



The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross

April/May 2010

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The Right Reverend Keith L. Ackerman, SSC, DD

VIII Bishop of Quincy- Retired

“Ego autem in medio vestrum sum sicut qui ministrat”

Beloved Sisters in Christ, I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Whose servant I am.

In the course of my thirty-six (36) years of ordination, I have been blessed in a variety of ways to serve in the manner in which Our Lord has called me. When I am asked to serve I must first seek His will, and then respond in accordance with His will. I must tell you how honored I am to serve as National Chaplain and Patron with women who have similarly sought His will, and then have responded with a resounding, “Yes.” Saying “yes” is not always easy, and as I write this letter to you on the Eve of the Annunciation of Our Lady, I am reminded once again of the fact that the course of history was changed by a young woman saying “yes” to God. “Be it unto me according to Thy Word,” is not a qualified “yes.” Rather it is a “yes” that is uttered in conformity with an absolute trust in God’s call. In the course of just thirty-three (33) years the Blessed Virgin Mary was able to see the implications of that unqualified affirmative response, but it was not without the usual emotional highs and lows like all of us — from birth to death. And yet, she whom St. Elizabeth hailed as “full of grace” witnessed what Her Son could provide for a

people who were without real hope — namely life beyond the grave. The One whom she bore was also Her Savior.

That is why you are called to be Daughters of the Holy Cross, for like St. Mary, you have said “yes” and like the Blessed Mother you have seen joy and pain, and like the Blessed Virgin Mary, you have seen the instrument of death, the Holy Cross, become a means whereby the price would be paid, remission of sins would occur, and new life would spring forth. And you have been called to a Life of Prayer in conformity with God’s call.

Thus, in spite of my joy to serve Him and you, and my excitement for this new beginning for women in the Church, I must say with St. Paul, “God forbid that I should boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.” *Galatians 6:14*

I look forward to what Jesus is doing in His Church, and I thank God that He is using you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Rt. Revd Keith L. Ackerman, SSC

A Word From Our President

My Dear Sisters in Christ,

I'm sitting before my computer praying about what Our Lord Jesus would have me share with you this month. My thoughts turn to Palm Sunday, The Passion of Christ and His resurrection on Easter. I felt I should share my closest experience with Christ this week.

I've been taking part in a Beth Moore Bible study – A Women's Heart. Today's study concerned the two angels that were in the empty tomb after Jesus' resurrection. Beth painted a beautiful mental picture with her words.

“Can you imagine the divine appointment as God called out the names of two of His cherubim and beckoned them before the throne, then sent them to earth to guard the most precious body that ever lived? Surely as the body of their beloved lay in that tomb, those two angels stood constant guard, one at the head, one at the feet, facing one another with wings outstretched, feet practically melted into position, eyes cast solidly in one direction. Surely their gaze never wavered from the One they adored. Their eyes were fixed securely on His own. Not a single angelic muscle must have twitched, awaiting the Father's promise. Then those eyes that saw the pain of a leprous man, the eyes that set free a woman at the well, the eyes that saw a “rock” instead of a fumbling disciple -those piercing eyes began to open. And with the sound of mighty, rushing waters, their wings propelled them straight into the heavens with the dearest cry a pair of spiritual ears would ever hear: He is risen!”

In the awe of the moment, I uttered WOW! Yes the Lord is risen indeed!

My sisters a special time is being planned for us October 8th - 10th, 2010. We will have a gathering for all members of the Order in Texas. This will give us the opportunity to come together for worship, fellowship and study. You will have the opportunity to meet your Provincial Council and Bishop Ackerman and his wife Jo. This will be a time for Our Lord to weave us together. Be sure to keep an eye on the website for further information. I'm excited about meeting you!

Please continue to pray for the Provincial Council as we strive to serve as Christ builds His Order.

In Christ Alone
Jacque Crosby

Report from the Treasurer

The days have rushed by since the Institution of the Order of the Holy Cross in September 2009. The Lord has been busy guiding our steps and broadening our horizons and knowledge.

The Provincial Treasurer presented a report on the end of the year finances. In addition the Finance Committee presented a proposed budget for the fiscal year 2010.

After further refining by the finance committee and the incorporation of changes presented during the January meeting the 2010 budget was completed and approved by the Provincial Board in early March. The budget is based on the 2009 one-time enrollment fee, annual dues for 2009-2010 and donations to the general fund. To-date all obligations have been met and the financial health of the Order is in good condition.

The budget and records relating to the finances of the Order along with 2009 year-end Treasurer's reports have been reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant and found to be in good order.

Respectfully submitted and In Christ Alone,
CHARLOTTE BARRETT, Provincial Treasurer

In Christ Alone Fund

As the Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross grows in number, it is growing in commitment to our vows. At the January meeting of the National Board, we established a fund whereby individuals and chapters may make special offerings.

The fund is named the IN CHRIST ALONE Fund, for its growth will depend on how members see the manner in which changes in their lives have been brought by the power of Jesus alone. They will come to see how they are led to give of time, talent, and resources to special causes in their immediate surroundings and beyond. They will experience this calling through the power of Christ alone.

The month of September is designated as the time for an ingathering, although funds may be sent to the treasurer at any time. September 12th is the birthday of our Order, making the entire month special.

Monies from the fund will be used initially for help in events such as the Haitian rebuilding, missionary projects, and the like. During the months before September a committee will be established to define the scope of uses for funds as well as an application to request funding. The ICA fund will develop its characteristics slowly so as to reflect the intentions in each of our vows.

Offerings may be sent at any time to the national Treasurer:
Charlotte Barrett
24019 NW 196th Terrace
High Springs, FL 32643

Chapter News

St. Therese of Lisieux Chapter, Church of St. Clement, El Paso, Texas, hosted a Saturday morning Spring Retreat on March 20, 2010. All ladies from the Church of St. Clement and all other Anglican/Episcopal Churches in the El Paso area were invited.

We began with breakfast and fellowship, followed by Morning Prayer with the Rev. Patricia Elliott. Pat's first teaching was on Spiritual Listening, which included retreating to a quiet place, Lectio Divina and the Anglican Rosary. We then had a "quiet time" where each lady could reflect on the teaching or use the time for meditation or reading.

We reconvened for the second teaching – Spirituality and Ministry in the Second-Half of Life. The teachings were scripturally based and presented in a loving, gentle manner. We truly experienced God's transforming presence and plan to make this an annual event.

Geneva Williams
President, St Therese of Lisieux Chapter

Daughters of the Holy Cross Website

<http://Daughtershc.org>

Be sure to check the website periodically. When new information is added to the website, mention will be made in the first column of the Home page. We will also be adding links to other sites important to our order.

If you have an installation picture you would like to share, we would like to put it on the Events page. Please send the picture as a .jpg and include the name of your chapter, parish, city, state, and the date of the installation.

In Christ Alone!
Sue Klos
DHC Webmaster

Editor's Corner

Dear Sisters,

This is YOUR newsletter! We invite and welcome your input: prayers, devotions, letters, praise, chapter information ... whatever!

Ideas for a special name for our newsletter are welcome! We have four suggestions to date:

1. **Unity in the Body of Christ**

2. **CROSSWALK;**

"Encouraging, exhorting and equipping Daughters to walk the walk."

3: **The Holy Cross Gazette**

The official news Journal of
The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross

4. **CROSSWALK;**

"Many paths; one Way."

Please remember to print the newsletter for members of your group who do not receive email!

My *goal* is to post the newsletter to the website no later than the 5th of each month. With this date in mind, the **deadline** to receive your offerings is the **25th** of the preceding month. Send your articles to: bashep50@aol.com.

In Christ Alone!
Barbara Schaeppi Hildreth
DHC Newsletter Editor

A Time for Prayer

Thanks be to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits
which Thou hast won for us,
for all the pains and insults
which Thou hast borne for us.
O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother,
may we know Thee more clearly,
love Thee more dearly,
and follow Thee more nearly,
day by day.

Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)