project was enhanced when she had court members write Christmas letters to encourage and thank the seminarians as well as to tell CDA's story to our future parish priests.

She also started a Vacation Bible School bringing in the CDA members, confirmand teens, and retired couples as volunteers. Although non-Catholic children were welcomed and did attend, she made it abundantly clear that this was a truly Catholic program—not watered down to placate the masses.

When Avera began sending Patty's sister and her husband on Haitian medical missions, our court had a new project. Over a period of six years, we raised funds, gathered over the counter medical supplies and treats & toys for the Haitian children. Last year the Project took on a new twist, so we sent money through Avera.

Patty has been the parish's back up for conducting RICA classes. She has taught Bible studies for over thirty years.

She has done all of the above and more from the seat of a wheelchair--not an electric one. Projects are always laced with prayer. Never a complainer, she always acknowledges that her condition is an opportunity for grace. Her pain and suffering are never wasted.