

The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross
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Send information for publication in *The Holy Cross* to Jacque Clemens at The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross, P. O. Box 180268, Tallahassee, FL 32318. Or from the DHC Website, under the “Officers” tab, click on “E-mail DHC First VP” to email her the information/pictures. Deadline for the next issue, April—June 2016, is March 5th.

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How many holes in my life would have to be filled if I was not a member of the DHC? A group of women, most lots younger than me, are always there if I need someone, to celebrate with in good times, to cry with in the not so good times. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for allowing me to serve you as a member of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. Loretta Baldwin, Grace Chapter

We are a small chapter in a small church. Not one of us lives in the community where our church, St. Michael’s Anglican Church, is located. But when we meet, distances and numbers fade away and we rejoice in our work and our fellowship. Eva Jane Johnston, Daughters of Iona Chapter

Being a Daughter of the Holy Cross is a blessing to me. I enjoy the fellowship of women who are strong believers. Last June our church had the honor of hosting the Provincial Council. It was like meeting family that you didn’t know you had! What a wonderful time we had getting to know each other! Paula Wahl, Talitha Koum Chapter

Many in our Chapter have been together for over 20 years – from DOK to DHC. This forms a sisterhood of “stick-to-itiveness” – a sisterhood that has weathered the storms and always has each other’s back. We have laughed, cried, studied, traveled, supported, served, lost and mourned together. That forms a bond that can’t be broken. Awesome – all by the power of the Holy Spirit. Lenora Reddehase, Daughters of Honor Chapter



The Holy Cross

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First Quarter 2017

“BLESSED ART YOU AMONG WOMEN....”

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My dear Daughters:

As I write this short message the supposedly solemn Season of Advent is slowly merging into the celebration of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lord, known as Christmas. It is a time when many already are feeling exhausted by the preparations and will even give a sigh of relief when we can say “It’s over for another year”.

Yesterday I was invited to send greetings to one of our Chapters as they gathered for a time of fellowship together. After I had done this it occurred to me that I may have missed the deadline for our Newsletter, and here in fact, if it still was not too late, I would like to share these thoughts with our greater membership. So, this comes with apologies to a small number of you who may have heard some of it before.

I think that our Order has to be especially reflective this time of the year as we realize just how central was the role of a woman in the Christmas story we know so well.

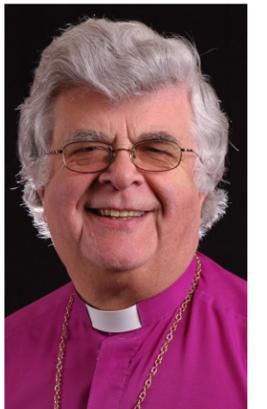
In St. Luke’s Gospel we see two references to the sanctity of the Mother of Our Lord. First, the Angel Gabriel approaches this unsuspecting young girl with this startling greeting (1:18) *Blessed art thou among women*; and then, when Mary goes to share this news with her cousin Elizabeth, she is greeted by this older woman in almost exactly the same words (1:42). Elizabeth did this enthusiastically and “with a loud voice”.

At the centre of the Christmas Scene is THE BABY JESUS, but bending over Him with the love we associate between a mother and her new born baby, is the Blessed Virgin Mary. It surely must be a comfort to all women to be reminded, especially in an age when women so often are exploited and abused in so many places at home as well as abroad, that when God was ready to send His Son among us, he did so through a woman. It should be awesome (in the true sense of that word) to every member of our Order to realize that your gender was transformed forever by a woman having such a central and prominent role in His Birth.

The scene I find most endearing as I meditate on that first Christmas is Mary and Joseph bending over that crude manger and gazing at their little Son who would redeem the world. We sometimes refer to that tableau as *THE HOLY FAMILY*. But what makes it “Holy” is that the Infant Jesus is in the very centre. It is through Him, and Him only, being kept in the centre of our own families that true holiness and happiness can be attained.

Dear Daughters, it is my prayer this Christmas that your homes and families will be filled with the joy and peace that only really comes when we place HIM there. Then the true meaning of this Sacred Season will be yours and that it will bring each one of you deep and abiding happiness!

Your Chaplain and friend,
 +Donald



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PRESIDENT'S NOTE By Ruby Mayrath

Praying the Scriptures

The Provincial Council will be meeting in Kissimmee, FL from the 13th to the 16th of January 2017 and I ask for your prayers for this meeting that we will accomplish all we need to do. I will demonstrate a way to use the scriptures to pray, using a prayer that Paul used for the Ephesians (3:14-19).

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray out of His glorious riches, He may strengthen the Provincial Council members with power through his Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. And I pray that the Provincial Council members, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that they may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. I ask this for the glory to God for His Order, satisfaction to our Lord Jesus, and accomplished by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In Loving Memory of Daughters

We remember the following dear members of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross, who have recently died, and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and Daughters who knew her.

Doris Munger, member of St. Helena in Midland, TX; date of death: April 6, 2016
Donna Brown, member of Talitha Koum Chapter in North Augusta, South Carolina; date of death: March 8, 2015



Tallahassee, FL Chapters Hold First Joint Training By Jean Williams –President of All Saints, Tallahassee, FL



The Daughters of the Holy Cross chapters in the Tallahassee, Florida Deanery held their first joint membership discernment and training in weekly Saturday morning sessions, April 16, 2016 through July 30, 2016. The chapters involved were All Saints, Holy Cross, Esther and Trinity. The training was held at Holy Cross Anglican Church, home of the Holy Cross Chapter- in which Jacque Crosby, one of our DHC founders is a member. Pat Barnidge (Esther) and Jean



Williams (All Saints), also DHC founders, assisted in the training. The chapters shared the responsibility for conducting the training sessions and providing refreshments. Each chapter had two candidates. A unique aspect of the training was that one candidate was out of the area for most of the training and joined the group via phone. Additionally, makeup sessions were held as needed to accommodate our busy candidates.

At the end of the training, individual chapters assisted their candidates in writing each person's Rule of Life and implementing candidate projects. For one project, a chapter committed to pray for clergy spouses and contacted the spouses to ask for specific prayer needs. In another project the candidates and chapter members prepared an area of one of the church buildings for a new nursery. The project involved cleaning the area, painting the walls and putting down a tile floor. In a third project, candidates prepared a church directory.

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The Admitting Service for each chapter's candidates was held at the chapter's church so that their church members could celebrate with the new Daughters. For one of the services, a candidate was admitted via phone since she had moved out of town.

FROM OUR ICA Missionaries

Thank you, Mitzi, and to the entire organization of Daughters of the Holy Cross for supporting me with a financial gift to make this trip possible. God blessed my service in Cambodia and it was very fruitful. "My prayer before coming to Cambodia was that God would make a place for me to do His work and grow His kingdom. Praise God, he is faithful and hears our prayers. God showed up and worked through my translator and myself in a mighty way. We had 35 people accept Christ and join the Kingdom of God this week. Several were family members and many were friends. One



woman told us that she had a dream a few nights before we came that God came to her on a flying horse. This was an answered prayer, as our team prayed that God would reveal himself in the dreams of the people. She accepted Christ! One of our teammates was ill and couldn't go out in the field, so his translator joined us for the day. When one of the homes asked to pray the salvation prayer; he too asked to pray for salvation. By the end of the day he was presenting the Evangicube. (a hands-on approach to presenting the Gospel) He also led someone to Christ on the same day that he became a Christian. When he accepted Christ I told him I could see him leading a house church in the village. He has agreed to help the pastor with Kantuot's first house church. God is so good! There is no sweeter privilege than to serve Him!" Jennifer Ruben

I want to thank the Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross for your support so I could go on the short-term mission trip to Nicaragua with my church. We served God in many ways in several villages. We passed out bread and bags of tea at the dump where people actually lived. I painted a house in one village and I got to do VBS with some of the kids (major language barrier), and then we made lunch for them and we passed out some gifts, such as Band-Aids, clothes and the bead necklaces that I had brought. I worked in a clinic in one village and when it started to rain we had to quickly move the medical supplies, sweep the water that had leaked through the roof out the doors, entertain the children and still help the needy people who were now compacted inside the building. After the rain stopped, we played tag, which was surprisingly easy to play in another language. The next place we went to, I got to help make the meal. We put carrots, celery sticks, chicken, and several vegetables I didn't recognize with spices in a soup, then cooked it in a cast iron pot that reminded me of a witches' cauldron. On the last day, we stayed at the Dream Center, where we slept each night, and I helped with the VBS for part of the day and the clinic for the other part. I ran wherever I was needed and filled in where I could. God calls us to love and serve others which is what the trip was all about. Heather Kennedy



THE BLESSINGS OF BEING A DAUGHTER By Gail Cahill and Loretta Baldwin

Our precious Lord showered us with abundant blessings this past year. We want to thank each one of you for being such a blessing to the Order. We look forward to the coming New Year when we will grow deeper in our spirituality as Daughters, when your chapters will grow with new members and when our Lord will continue bless us with new chapters. We hope you enjoy these comments from a few of our members. (From the Editor: Because of the abundance of comments we will be including a few each quarter. Blessings may be sent to: Jacque Clemens at firstvp@daughtershc.org, membership@daughtershc.org or chapters@daughtershc.org).

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