



The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross

June/July 2010

Volume 1 - Issue 5

A Word From Our President

My Dear Sisters in Christ,

I received an email a few weeks ago from a woman that asked me a question: "Why would a Christian Woman join DHC, if she is a true Christian that helps in her Church, Community, and Family, reads her bible daily, prays daily, and is always ready to help someone in need?"

This set me to pondering - why am I a member of a Religious Order? And why have I spent 23 years in leadership in a Religious Order? How was my spiritual life before becoming a part of a Religious Order and what is it like now? The most obvious reason is because God called me into an Order. I wasn't totally aware of it at the time. As a clergy wife I spent a lot of time serving in my church: if the door was open I was there. I had a daily Bible reading plan, taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, served as an acolyte. I thought my prayer life was ok. Hey, I even prayed with people for healing. I chatted with God throughout the day. I didn't know how much more God had to offer me.

Here is my response to her email:

"Dear sister in Christ,

I thank you for your question; it made me spend some time in reflection of my journey with Jesus.

The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross is a religious order called into being by Christ. Not all women are called by Christ to become a member of this or any other order or

prayer group. This is why women must go through a three-month study and discernment period to make sure she is being called to become a DHC. I would think a woman would need to be a dedicated Christian in order for God to place an interest within her concerning the Order and place a desire within her to take a lifetime vow to the Rule of Life required by DHC. She would want to intentionally fulfill her Baptism and Confirmation vows.

God has blessed me over the past 23 years through membership, first in the Daughters of the King and since September 2009 as a member of Daughters of the Holy Cross. He has made me fully aware of the holy catholic church in the world around me and beyond. There was a time all my thoughts were of my parish that I called the church, and not much beyond my diocese existed in my thoughts. God has used a Rule of Life and the community of His Order as a tool to help me grow in obedience, love and devotion, he placed a burning desire to know and have a personal relationship with Him through His Holy Spirit. Not only to Him but also to his creation and creatures. I review my journey in Christ as I revise my Rule of Life each year. I can see my spiritual growth and wonder why I waited so long. I can really give heartfelt worship and adoration to Jesus. I can love and forgive his creatures. I have gone from being able to spending ten minutes in prayer to hours of worship, praise, listening, intercession and petition. God has formed me from a woman that never opened her mouth before others to freedom to pray out loud and to teach. He has taught me how to be a leader. He taught me to listen to Him and rejoice in His word.

He has given me sisters from all over the world in community. Yes, my Lord is growing me through His Order. This didn't happen overnight – it has taken 23 years. I am excited to find out what else he has in store for me to grow closer to Him in obedience and love as I travel this journey until I go home to be with Him. No fear of death, it will be a glorious day!

*The witness above is how God has used a Religious Order and community in **my** life ... it is not the same path for everyone. The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross is only one way to help women know and serve our Lord."*

Now I invite you – my sisters, members of the Daughters of the Holy Cross – to tell us why you felt called to become members of a religious order? What has your journey with Christ been like? Spend some time in reflection and write to our sisters. Please send your witness to Barbara Schaeppi Hildreth, editor of the DHC newsletter: Bashep50@aol.com. Or if you prefer you may write directly to me at Jcrosby00@comcast.net

We will soon have registration forms and information on the website concerning the Gathering for the full membership in Midland TX October 8-10, 2010

In Christ Alone, Jacque

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**Meeting with the Rt. Rev. Keith L. Ackerman and Mrs. Joann Ackerman
Keller, Texas - March 12-14, 2010**

Five of your Provincial Board were very blessed to travel to Texas in March to meet the Provincial Bishop of our Order, the Rt. Rev. Keith L. Ackerman, and his lovely wife, Joann.

During the Order's formation, as we prayed through each decision and as the Lord faithfully led us, we knew that Bp. Ackerman was the Bishop the Lord has chosen for us. In our

spiritual walks, the Lord affirms and confirms the decisions we prayerfully make, and He has done this in the selection of our Bishop for the Order. We have such a godly Bishop, who loves the Lord, is solid in his Orthodox beliefs, and serves God faithfully, along with his loving and supportive wife, Jo.

Our time together on Saturday began with Holy Communion and a sermon in Bishop Ackerman's private chapel. Our meetings were conducted around the dining room table in the Ackerman's home. Their warmth and hospitality made us feel right at home – as if we've known each other for years!



We updated him on the timeline and the formation of the Order, the budget and finances, the current membership, and our request to the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) to be a Ministry Partner. Bp. Ackerman listened attentively, asked many good questions, offered suggestions, and clarified areas of ACNA for us.

We also planned and discussed our October 8-10th membership meeting in Texas, as first mentioned by Jacque Crosby in the April/May 2010 newsletter (Volume I – Issue 4). More details are forthcoming.

God is faithful – He always provides! Thank you, Lord, for providing Bp. Ackerman and his wife, Jo – what a blessing they are!! We look forward to all of you meeting them and our continued relationship with them both.

In Christ Alone, Marianne Freehling

In Christ Alone Fund

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

On January 31, 2010, St. Monica Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of The Holy Cross officially became a chapter at Christ the Redeemer Anglican church in Yuma, Arizona. Bishop William Thompson officiated, with Rev. Josh Acton and Rev. Austin Mansfield assisting. It was a beautiful service of the Chapter, Admission of members and Installation of officers: Anne Wiser, President, Laura Aldridge, Secretary and Dorothy Greene, Treasurer. A reception was held after the service.



From left to right: Pat Burtch in front, Laura Aldridge, Allyne Woolery, Bishop Thompson, Karen Robles, Dorothy Green and Sharon Fraser. Not pictured: LaDonna Anderson, Anne Wiser and Helen Stirratt.

Editor's Corner

Dear Sisters,

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

We are still requesting YOUR ideas for a special name for our newsletter! 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."

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 10th of each month. 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

Adapted from the Prayer for conservation of Natural Resources (BCP, p. 827) by the Rev. Canon Beverly Gibson, sub-dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile, Ala.:

We pray today for the preservation of our natural environment, especially the Gulf of Mexico and the lands and waters it touches: Guide those who labor to contain the oil that endangers the creatures of sea and land; strengthen those who work to protect them; have mercy on those whose livelihoods will suffer; Forgive us for our carelessness in using the resources of nature, and give us wisdom and reverence so to manage them in the future, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.