



# The Holy Cross

A PUBLICATION OF THE ORDER OF  
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS, INC.

Volume 5 Issue 1

daughtershc.org

January-March 2020

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## There Are Many Possible Obstacles to Prayer

by Bishop Mark Lawrence, 14th Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina



Some years ago, I was teaching a Bible Study on the prophet Elijah and the place of prayer in the Christian's life. What was the secret of Elijah's spiritual power? Clearly, he was a man who spent much time in prayerful solitude with God. As the bible notes, he was a man of fervent prayer (James 5:17-18). Nevertheless, he couldn't pray any better than he lived—nor can we.

Someone in the group asked, "What sometimes hinders our prayers?" Just the previous night, I'd been reading Kenneth Leech's book, **Soul Friend**, now a modern classic of spiritual counsel. He mentioned seven obstacles to prayer. I shared them with the group, and most found them helpful. I'm often amazed at

the way God orders things! Since the first part of the DHC Rule of Life is the discipline of prayer, it seems only appropriate to share them with you.

Before I mention any specific obstacle, let me suggest that the biggest obstacle to prayer is **Sin**. Isaiah spells this out plainly: "...*your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you so that he does not hear*" (Isaiah 59:1-2). The only right response to such an indictment is to repent and return humbly to the Lord.

To get more specific, let me offer Leech's list so you may ponder these seven obstacles for yourself:

**Refusal to forgive**—Forgiveness in prayer isn't possible if you refuse to forgive others (Matthew 6:15; see the Lord's Prayer).

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## Bishop Mark Lawrence Installed as Provincial Chaplain

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at St. Johns Parish, St. Johns Island, South Carolina, the Rt. Rev. Mark Lawrence, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina was installed as Provincial Chaplain of the Daughters of the Holy Cross by President, Diane Bringgold Brown. The installation was followed by a joyful service of the Holy Eucharist presided over by The Rev. Greg Snyder, rector of the Parish. Our Vice President, Deacon Shelly Sorem,

served as the Bishop's deacon. In his sermon, Bp. Mark spoke on God's guidance through the Holy Spirit and challenged us not only to know God but also to open ourselves to be known by Him and by our brothers and sisters



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## A Note from the President



*“We who are many are one body in Christ...”* Romans 12:5a

In the first issue of this triennium I wrote that my theme for the term would be Love, and challenged myself and each one of you to love one another as Jesus loves us in obedience to His command to His disciples in John 12:24. This year we continue that focus. Our theme

for 2020 is “Many Parts, One Body.” In his letter to the Romans, Paul reminds them (and us) that we are one body in Christ. We have different gifts and functions, a teaching he expands upon in his first letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 12. In both letters Paul continues by instructing the readers to *“love one another with brotherly (sisterly) affection”* (Romans 12:10a) and *“Make love your aim”* (1 Cor. 14:1a).

As I look back on the past year, I rejoice at the evidence that the Provincial Council has taken to heart my challenge to love one another. Each one has shown this love as we have conducted the business of the Order, sometimes disagreeing but never being disagreeable. We have turned to our Lord in prayer to guide us in His will and to bring us to consensus. We have rejoiced with one another over blessings received, over the accomplishments of children and grandchildren, and especially over the growth of our Order. We have grieved with one another

over the death of loved ones, and prayed with one another when faced with illness or challenges. Thirteen women, some of whom did not even know one another a year ago, have indeed become one body.

We have also recognized that each of us has unique gifts to offer the Order and that in using those gifts as part of one body in Christ, our Order is strengthened. As Chapters and as Daughters at Large, each of you has a special gift to offer the Daughters of the Holy Cross.

In the October-December issue of *The Holy Cross*, Jean Williams invited you to share who YOU are with your sisters by sending a brief description of your Chapter’s involvement in Prayer, Study, Service, or Evangelism, or your involvement as a DAL to her at [dhcmember2@comcast.net](mailto:dhcmember2@comcast.net). Please do so.

If you would like to use your gifts by serving on one of the Provincial Council Committees, you can find information about the committee chairmen by going to the website, [daughtershc.org](http://daughtershc.org), and clicking on “About the Order,” then on “Provincial Council Members.” Each one is listed with information on her position, the Committee she leads, and her contact information.

Each of you is an important part of the body which is the Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. May God bless you in this New Year as you use your gifts in the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ Alone,

*Diane Bringgold Brown*

## *Assembly 2021: Calling All Sisters in Christ!*

Please pray about joining us in Scottsdale, Arizona, September 16-19, 2021, for our Assembly of Daughters from across the Province. Our newly installed Chaplain, the Right Reverend Mark Lawrence, the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina, will be with us! How do you send the President/Delegate of your chapter to attend? Start saving NOW. Here are some suggestions:

- COLLECT \$2.00 per Daughter in your chapter per month and watch that money grow!
- ASK your church board for funds to pay for her registration. This assembly registration includes food and lodging.
- ASK your church members if they have airline points they would be willing to donate for her air travel.

Also, PRAY for anyone else who may grow by coming to this Assembly, not necessarily a Daughter, but perhaps your priest’s wife or someone interested in joining the Order.



ICA, Donna Chaffee, Assembly Chair

*O Gracious and Holy Father . . .*

## The Gift of the Prayer of the Daughters of the Holy Cross



Although we know that God is good all the time, and all the time God is good, we sometimes have hard days. We have difficult decisions to make, or we're sick, confused, frustrated, or fearful. We may have such days, but we must remember that Jesus told us He would be with us always and

would never leave us or forsake us. Knowing that, we can rejoice. I've found the Prayer of the Order to be very comforting and inspiring every day, no matter what my circumstances are, happy or difficult.

The Prayer begins with a proclamation that our heavenly Father is gracious and holy; if He were not gracious, we wouldn't be able to survive in the light of His holiness. But that's only the beginning of a list of His attributes. He's perfectly and infinitely loving, wise, all-knowing, kind, gentle, fearsome, awesome, powerful; the list itself is infinite. It's only because we have such a loving and generous Father that we can go on to pray

the rest of the prayer as His Daughters.

One night when I couldn't get to sleep, I started meditating on God's attributes; I soon fell asleep. When worried or confused, I ask for wisdom to perceive Him and intelligence to understand Him to know what I should do. Often I need diligence to seek Him and then the patience to wait for Him to reveal His will. How glorious it is when He gives us eyes to behold Him, as He reveals Himself in the workings and beauty of His creation and His interventions in circumstances for us. As we meditate on the character of God, we are built up, renewed, and enabled by His Holy Spirit to live a life that proclaims His glory in word and deed. Whenever we lay all our burdens at His feet and ponder His infinite goodness, we will reflect His peace and charity toward others, our trust in Him and ability to obey Him will grow, and an underlying joy that comes from abiding in Jesus will bear us up on eagles' wings.

*O gracious and holy Father, thank you for all your goodness and loving-kindness, and thank you for the gift of the Prayer of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. Engrave it upon each Daughter's heart, and by Your grace enable each of us to live it out. Amen.*

In Christ Alone,

Barbara Mattick, Editor

## ICA Fund Report: See How Far Your Pennies Go



Thank you to all who made contributions during 2019 to the In Christ Alone (ICA) Fund. We had a very successful year especially during the Holy Cross Day ingathering in September. Donations to the Fund in 2019 totaled \$3,046.19!

As a reminder, the ICA Fund is to support missions either here in the United States or abroad. We provided grants to Shannon Justice and Donna Lewis this year. Shannon is on staff with CRU (formerly known as Crusade for Christ) and works with students at the College of Charleston. She led some of them on a mission trip to Belize. Donna, a member of St. James Anglican Church in Charleston, was part of a team that went to Uganda, where they ministered to students at a Christian college and to residents in a refugee camp. Look for the stories of their experiences, including

lots of pictures, on our DHC website and Facebook page. See how your contributions support evangelism and mission work.

In late September, Shelly Sorem and I were honored to represent The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross at a table at the fall New Wineskins for Global Missions Conference in North Carolina. Several people stopped by and picked up information on the ICA Fund. I provided mite boxes to one chapter. As a reminder, I can send out mite boxes to any Daughter or chapter. We welcome contributions to the ICA Fund year-round. Maybe you have a Daughter or a member of your church who was faithful to our Lord. We gladly accept your contributions to the Fund given in their honor.

I'd like to acknowledge the members of my committee: Susan Akerman, Mary Jo Sawyer, Cindy Schmickle, and Valerie Sweat. I appreciate their participation on this ICA committee.

Nancy P. Ford, ICA Chair

# Membership Report



Here we are in 2020! I pray that you all had a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

What a wonderful year the Order had in 2019. With our new Council in place; a new Chaplain, Bishop Mark Lawrence, who was

installed on January 24<sup>th</sup>; and many new members and chapters, our precious Lord certainly showered us with abundant blessings. And though we said goodbye to several dear members we lost, we rejoice that they are all with the Lord.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have welcomed two new chapters – the Elizabeth Chapter from South Carolina and the St. Monica Chapter in Rome, Georgia. Soon after that, the next chapters to join the Order will be the Ruth Chapter in South Carolina, a chapter in Crawfordville, Florida, and a chapter in Hoover, Alabama. And here is exciting news - a new Daughter At Large in Ottawa, Canada, was admitted on January 5<sup>th</sup> – our members in Cana-

da are increasing!

A while back, some Daughters were asked to tell us their thoughts on the blessing (s) or benefit(s) of being a Daughter or how they felt about being a Daughter. We received so many wonderful statements which were placed in a couple of newsletters. One that brought attention was: *the Order has formed a sisterhood in which we have laughed, cried, mourned, rejoiced, studied, traveled, supported and served together which, through the power of the Holy Spirit, formed an unbreakable and everlasting bond.*

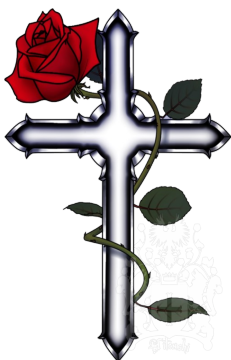
As we journey together in 2020, always giving thanks to the Lord, I thank each one of you for all you do, and I look forward to continuing to serve our Lord and you.

*"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."*

– Mother Teresa

In Christ Alone,  
Gail Cahill, Membership Chair

## 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. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and to Daughters who knew them.*

Ann Semple, St. Helena Chapter, Midland, TX, October 19, 2018

Dame Beryl Windsor, St. Michael's and All Angels Chapter, Arden, NC, March 17, 2019

Sara Korte, Trinity Chapter, Tallahassee, FL, December 11, 2019

Libby Porth, Hall of Faith Chapter, Ontario, Canada, January 1, 2020

Diane Elderson, Daughters of St. Jude Chapter, Tehachapi, CA, January 7, 2020

*Note: Some dates shown are the dates when the notice of death was received and recorded in the DHC Membership database. They may not necessarily correspond to the actual date of death.*



# Secretary's Report

## Provincial Council January Meeting Report



Dear Sisters in Christ,  
The Provincial Council met in Charleston, SC, for our third meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. During that time, we officially installed Charlotte Plaskett as well as our Chaplain, Bishop Mark Lawrence, which took place at St. John's Parish

Church. Bishop Lawrence was able to spend the first morning with us in which he gave his address, *The Double Vision of Jesus*. He also shared that the newly updated and revised catechism has been approved and published.

During our Council deliberations we determined that we currently have a very healthy budget and as such we are happy to announce that we will be able to reduce annual membership dues by \$10, new membership fees by \$10, as well as the cost of additional crosses by \$10 (\$35 for the small and \$50 for the large).

Shannon Justice from CRU, an ICA Fund recipient, dropped in to visit with us and share how grateful she is for our support, which enabled her to take a group of youth overseas to bring clean drinking water into a community. The creative use of a water filter as a tool for evangelism was used to demonstrate the Good News by removing the dirt (our sin) by the filter (Jesus).

A Jr. Daughter Study Manual has been created and is now in the process of being trialed by a Chapter in Tallahassee, FL. Anyone interested in more information can contact me, the Jr. Daughter Chair. The Provincial Council is also looking into having our study materials as well as handbooks and bylaws translated into Spanish.



Council Members: First Row, L-R: Cindee Herlocker, Jean Williams; Diane Brown, Nancy Ford, Gail Cahill; Charlotte Plaskett; Second Row, L-R: Shelly Sorem, Monika Hassan, Donna Chaffee, Sue Sutton, Barbara Mattick

A very special thank you goes to the Daughters of St. Anna Chapter of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina who provided our meals throughout our stay, and to their clergy who warmly welcomed us.

ICA,  
Monika Hassan  
DHC Provincial Council Secretary



**Chariot of Angels chapter, Moline, IL, made a visit to a local nursing home at Christmas time with gifts for residents.**

# CHAPTER CORNER

## St. Helena Chapter, Christ Church, Midland, TX Hosts Christmas Dinner for Teen Challenge

On December 7, 2019, St. Helena's hosted a sit-down dinner, complete with beautiful table decorations, for the women residents in Teen Challenge in Midland, in thanks for their work in cleaning our facilities during the year. The meal was preceded by a presentation about the writing of "Silent Night" to illustrate how God uses broken things to create something new and beautiful, and was followed by Christmas music. This was followed a sing-along and prayer time. Each woman was given a centerpiece from the tables, and both staff and residents received a gift certificate for \$75 dollars thanks to the generosity of the Daughters and members of Christ Church.



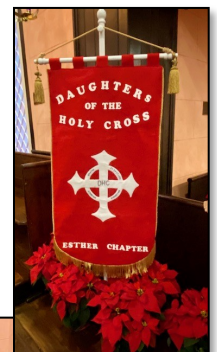
## Tallahassee Chapter Collects Gifts for Chelsea House

The Holy Cross chapter of Daughters of the Holy Cross in Tallahassee, along with the Holy Cross Thursday morning women's Bible study group, collected items for Christmas gifts for Chelsea House, a progressive, Bible based housing program for displaced women and single moms and their kids. They provide a safe, clean, comfortable home where personal growth and spiritual enrichment are encouraged. Residents are able to achieve their goals and dreams within a structured setting. Each resident is assigned a mentor who offers spiritual encouragement and guidance as the resident progresses through the program's five phases of Rescue, Redeem, Rebuild, Restore and Resend. The Daughters continue to collect needed items for the residents.



## 15 New Daughters Admitted to Esther Chapter, Church of the Cross, Bluffton, SC

Our membership has grown from 8 to 23! An admission service was held on January 4, 2020, for the 15 new Daughters and a banner, made by new Daughter, Roberta Adams, was received.





## “Jesus Moments”

At our Chapter meetings we share whenever we’ve had what we call a “Jesus Moment,” an undeniable touch from Jesus. For example, there was a season when I’d been placing tracts along my path (restaurants, grocery stores shelves, at the library, etc). While doing so one day, I clearly felt the Lord directing me to put them on a grocery shelf in a particular area. So, I did. Whom it was meant for I’ll never know, but He does!

Shortly after that, I was at the airport heading to NY. I had a package of tracts and continued leaving them as the Lord led me, even in NY. On my trip back I had one left as I sat in the terminal. In my mind the trip was over. Not so! I was sitting next to a man and quietly asked the Lord if the last tract was for him. “No,” the Lord replied. Ok then! I just sat back reading my book while waiting to board the plane home. As the plane was just about to take off, I realized all of the seats were taken except for the one next to me. I selfishly thought of the roomy ride I’d have



going home. Not so! All of a sudden, a young gentleman came running onto the plane, almost missing the flight! And yup, you guessed it, there went my roomy ride. Within minutes of his getting settled, he turned to me and said, "I have no idea why I'm asking you this because I don't even know Jesus. But I feel like I have to ask you if you do?" It's a good thing I didn't have room

to fall off my seat, because I would have! I immediately knew the last tract was for him, and told him that the Lord had saved this tract for him! He told me that he was a soldier and had been released due to injury during his deployment, and still had pieces of shrapnel in parts of his

body. He shared how difficult it had been emotionally and physically. I assured him that the Lord is with him, and then shared the sinner’s prayer in the back of the tract. I have no idea where he is or what his life is now; but I can tell you I have no doubt that the Lord put another believer in his path to grow this seed.

*Peppy Scalfani, Holy Cross Chapter, Holy Cross Anglican Church, Sanger, California*

## Obstacles to Prayer, from page 1



### Anger and Quarrelsome

**Thoughts**—Angry thoughts, words, and attitudes are distractions that hinder or prevent prayer. Anger is “Anti-prayer” (See 1 Timothy 2:8).

### Refusal to be Reconciled—

Disharmony in your relationships with others, especially those you have

refused to be at peace with, can sabotage prayer life (Matthew 5:23-24; Isaiah 1:1-15).

**Improper Marital and Sexual Relationships**—These include distorted approaches to our spouses or our sexual relationships/attitudes, such as improper desires and wrong motives in the quest for pleasure (1 Peter 3:7; James 4:8).

**Occult and False Spirituality**—This includes dabbling with Astrology, Magic, Spiritism, New Age teachings (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

**Disobedience to God’s Will**—This includes knowingly doing what we know to be wrong for us (John 9:31; 1 John 3:21-22).

**Refusal to Confess our Sins**—When we refuse to confess our sins before God, or his representatives, and I would add, those we’ve done wrong to, we impede the flow of God’s power in our life (James 5:16).

One word of note: These are from a book concerned with spiritual guidance. Should you need help in sorting through such matters, you might prayerfully consider talking with your parish priest or another trusted Daughter. As we work through these obstacles (sometimes with the help of others), either our prayers will change the life we live, or the life we live will change our prayers. But often it’s both.

## Bishop Lawrence Installed, from page 1

in Christ. We encourage you to listen to his challenging sermon at [stjohnsparishchurch.com/sermons](http://stjohnsparishchurch.com/sermons). You will be glad you did.

The Service was attended by the Provincial Council, members of the Daughters of the Holy Cross from across South Carolina, members of the Daughters of the King, including Mary Rife, the Diocesan President of the DOK, and by family members and friends. What a joy to see the sanctuary filled with Christians united in serving our Lord and King.

Diane Brown, President



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Please submit articles and photos for publication in *The Holy Cross* to the Editor of the Holy Cross, Barbara Mattick at: [barbaramattick@comcast.net](mailto:barbaramattick@comcast.net).

**Deadline for the April-June 2020 issue is April 1, 2020.**

*(Please submit articles as Word documents and photos/images as .jpg files, if possible)*

### The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross

## Income and Expense Report

(as of 12/31/2019)

#### Income

Retained Earnings as of 12/31/2018	\$86,202.49
2019 Income	\$49,420.73

**Total Income** \$135,623.22

#### Expenses

Outreach/Tithes	\$8,980.00
Travel*	\$12,053.83
Office Expenses	\$2,377.65
Insurance	\$409.00
Misc. Expenses	\$10,959.20

**Total Expenses** \$34,779.68

**Income Less Expenses** \$100,843.54

\* Travel includes expenses incurred for two Provincial Council meetings and attendance at the 2019 ACNA Assembly.

## NEWS FLASH!!!



Annual dues will be \$40 a year, beginning in 2021.

The cost for replacement crosses is now \$50 for a large cross and \$35 for a small cross.

These reductions were possible due to the careful financial management of your Provincial Council.

The above report is an overview of year-end income and expenses. A more detailed report may be found on the DHC website. If you have questions regarding the financial information provided, please email me directly at [ssightx@gmail.com](mailto:ssightx@gmail.com).