

Gather the Scattered Sheep

A Journal on the forming of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross

By Jacque Crosby

I feel drawn to record the journey of the work that took place as a group of Anglican Daughters of the King (DOK) accepted the call of God to form The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross (DHC). If there is one lesson I have learned over my journey with Christ it is to act in obedience when nudged by the Holy Spirit.

In 2003 there was a great separation taking place in the Episcopal Church over the authority of Scripture. Many churches both large and small were breaking communion with the Episcopal Church. African Bishops firm in God's word, gave us shelter and support as Bishops of several Anglican expressions formed together in a group called Common Cause to work together in the formation of The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

At this time as the Province Four President I sat on the DOK National Council. There was unrest in DOK over daughters that were members of Episcopal Churches that left. During the 2006 DOK Triennial Event I announced that my parish would leave the Episcopal Church. The next day I was elected as the first Anglican member of the DOK National Council. I became Co- Chair of the Membership Committee.

I became aware of the pain that was taking place for Anglican daughters. Many had to leave DOK for personal reasons or requests by their priest. I began to hear my Lord whisper a phrase in the DOK Prayer of the Order 'gather the scattered sheep' in my dreams and even while awake. I began to recognize a call to form an Anglican Order to gather the Anglican daughters who had scattered. I truly loved being a DOK and all the friends I had made from all over the USA and beyond. I tried to ignore the call for about two months. I argued with the Lord informing him that I just could not do something like this. I'm a no-body, who would listen to me? I am not educated enough for this! What would happen if it didn't work out, I'd be embarrassed, humiliated? Finally one night after another dream I said, okay Lord I think I am hearing you, I will do this, but you will have to do it all because I do not know how! The ball is in your court, where do we start? I believe God put this call upon me because I would have to trust him in every step we took. Latter I would write a letter to former and current Anglican DOK I copied this letter to a few of the Common Cause bishops. I received a call from Bishop Ackerman he said "you are an answer to prayer" more conformation.

I began by informing the DOK National Executive Council by requesting a meeting with them before I gave the report to the full council. In my membership report I wrote that I would like to complete my term helping the Anglicans get started. It was not well received. I was told I needed to talk with Bishop John Howe the National Chaplain. I rode with Kathy the Roman Catholic member of the council to the airport to pick the bishop up. After we were in the car I gave him my report to read. He was very quiet for a while then he asked what is wrong with this (he called) a letter? I said I was told I would destroy DOK if I did this. After a long pause (I knew he was praying), he said "Jacque, the most loving thing you can do is give the Anglicans a place to go." Kathy said she was going to help me. Bishop Howe was giving a report the next day on the state of the

Episcopal Church this gave an opening to present my report to the National Council. I did not send my report in before the meeting to be included in the packet we would receive because I wanted to inform the council face to face. There was an emotional explosion. After a while it became quieted. The next day the council voted to give me \$2000.00 to help me get started, I never used the money. I knew they were hoping the Anglicans would become a branch of DOK. The problem was I didn't think that would work and did not want to be obligated to do so. Bishop Howe supported me through the complete process. I have a deep respect and love for this God centered Bishop of Central Florida and his wife Karen. I still pray for them every day.

I asked Jesus what should be our next step? What should we do? A thought came to me get in touch with former and present Anglican DOK. I wrote a letter to Anglican daughters and copied it to Common Cause Bishops. I laid a fleece before the Lord and asked, "Lord you used twelve simple men to change the face of the world, you could use twelve women to form an Order, give me twelve and I will know it is you." Twelve women responded to my letter, they represented all branches of the Common Cause movement. Confirmation full speed ahead I never looked back!

We called ourselves The Formation Committee, Kathy Aspden, Charlotte Barrett, Marianne Freeling, Barbara Schaeppi Hildreth, Jean Marina, Gail Wacker Julie Wahtola, Jean Williams, Kathy Wonekta, Terilyn Dillon, and an Anglican DOK from Virginia, I was the facilitator, we worked through E-mail and phone to discern what God wanted to do with His Order. Praise God he gave me talented women who could do all the things I could not.

The Committee met face to face in Newman Georgia after months of working together so we could approve the work already done and plan our next step. Waiting for this meeting was like waiting for Christmas morning. When we met putting a face to a name was a joy we expressed through hugs and kisses was like a family reunion. Jean Williams and Charlotte Barrett were not able to be with us for this meeting because both of their husbands were very ill. We communicated with them by phone. The business meeting was held in two small Anglican Churches where the reserved sacrament was present. This reminder of God's presence with us is why we began the tradition of always having an icon of Jesus present with us during every meeting we held and continue to do so at the writing of this journal. When the group would take a break we always returned to work by first recognizing Jesus presence with us in prayer. Our first secession was a retreat to help us get our minds set on being a servant, listening for God and to each other. Each of us knew God would form this Order not in our time or will but in His. There was no doubt that the Holy Spirit was present with us. I was greatly impressed by the faith and strength of the sisters I would be working with. Each one would contribute their talents in this ministry. We were a group of women in love with our Lord! With the exception of one we all still wore the DOK cross.

The following is written from my memory and may not be the actual order of the work we did.

The first topic we discussed was would this Order be an affiliate of DOK or stand on its own? We shared our spiritual growth experiences, friendship and love over the years spent in DOK. We talked of our concerns that to be an affiliate of DOK we would need to be in accord with the by-laws and structure of DOK. After taking time for individual prayer we came to the conclusion being an affiliate of DOK would not work for the Order. The main problems were because of the by-law that the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church appoints

the National Chaplain and we knew we would need to begin with membership admittance as daughters at large.

The method we used to name the Order worked very well. After prayer each member made suggestions for a name, this was written on a news print sheet. We each wrote down five of our favorite choices. This was tabulated and the top five choices were presented to us for another time of prayer then we wrote down our favorite top two choices. Tabulated again and arrived at The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. We were in total agreement. God was in charge.

It was decided we would not have a formal chaplain for the Formation Committee each would keep in touch with their priest or bishop for guidance. We came to the conclusion that DHC structure would consist of Chapters and the Provincial Council. We would wait for ACNA to decide on how overlapping dioceses would be recognized to address that tier in the structure of DHC. We are still waiting.

Committees were formed to work on subjects for the next meeting in six months. We chose Newnan Georgia for the site because it was less expensive and easier to fly into Atlanta and most of the formation committee could drive to the meetings. We were all paying our own expenses at this time.

At the close of the first meeting our member of the Formation Committee from Virginia said the Anglican DOK in the Diocese she was from were very clear they wanted to remain connected with DOK. She felt she could cause a problem in her diocese working on a stand-alone Anglican Order. We blessed and thanked her for the work she had contributed gave her a hug and sent her on her way. She was replaced by Carlene Riley.

The first focus of intercessory prayer for our group was for the bishops working to form ACNA. A letter was sent to the House of Bishops informing them work was being done to form an Anglican Order for women and girls. I received a phone call from Bishop Ackerman saying we were an answer to prayer and if there was any way he could help just let him know. The Formation Committee watched as the bishops worked and made sure everything we decided for DHC was approved by them by sending bishops the results of each decision we made. Many made suggestions and asked questions. One question asked was why we didn't use the words Apostolic Succession in the faith- statement? I answered the reason we chose to describe a priest or bishop instead of using the term Apostolic Succession was because there are so many definitions used within Anglican Churches on this subject. As DOK Membership Co-Chair I experienced this problem. The definition for Apostolic Succession used by the Episcopal Church is used by DOK. Many branches of Anglican Churches were not accepted by DOK. Their members could not be admitted. In keeping with the call to gather the scattered sheep we felt that DHC needed to be open to all Anglican women and girls. The Bishop was ok with what we decided.

The council's next meetings were held in Marianne Freehling's home in a room she and her husband had built. It held twelve women just right. A few members of the council stayed in their home. The rest of us stayed in a hotel. We were given a few donations to help with expenses that we used to help those that flew to Atlanta. Most expenses were still paid by members of the council.

We wrote the faith statement, mission statement, and by-laws mostly through e-mail and adjusted them during the meeting of the council when we came together face to face. The by-law concerning a provincial

chaplain we wrote the chaplain must be a bishop in ACNA for two reasons: the first because we were patterning DHC after ACNA and intended to ask to be recognized as connected to ACNA. The second reason was many branches of Anglicanism do not recognize ordination of women priest, the Provincial Chaplain would need to be male to be approved by all Anglican branches, In the event that ACNA should decide to consecrate women bishops we would look at that by-law again. Individual chapters could have a woman priest as their chaplain.

To quote Bishop Ackerman "the Order must have order to be orderly". The council would need to hold business meetings, to do the business of the Order, approve a budget and minutes of the previous meeting. We fully agreed that DHC was formed to develop and encourage women and girls in their spiritual journey and business meetings should reflect that belief. The following is the method used by the first Provincial Council. All reports were to be sent by e-mail to all members of the committee before the scheduled meeting. Members were asked to contact the person who wrote the report for questions or suggestions of changes. When changes were made the full council were to be notified. When the reports were handed out at the business meeting they could be quickly accepted as written. This would reduce the report time and leave more time for planning future events. It would also prevent politics from taking place during meetings that could lead to hurt feelings. Those of us that had been in leadership in DOK experienced this and it was not a good witness as daughters. Everything should be done in love and respect while seeking Our Lord's guidance for what He wants for His Order. The council's main purpose is to discern Gods will. If any tension begins to rise any member may call for prayer together or by breaking for individual prayer.

We decided that DHC would not be governed by Robert's Rule of Order. We would use the process that ACNA bishops used of coming to agreement to accept the work done by the committee or send the work back to the committee for further work. If a member had suggestions for the committee they could be made through e-mail or phone contact. I should stress if all committee members kept up with e-mail correspondence a report would rarely be returned to committee. This method is very important when dealing with a subject concerning money, the treasurer's report, the most difficult job on the council, and budget committee report the next most difficult job. The council was not called together to manage money. The council is a tool to help DHC to protect and direct the spiritual life of the Order and above all else bring glory to God.

We began to receive money as gifts to assist with the forming of the order. We used this to help the members that needed to fly to Atlanta. After the Order was established, through the guidance of Bishop Ackerman we set a full biblical tithe to ACNA. Before this we were dividing our donation among ministries of the Church. We would give gifts and donations to help people in distress, training for service, missions or special needs. We sponsored a missionary from Youth with a mission (YWAM). This later developed into the In Christ Alone Fund so we could set it up as a line item in the budget where donations could be recorded. We decided that the order would not be about building a bank account but would reach out to help others as much as possible when a need arose, especially when requested by ACNA. The Order would care for hurting and scattered sheep.

In the months ahead we designed a cross. Each member presented a picture of a design. I asked an artistic fourteen old boy in my Sunday school class to draw a picture of the cross that was in my head this was my

contribution to the search. All pictures were placed on a table to be observed. We broke for prayer then choose the cross we that felt would be the cross of the order. I believe we used the same process we used when we chose the name of the Order. The drawing I presented was chosen. I must admit that before I left the office of president of DHC I gave a cross framed in a small shadow box to David Stevens the boy who drew the design. I told him he would be the only man to own a DHC cross.

We began to seek someone to make the cross. We did have a problem because we didn't have money to have crosses made and we had no idea how many we needed. I contacted Avery the company that made DOK crosses. They were not interested in drawing up another contract. They charged \$40.00 per cross we just couldn't afford them anyway. Someone gave me a brochure put out by Walker Silversmith Co. They used a process of sandcasting, I think some call it lost wax process. I had a bracelet that was sand cast by Indians in New Mexico. So I was aware of this method. The fact that each cross would be poured by hand was attractive to me. I googled Walker and watched a video on the process they used and I saw their shop was smaller than the size a one car garage. I consulted the council and then made a contract with Walker. The daughters cross would cost \$12.00 each. I believe we kept this business from closing during the recession that was taking place at that time. Members of the council lent the soon to be order money for the first crosses and printing of material needed.

We began to consider the date for the institution of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. We decided September 9th 2009, Holy Cross Day would be perfect. This would be just a few months after the Anglican Church in North America would be constituted. A committee began to look for the location for the institution. We began to speed up our work to be ready. Study Guide, Handbook, By-law Committees were put in place. I asked Bishop Murdoch, a Common Cause Bishop to help us find a chaplain for DHC. Most of the work was done by e-mail and phone contact. During the last months of our work both Jean and Charlotte's husbands and my daughter died. Julie's husband became ill. Terilyn began to have health problems and resigned. We gave her our prayers and love. Pat Barnage joined us in our call. Thank God he brought us one who would prove invaluable in setting up an organized order. God is good!

We came together for the last time as the Formation Committee to accept the work done by committee's. Sue Klos became our Web Master. We began to consider a prayer for DHC. Kathy said she had read one by St Benedict that was very meaningful and she would look for her book to bring the next day. Marianne said she had this book and she brought it to us. Kathy read the prayer and we all knew this would be the prayer of DHC there would be no further choices. Julie said it needed a little tweaking to make it personal for DHC and to name all the Trinity. We went our separate way for prayer and listening. The first part was added, " O gracious and Holy Father, that Thy Son may be glorified, give Thy Daughters" then the last part was added, "by the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior". God gave us the prayer of the Order. Give thanks for St Benedict.

We turned our thoughts and prayers to a song for the order. Marianne said she heard a newly released song that was very beautiful. We gathered around the computer as she located and played IN Christ Alone for us. Just like God did with the prayer for the order we knew this song was it! Marianne was given the task of requesting that we could use In Christ Alone as a theme song. We received permission the week before the

institution of DHC and we were not asked to pay one cent to use their song. We were asked not to change or add one word and never record it for sale. Blessed by God again!

The last night of our meeting Marianne's priest Steven Sauls met with us at their church before the reserved sacrament to elect officers to be installed during the Institution of DHC. We used the process that I learned from my time with the DOK National Council. Jean Marani, a life time member of DOK had decided not to transfer to DHC so we asked her to assist Fr. Steve with counting votes. We stood in a circle holding hands Jean asked if anyone felt that they could not serve as president of the order to sit down. After prayer we each wrote our choice on a slip of paper. I became president-elect. The same process took place for each office. Julie was elected 1st Vice President, Gail 2nd Vice President, Charlotte Treasurer, and Terilyn Secretary. I named Jean Williams Membership Coordinator and Pat Barnage Membership Chair and they set to work as they rode home from Atlanta together. Jobs were given to each of us to help plan and set up the institution of the order that would be held in Loganville Georgia a suburb of Atlanta. I invited Sue Klos to take Jean Marani's leadership place on the council. Jean, Charlotte, Pat and Sue went into a whirl wind of activity setting up the DHC virtual office, bank account, registration as a tax exempt religious order. Registration forms for the event were put on the website. Membership cards and chapter charters were ready. I just sat back held on to my hat, watched and waited for them to tell me what I needed to do. We had no idea of how many women would attend the institution of the order. I did arrange for the communion worship band from my parish to play at the institution of the order. I knew the angels would be singing with them. Two members of the band were DOK that would be transferring into DHC that day. Count down began.

June of 2009 I attended a business meeting held the day before the Institution of The Anglican Church in North America held in Texas with my husband Gil. I had attended many Diocesan and National Conventions of the Episcopal Church and was just amazed at such a peaceful meeting that took place. Yes the Holy Spirit was running this business meeting. There was such an attitude of polite consideration, joy and love that filled the delegates as they did the work needed to prepare for ACNA to come into existence. I felt so blessed to be part of this celebration with devoted scripture believing Christian leaders.

When I saw Bishop Murdoch I asked if a bishop had responded to our invitation to be chaplain for DHC? He said bishops had been working so many hours and days to get ACNA up and running while continuing to be pastors of parishes they were exhausted, no one had responded. I knew that Bishop Ackerman was recently retired and he was attending this event. I remembered his offer to help us in any way he could. I asked Bishop Murdoch if I could approach him with an invitation to be our chaplain? He said yes. When I saw Bishop Ackerman I reminded him of saying if there was anything he could do to help us just ask. I invited him he said yes. He has been our head cheerleader ever since. He was the celebrant for a family member's wedding the day DHC would be instituted and would not be able to preside at the institution of DHC. He appointed Gil to represent him. This was an added blessing for me as Gil had walked through the last three years with me and I leaned on him for support. Father Steve would assist Gil.

The institution of ACNA was glorious, I have tears in my eyes as I remember the feelings I had as African Drums began the processional. I watched my husband along with other priest and bishops walk behind the cross holding their heads up high. I could feel them standing firm in Christ and his word. I was one proud lady

as I sat alone in that church. Yes! Daughters of the Holy Cross would be part of The Anglican Church in North America.

Registrations and requests for membership began to trickle in. We began to realize the study manual would not be ready to be put on the website so present and former DOK could complete the three month training required to become members of the order. We decided to allow them to become members if they pledged to finish the study. We felt that this manual would help them become closer in their walk with God and in knowledge of the procedures and by-laws that would guide their lives and most importantly the Rule of Life they were accepting.

We did have a by-law stating that DOK who were lifetime members would not need to pay yearly dues. I am happy to say no one accepted that offer all paid dues.

I began to direct my mind on the membership report I would give to the DOK National Council at the Triennial meeting to be held in July, this would be when my term of office would end. I again decided not to e-mail my report before the meeting I wanted to inform the council of the formation of an Anglican Order face to face. I wanted to invite anyone that would like to attend the institution of DHC to come. There was a small group of former leaders of DOK that had made the work very hard for the National Council. The General Business meeting where all DOK members and delegates attended was not a pleasant experience. My heart was troubled for my sisters, tears flowed as they huddled together, I prayed for peace in DOK. I prayed that this Order would continue to be the bright and shining star in the Episcopal Church that my Bishop Steven Jecko called it many years before. Jean Marani came to me and asked if there was a place for her in leadership in DHC. I told her yes she would be advisor to the Provincial Council. She retains dual membership in both Orders to this day.

I began to realize why God called me into DOK twenty five years before he was training me for this time. I was invited to become a DOK three times before I said yes. God is a patient God.

I began to look around me and saw faces of women I loved and the Order I would miss with a deep remorse and a longing to help.

The Vision Statement for DHC still needed to be written for some reason it just wouldn't come together. I lamented to God why when he'd led so strongly in all we had done? One morning during Morning Prayer I heard Him say "I do not want a half-hearted leader". I repented and the Vision Statement quickly came together. Our God is a mighty God.

The future Provincial Council worked in blind faith preparing for the institution of DHC. We rejoiced with each registration and request for membership received. Service bulletins, membership cards printed, crosses ordered. Membership fees and first year dues were received. We were able to repay loans given by members of the council.

Grace Sears and three other members of the National Council of DOK registered to attend. I invited them to be our guest. When the day arrived 90 former Anglican DOK became members of DHC. Holy Cross Church in Loganville GA hosted a grand event. Many from this church became members of DHC. The rector Father

Foley Beach opened his church and heart to receive the order. He became Bishop Foley Beach another cheerleader for DHC!

Just before processing into the church I stood in the hall with my friends from DOK National Council. With shaking hands I took off the DOK cross my husband had blessed at the foot of the cross where Jesus died now in Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. I kissed the cross and placed it in Grace's hand. We both had tears in our eyes. It was a gift from God that Grace was there so I didn't need to put my cross in an envelope to return to DOK. The music began and we processed behind a banner of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. A charter for the Order was presented by Father Steve to Gil and he declared DHC ready to accept members. The Provincial Council were received and installed in office, then each daughter installed as members while Julie and I placed the DHC cross around their neck. Words cannot express this experience or the emotion felt that day. Our God is alive and he works through his children to achieve His purpose. Jean Williams separated the sample cross sent to us for approval from those later ordered and I was presented the first handmade cross of DHC. My membership card is number one.

The next three years 2009 – 2012 work went on to fine tune the Order, make decisions, plan the first general meeting of DHC that was held at Marywood Catholic Retreat Center a beautiful, serene, spiritual location on the St Johns River near Jacksonville Florida, held on Saturday September 12th -16th, setting the precedence of meeting on the Saturday closest to Holy Cross Day. Bishop Ackerman gave encouraging uplifting sermons, Cynitha Brust was our main speaker leading us deep into God's word. I invited the same worship band to lead music. All presentations were video recorded and made available on the website. We received a wonderful compliment from the man video recording the event. He said "I have never before heard such spiritual beautiful singing in all the church events I have recorded." Yes the Angels were singing with us.

The night before the first general business meeting for DHC was held we brought the chapter delegates together to explain the procedure that would be followed using ACNA guidelines. By-laws were approved, five new members of the Provincial Council were accepted. Charlene Alderman, Jacque Clemens, Kim Bridges Fortenbach. Ruby Mayrath, Mitzi Wilson. Seven of the former council remained Charlotte Barrett, Marianne Freehling, Sue Klos, Pat Barnage, Julie Wahtola, Jean Williams, Gail Wacker. I was invited to be the council advisor with seat, voice without vote on council. Carlene Riley, Barbara Hildreth, Kathy Aspden resigned to make room for new members.

The new council went into retreat to elect officers to serve as the Executive Board of the Provincial Council. The procedure used for election was the same as used for the first board. I asked them to stand in a circle for prayer, said if you feel you could not fill the requirements for this office sit down. This procedure was used to fill each office. Bishop Ackerman and Gil counted the votes and Julie Wahtola was elected President, Jean Williams First Vice President, Ruby Mayrath Second Vice President, Marianne Freehling Secretary, and Charlotte Barrett Treasurer. Bishop Ackerman installed the incoming council during the closing Eucharist. Their term would begin January 1st, 2013. The Order was in good hands of Godly women to continue listening for what Jesus wanted done with His Order. During the first year Pat Barnage resigned due to health problems and Julie appointed Janet Newsom to replace her.

I must say I had some problems with not being responsible for the work of the Order at first. It is hard to let go of something God called me into almost six years ago, and the joy he gave me as he lead us in the formation of His Order. I broke my knee cap and was not able to attend the first meeting of the council, I suspect this was God's way of helping me let go.

The council gave me the ministry of developing Virtual Chapters. I again used the method of writing a letter. I wrote to daughters at large and placed the request for volunteers on the website. I contacted Kathy Aspden and asked for her help. The committee came together rather slowly. I couldn't quite get organized thoughts together. I began to wonder if I was not supposed to do the planning for virtual chapters. I received a message from Ann Martinson asking if it was too late to volunteer for this committee. Ann uses electronic media in the work she does. I only have a limited knowledge of this method of communication. Jesus save's again! During our first conference call I asked Kathy and Ann to lead in the planning of virtual chapters but keep me informed. I will make a first report on the ideas we have concerning this exciting way for daughters to communicate and seek support at the Provincial Council meeting this next weekend.

In the last few months I had been under quite a bit of stress and asked my doctor to help diagnose what was going on with me. I had a battery of test and I am now taking medicine to help slow down memory loss. I am now 77years young and perhaps with the grace of God he will take me home before I slip into deeper memory loss. My prayer is that I will never forget that God is with me or the name of my husband.

I wonder if God wanted me to write this journal so I can remember or to help future DHC leaders to keep their eyes , and the focus of the Order on the wonder of Jesus Christ to worship and glorify Him and that they will hear what He wants done with His Order. So that they may keep it simple, listen to each other, work together in love, trust in God and do everything they can possibly do to gather the little lambs and sheep and give them support in their journey into the Kingdom of God.

I close with a prayer from St Augustine's Prayer Book taken from the form of Morning Prayer I have used use each day for years.

Just for today

*Lord for to-morrow and its needs,
I do not pray
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin
Just for to-day.
Let me both diligently work,
And duly pray,
Let me be slow to do my will,
Prompt to obey;
Help me to sacrifice myself
Just for to-day.
And if my tide of life
Should ebb away,
Give me thy Sacraments divine,
Sweet Lord, to-day.
So for tomorrow and its needs
I do not pray,
But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord
Just for to-day*