



The Holy Cross

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

Volume 9 Issue 1

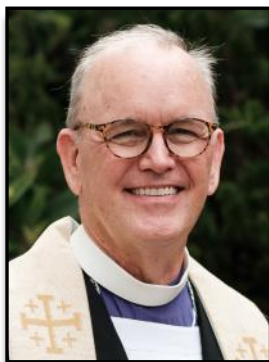
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January - March 2024

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Our Annual Holy Reset



Lent continues to be a unique time of the year for me. One reason, among many, is that the Church tends to come together in a special *alignment* during this season.

There is usually a deeper level of community around shared meals and focused discussion on our Lord's journey to Calvary and resurrection life. The Ash Wednesday liturgy, the lectionary, and all of the Holy Week services frame the season in a profound posture of worship.

We begin the Lenten season with an exercise of self-examination. In the same way our lives in Christ began, we are faced with our own brokenness and mortality. We acknowledge and confess our sin before a holy God in our Ash Wednesday liturgy. As we contemplate our personal bankruptcy, we then shift our focus to the

Lord, the One who came "to take away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). Ultimately, our focus moves completely to our Lord Jesus: to His temptations, His mission on this earth, His clash with the powers of this world and His passion, suffering and death for our salvation. He has accomplished what we could not! Easter will be the Father's answer to His Son.

At the end of the day, Lent is about the gospel. We are reminded of our desperate need for a Savior. And we are reminded anew that Jesus Christ is the Father's gift to us, that He is the pioneer of our faith and the giver of life and grace. As a Daughter of the Holy Cross, you have an opportunity to help lead your community of faith on this path by your participation and devotion. Together in Lent, we are privileged to make this journey from death to life, and all to the praise and glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Don't miss it!

Bishop David Bryan, Chaplain

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What have our chapters been doing? See pages 8 - 11.

Provincial Assembly, September 12-15. More details: page 14

From the President

Daughters Planning a Busy Fall!



Dear Daughters,

2024 is off to a great start for DHC! We had our Book Club, DHC Chapter Officer meeting, and our Provincial Council meeting, all via Zoom. We have sent out multiple video devotionals for feast days, had the DHC California Regional Gathering with about 50 women, and have made wonderful plans for Lent. A huge thank you to the members of the Provincial Council, without whom we wouldn't be able to offer so many ways to engage with one another.

One of the areas I have been working on is helping Daughters partner with other organizations within ACNA. We are currently partnered with ARDF Domestic Disaster Response Network where I am filling a three-year term for a position created for a Daughter on their task force. My role on the task force has been to lead a team in creating a devotional for disaster response volunteers to use and to give to those they serve as a way of encouraging them after a natural disaster. You can find "When a Natural Disaster Strikes – There is Hope" on ARDF's website here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a15b89490bade62214d8e02/t/652954011922000b33c64c59/1697207298304/DR+Prayer+Booklet.pdf>

Another group we partnered with was the Women's Ministry of The Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast for our Advent study of *Mary's Voice: Advent Reflections to Contemplate the Coming of Christ*. Because this is my diocese, it enabled me to co-lead the teaching and discussions with Anthea Kotlan, who leads our diocesan Women's Ministry.

We are so excited to announce a new partnership for Daughters with New Wineskins Missionary Network. I had the pleasure of spending time with their Executive Director, Jenny Noyes, when I volunteered at the Anglican Leadership Institute in September. During our time together Jenny expressed that she wanted to have more people praying for the ministry of New Wineskins. Daughters seemed like the perfect group to partner with them for prayer. Each month a couple of members of the DHC Provincial Council will attend the New Wineskins staff prayer meeting via Zoom and then we will email out the prayer requests to all Daughters for prayer.

Be sure to read the Fasting & Feasting for Lent article to learn about even more partnerships and to join us on our Lenten journey for 2024!

ICA, Shelly Sorem, President



"God-Winked"

Have you experienced a "God-Wink"
in your life you'd like to share?
Send your God Wink stories to
Barbara Mattick, Editor, at
holycrosseditor@daughtershc.org.

**LENT
FASTING & FEASTING**

- Sundays - Fast from ALL screens
Feast on hospitality
- Mondays - Fast from complaining
Feast on giving thanks
- Tuesdays - Fast from streaming/TV
Feast on the Word of God
- Wednesdays - Fast your 1st 15 min.
Feast on confession
- Thursdays - Fast from negative self-talk
Feast on your true identity
- Fridays - Fast your final 15 min.
Feast on the Daily Examen
- Saturdays - Fast from scrolling/gaming
Feast on prayer

The Church Year



A friend told me that he was flabbergasted when, he, at age 62, had just learned at his church men's Bible study that the Wise Men were not part of the often-depicted assembly at the stable in Bethlehem. They were not there with the shepherds when they went to see what the angels had told them (Luke 2:15-16). The kings arrived with their gifts for the new King of the Jews sometime later, perhaps years (Matthew 2). I told my friend that the Wise Men's arrival was the event that started the season of Epiphany, a time when we Anglicans and other liturgical Christians celebrate that Jesus came to deliver the whole world from sin, not just the Jews. We are blessed by our observance of a church year, which closely follows the major events of Jesus' life and the formation of the Church.

Christians have ordered their worship according to a church year since the first century AD. The year begins with Advent, a time to prepare our hearts for Jesus' First Coming as well as His Second Coming. Then comes Christmas, followed by the season of Epiphany. That season is followed by Lent, when we remember Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, when He suffered under Satan's vain attempts to cause Him to sin (Matthew 4: 1-11, Luke 4: 1-13). During Lent we repent of our sins and remember Jesus' passion and death on the cross for those sins (Matthew 26: 47-74, 27: 11-55). This prepares us for Easter, when Jesus rose from the grave, conquering Sin and Death (Matthew 28: 1-9). We rejoice in the 50 days of Eastertide, which culminates with Jesus' Ascension back into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11 Luke 24:50-53). It is celebrated on the 6th Thursday after Easter. Pentecost is when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to remain with us always, and the establishment of the Church (Acts 2). After Pentecost, we enter into the season of Trinity, also called Ordinary Time, in which we hear the Gospel message as presented in Jesus' teachings. On August 6, during Ordinary Time, we celebrate Jesus' Transfiguration, an event that was anything but ordinary, and is described in all the synoptic gospels. Jesus took a few of the disciples up on a mountain,

and there, He was radiantly transfigured, reflecting His appearance in Heaven before He came to earth. In this event He spoke with Moses and Elijah of His coming passion and death (Matthew 17: 1-13, Mark 9: 2-8, Luke 9: 28-36). After this, we cycle back to Advent in late autumn.

This calendar of the church year provides structure for us and context for the lessons we hear throughout the year from the readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and Gospels. How can we not be struck with awe at the wonder of how our salvation came about. The culture of much of Western Civilization at one time revolved around the events of the church year. Let us not forget it or commercialize it, so that we may tell those who only know something of Christmas and Easter "the rest of the story."

O gracious and holy Father, may we cling to what is good, and remember with awe and wonder how you sent Jesus to make salvation available for us and for all people, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, and Savior. AMEN

Barbara Mattick, Editor

Welcome, Maggie Rollins, New Provincial Council Member



Maggie Rollins, a member of St. Hildegard Chapter in Monroe, Louisiana, is a new member of the Provincial Council. She will be helping to lead "Fasting and Feasting" during Lent. Maggie says,

"My love of the Lord has led me to where I am today. I am both humbled and excited to be on the Provincial Council with such an amazing group of women! I am looking forward to see how our Lord will use us in the enhancement of His Kingdom."

Discernment & Handbook Updates, January 2024

The 5th DHC Provincial Council met in JULY 2023 and a committee was developed to update the Candidate Discernment Manual (CDM) and Handbook. There were two main objectives:

- 1) Update current manuals and publish in **ENGLISH**, and
- 2) Translate the updated manuals into **SPANISH**.

The Committee Members for the ENGLISH UPDATES are Karen Fezzey, Linda DaSilva, and Sharon Schier.

The Committee Members for the SPANISH Translation will add Lorraine Hitchcock when those tasks are imminent.

The CDM Committee has worked diligently to get the CDM 2024 Manual ready for publication.

We are **ON TRACK to meet our planned PUBLISH DATES!!**

2024 - Main CDM Updates included:

- 1) Page numbering / Table of Contents updates.
- 2) Some Graphical visual updates for consistency.
- 3) Some grammatical changes when needed.
- 4) Update to WWW sites that were outdated.
- 5) Updating all Quoted Scripture to the ESV Version in the manual.

DATES PLANNED:

FEB 2024 Publish ENG VERSION CDM 2024 on Website / Announce on Facebook.

FEB 2024 Begin and update all HANDBOOK items to match the CDM Manual.

MAR 2024 Begin SPANISH Version of CDM Manual 2024.

MAR 2024 Complete the SPANISH Version CDM & HANDBOOK 2024.

MAR 2024 See Copyright status of the Finalized Versions.

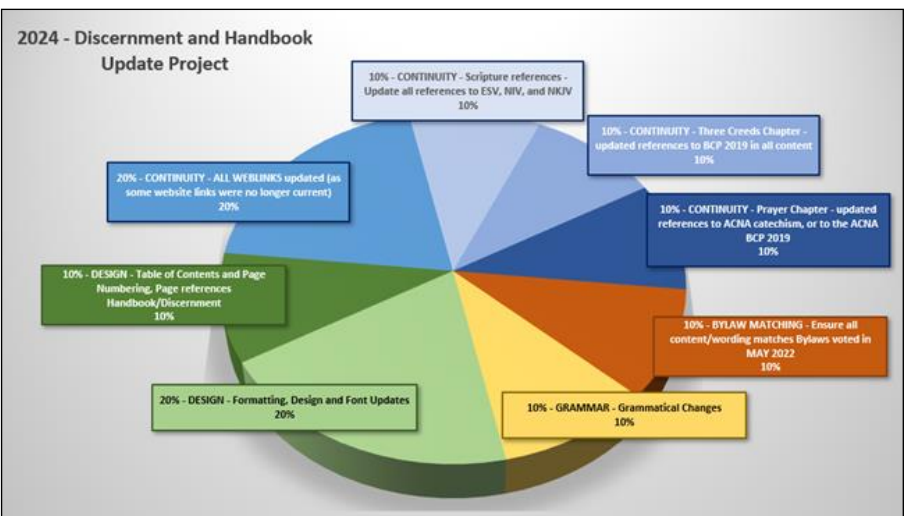
APRIL 2024 Announce Both Versions of CDM & Handbook are published.



In Christ Alone,

2024 CDM and Handbook Committee

**Karen Fezzey, Linda DaSilva
Sharon Schier, Lorraine Hitchcock**



Membership Report



As I write this article, outside the rain is coming down, the skies are dreary, and the days are short ... and so, short shall my article be too!

The beginning of the year is an excellent time for chapter presidents to apprise us of changes to their chapter officers and their members' personal information. Please utilize the *Change of Officers* and *Member Information Update* forms found online at www.daughtershc.org. If you have a new candidate class forming, please be sure to submit the *Intent for Candidate Training* form. All forms can be emailed to membership@daughtershc.org.

Please join the Provincial Council in welcoming five new members to the Order. Our 128th chapter, St.

Michael's of St. Michael the Archangel in Fresno, CA, was instituted in December.

We also welcome new members to the following chapters: St. Helena (5 – TX); Daughters at St. Timothy (1 – TX); Daughters of the Ascension (1 – WV); Ruth (6 – SC); Esther (3 – SC); Ruth (3 – SC) and Daughters of Honor (4 – TX). There are currently seven chapters in varying stages of the formation process. Please keep the candidates and their mentors in your prayers.

As always, it is a joy and an honor to serve the Order in the capacity of Membership Chair. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

In Thanksgiving and In Christ Alone,

Linda H. DaSilva
membership@daughtershc.org
(678) 910-9669

Provincial Treasurer's Report



Statements were mailed to the chapter presidents in November for 2024 annual dues which are payable in January, and an email reminder was sent out to all Daughters in January. If you are unsure if I have received your dues, email me at treasurer@daughtershc.org and I can tell you

your dues status. Dues can be paid by check or through the Zelle payment app through online banking.

Starting in 2024, dues are now payable in January for the current year instead of dues being paid in advance. In the first half of 2023, income of \$5,255.00 was received for 2023 and the prior year dues. In the second half of 2023, dues for 2024 started to come in from members and chapters. Total dues received in 2023 was \$10,135.00.

Daughters contributed \$5,610.54 to the In Christ Alone Fund this year. DHC donated a total of \$10,234.50 to the ACNA's Anglican Relief and Disaster Fund and to New Wineskins. We were able to fulfill all grant requests to the In Christ Alone Fund; \$2,500 was distributed to women for missions. \$1,000.00 was distributed to chapters as Service Project Grants.

Income Highlights

Total dues collected for the second half of 2023 was \$4,880. \$680 in back dues for 2022 and 2023 were sent in. 102 members paid their 2024 dues in 2023.

New members' enrollment fees for the 4th quarter came to \$4,160.00, bringing the total new members' enrollment fees to \$10,135.00 for the year.

Payments and expenses for attending the January 2024 California Regional Gathering were split between 4th quarter 2023 and 1st quarter 2024.

Expense Highlights

The second half of our 2023 tithe to ACNA, \$485.00, was paid in January. In December, the Council approved a \$3,000.00 donation to New Wineskins.

The DHC financials for 2023 and the 2024 budget can be found on our website: www.daughtershc.org.

Dian Ray, Provincial Treasurer
PO Box 81161
Midland, TX 79707
treasurer@daughtershc.org

Lent 2024: Fasting & Feasting

We are excited be partnering with The Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast Women's Ministry, The Women's Leadership Network and New Wineskins Missionary Network as we journey through Lent 2024 together! We will be kicking off our Lenten journey on Monday, February 12 at 7 pm CT via Zoom with a teaching on Fasting & Feasting with Ashley Tumlin Wallace, author of "The Liturgical Home: Lent" followed by an introduction to our Fasting & Feasting Lenten guide. Registration for this Zoom can be found here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMld-qqpz0oE9Rng0wz1aFel7SA9i1VKkA5>

Each day during Lent we will be FASTING FROM something and FEASTING ON something different. For example, on Sundays (although Sundays don't have to be included in fasting days, we are challenging ourselves by including it.), we will fast from ALL screens – tv/computer/iPad/phone – and feast on hospitality by spending intentional time with others in place of the time we would have spent on our screens.

Each day we have additional resources to help give you ideas of ways for you to feast. Additional resources can be found here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c3761c74cde7a9b85e792d6/t/65bc21ceabd51e4af0af62a4/1706828239313/Lent+Fasting+and+Feasting.pdf>

On Monday, March 25 at 7 pm CT, we will have a Virtual Stations of the Cross via Zoom led by our DHC Chaplain, Bp. David Bryan. Registration for this Zoom can be found here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpde6upjsoGNAmE1m8CKt-MnsLCyd4_tLi

We think these fasting & feasting ideas will help us fully live into the invitation given to us in our Ash Wednesday liturgy: I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

Celebrating Birthday Milestones



Please join the Provincial Council in wishing a very happy birthday to Daughters who are celebrating turning 80 or older.

We ask for your birthday, including the year of birth, so that we may recognize those members who are celebrating significant milestones (80 and above). If you are not comfortable with sharing the year, please send us the month and date so we can send you a card on your special day.

There are a couple of reasons why your birthday might not be included - either we don't have it in our database, or we don't have the year of birth. If you'd like to have your birthday included, please contact the Membership Chair, Linda DaSilva, via telephone at (678) 910-9669 or email at

membership@daughtershc.org.

Happy Birthday!

January

Patricia Applegate (80)
Adelaide Ryall Beall (93)
Barbara Byerly (83)
Mary Jane Cheesman (89)
Dana Condon (80)
Jacque Crosby (87)
Dale Dimos (80)
Margaret Foster (91)
Sharon Lynn Hartman (84)
Freddie-Lu Saunders (93)
Sharon Smith (82)
Geneva Williams (79)
Veronica Williams (82)
Margaret Young (89)

February

Eben Appleton (83)
Mary Louise Burrows (89)
Patty Debenport (81)
Carole Ferry (85)
Carol Ann Galvan (81)
Barbara Hair (83)
Elba Martinez (84)
Fan Mowles (82)
Mona Perkins (85)
Martha Pike (83)
Mary Pipes (85)
Elizabeth Salazar (84)
Patricia Schellhase (84)
Carol Shue (84)
Kay Richardson (81)
Joyce Tapley (85)

Lynne Womack (82)

March

Annie Blanc (81)
Nita Burrer (81)
Pat Covington (95)
Ruthann Franklin (96)
Lorraine Hitchcock (80)
Mary Jane Mann (94)
Lona Maupin (86)
Lillie McGougan (92)
Kathy Rohm (87)
Jean Salter (94)
Martha Tomerlin (85)
Ellen Whitbread (81)
Evelyn Wiblin (85)

Trinity Anglican Church in Bakersfield, CA, Hosts Western Regional Gathering

On January 26 & 27, the **Prisca Chapter of the Daughters of the Holy Cross** held a Western Regional Gathering with nearly 50 women in attendance. The participants represented members from six different chapters across the state of California and brought guests who were not yet Daughters themselves. Provincial Council President Deacon Shelly Sorem travelled all the way from Texas to provide an inspired teaching on Colossians chapter 3, describing how we can have a holy makeover through the Holy Spirit. She shared that when we recognize that God has chosen us, even knowing all of the mistakes we would make in our lives, it is transformational! The Holy Spirit becomes our Makeover Consultant as we choose to put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Above all, we put on love, which binds us all together in perfect unity (Colossians 3:12-14). Speaking of binding things together, our service project was tying together fleece blankets which will be distributed to shut-ins. Several guests who attended have expressed interest in becoming Daughters, and we look forward to adding to our members very soon. We're so delighted to have had such a joyous time of fellowship, study and service. Thanks be to God!



The Daughters at the Gathering pose with the fleece blankets they created.



Shelly Sorem



Some of the Daughters in attendance show off their fashion style!



The fleece blanket project underway

Chapter Corner

Ruth Chapter, Saint James Anglican, James Island, SC

By Virginia Bartels

Ruth Chapter of Saint James Anglican, James Island, SC, held a special service of installation and renewal of vows for Daughters of the Holy Cross (DHC) on January 28, 2024. Chapter president Maxine Swafford and former chapter president Virginia Bartels had provided training over three months for candidates Agnes Stone and Darlene Sanders as they studied the *Candidate Discernment Manual*,



completed their project of handmade prayer cards, and prayed about God's call on their becoming a lifetime part of this order. At the service, the Rev. Louise Weld called forth all the Daughters, blessed the two new DHC crosses, and placed them around the necks of Agnes and Darlene. Then the current members of Ruth Chapter renewed their vows before the congregation. Afterwards a reception was held in honor of our new members. The Rev. Richard Grimball is the chaplain of Ruth Chapter.

Sisters of Hope, Christ Church, Crawfordville, FL

Our Chapter, Sisters Of Hope of Christ Church Anglican Wakulla in Crawfordville Florida held a Community Carol Service in The Farm on December 17th. Fr. Jim Needham and his wife Chris provided music and a song-book for all to share and enjoy. The Daughters served hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies.

Blessings, Denise Colangelo



Chapter Corner

Daughters of Hope in The Woodlands, TX, Welcome New Member and Leadership

On Sunday, January 21, 2024, The Daughters of Hope at HopePointe Anglican Church in The Woodlands, Texas, welcomed new member, Karen Brinson; and new leaders, Letty Gonzales (VP) and Theresa Sznajder (Secretary/Prayer Coordinator) into The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. Our chapter is blessed to have Deacon Shelly Sorem as our Chaplain. Our Senior Pastor, The Reverend Travis King, officiated the service.

In Christ Alone,
Diane Sweet, Daughters of Hope



Chapter Corner

Embracing Our Lord's Eternal Changelessness in a World of Change

Sisters of Bethany Virtual Chapter Year in Review

A WORLD OF CHANGE

2023 brought a depth of grief and loss to our chapter. As Daughters, many of us wondered if God was even present with us. We as a Chapter, lost our founding Church, St Timothy's in June 2023, and as a result also lost the oversight of our Priest of St Timothy's Church, Fr Lee Stafki, who has been so supportive of our chapter. Shortly afterwards, the resignation of our Chaplain, Fr. Andy Powell in August 2023 brought even more uncertainty. In June we experienced the tragic death and loss of a dear supporter, Dcn. Fred Hotz. There was so much loss in such a short period of time, our Chapter was in a state of pain and shock. Leaning into God's CHANGELESSNESS was the only thing we could hold on to. We reached out to the DHC Provincial Council for guidance on our chapter's future. So much healing was needed, so much change had occurred, only God's CHANGELESSNESS remained. Many of our Daughters were and are still seeking new parishes. We continue to pray that each find a Parish home as we continue serving our Lord in our Chapter.

AMIDST CHANGE: Keeping our VOWS.

PRAYER:

Continuing to meet 1x or 2x per month, prayer was offered at each meeting for specific prayer requests.

SERVICE:

Many Daughters served at an outreach program at St. Timothy's serving popcorn after school on the Parish lawn. Local school children lined for every Monday to receive Popcorn and our daughters played a large role in this ministry.

EVANGELISM:

During the summer of 2023, Rachel orchestrated a beautiful children's outreach at St Timothy's prior to the church closing. The Kid's Summer Bible Outreach included Bible Stories about how God keeps his promises.



Chapter Corner

STUDY: As a Chapter we sponsored a Discernment study in 2023 resulting in a new Daughter taking her vow.

HIS ETERNAL CHANGELESSNESS

After reaching out to the Provincial Council, we were undergirded by the support of Dcn. Shelly Sorem (Prov Council president). The entire Provincial Council took every measure needed to guide and support us and ensure we could remain together. We had a beloved sister, Cindy Brooks who was in the midst of Discernment, ready to take her vow in DEC 2023. After all the dust settled, and our hearts had healed slightly, we were able to come together in DEC 2023, with a newly formed Chapter Name, and Chapter Status, and a new Chaplain. Additionally, our Lord in His shepherding way, brought to us some scattered sheep: Four Daughters at Large who were seeking a Chapter. We welcomed Julie Cosgrove, Barbara Mills, Nikki L'hommedieu, and Karen Kendrick. As the 3rd anniversary of our Chapter approaches, and we begin our 4th year as a chapter, the leadership truly believes that God has held us close, grown our chapter, and created a way forward to continue in our vows individually and as a chapter, bearing the cross daily as a symbol of

what Jesus has done for each of us.

We would like to re-emphasize that the STATE OF OUR CHAPTER is:

Embracing our Lord's Eternal CHANGELESSNESS in a world of CHANGE.

We leave you with this lovely prayer from the BCP 2019 Compline (P 63)

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thine eternal changelessness, through

In Christ Alone,

Rachel, Suzanne, Paula, Karen & Shelly



St. Monica's Chapter Service Project

Our church, St. Andrews Anglican in Rome, GA, has modified church services at two different nursing homes, so the Daughters felt the call to help make the residents' Christmas a little brighter at one of the homes. This nursing home is off the beaten path & their patients are often forgotten about. The director & employees were thrilled to be able to pass out the items this week & in the weeks to come! The Daughters & St. Andrew's members really went above & beyond with their donations!

Your Pennies and Dollars at Work: Uganda Mission Trip Assisted by ICA Fund Grant

Editor's note: Candace Priest, a retired nurse, founded the Birthright Ministries Foundation, a nonprofit ministry, in 2016, to address the ravages of malnutrition among newborns and their mothers, as well as the educational needs of girls in Uganda. Below is her account of the August 2023 mission trip that the Daughters helped to fund. It really demonstrates the support of the Body of Christ working together. Candy is very appreciative of the grant they received from the ICA Fund.

When I think back on the three weeks our team spent in Uganda working in the two malnutrition clinics we help support, many precious memories come to mind. However, I will give a few highlights of our time there and how all the donations we received, both large and small, helped to enrich that time.

When my team, including myself and three other ladies, arrived in Uganda, we had 27 crates of supplies that we took to the clinics and the school there. Fortunately, we made it through customs fairly easily, which is saying a lot! We worked for the first 8 days in a malnutrition clinic that my husband and I first helped found in 2015; it's located in Nansana, a suburb of Kampala. There were over 30 mothers and 38 babies in that clinic, many of whom were extremely ill with malnutrition and many other ailments, such as malaria, typhoid, cleft lip, and heart problems.

Each day for the team was challenging but rewarding as we spent time with the mothers in Bible story time, worship, and in other health-related teachings, includ-

ing breastfeeding, nutrition, hygiene, family planning, child development, and vocational skills training. We had one dad and 3 mothers who chose to follow Jesus. That weekend, we took them and many others who had already professed Christ to Lake Victoria, where they were baptized after a communal Lord's Supper. We also were able to go deep into a village to help screen babies for malnutrition, taught, and gave out beans and rice. We then brought back the sickest babies with their caretakers to the clinic to be treated.

One of the highlights of our time in that clinic was giving out new dresses to each mother and staff member; what a fun time... lots of singing and dancing. Much of the money for these dresses was donated by our local Life Group at my church. We were able also to give new dresses and baby clothes, baby blankets and hats to each baby there, in addition to sanitary supplies for the mothers. Many of these supplies were donated by the Dress a Girl (a national organization), the Knit Wits (another group at my church), and the Sewing Servants (a group of women from churches in the Monroe, LA, area).

We spent a half day at High School, where we gave a talk on menstrual hygiene and purity, and answered their questions regarding their periods, and "True Love Waits." We also gave out the backpacks with sanitary pads and other supplies that the Sew Happy Ladies, (another Monroe group) had made. The girls were all so thrilled to receive their gifts. What a great day!

After a wonderful Sunday at church with the moms and babies, we traveled to the Masaka area of Uganda, about 4 hours away from Kampala. The clinic we helped found there in 2016 is located in a small village called Bethlehem. At that clinic, we served 19 mothers and 22 babies. Again, many of these children were very malnourished and sick with other diseases. We encountered several instances where parents had been depending on local witchcraft to heal their babies. Our clinic is helping this area to recognize that witchcraft is a tool of Satan, and that they should totally reject it.

In addition to all the teaching and worship with the mothers, we held 3 conferences in 8 days there. The first conference was a



Girls' dance and choir group entertain in traditional clothing

Prenatal Conference where we had over 300 pregnant women in attendance for a full day of teaching. They were fed three meals and then given food to take home, in addition to a Mama Kit, which contains all the sterile supplies needed for a safe birth. These kits are out of reach for most village women because of the cost of \$7.00 each.



Ugandan mother and child

Maternal and infant mortality is high in this area, due to a lack of prenatal care and sterile supplies. We thank Mercy for Mamas for the kits. The women were told of the services located there at the Bethlehem Community Hospital, including the availability of sonograms during pregnancy. Our prayer is that they will come for a sonogram and then decide to receive prenatal care and the safe delivery options there, including lifesaving Caesarian Sections. We are currently in need of a new ultrasound machine, at the cost of \$7,000. We were entertained that day by a local dance and choir group—wow!

We also held a conference for 72 leaders from surrounding villages, and we called them the “Wise People.” We again did all-day teaching and asked them for a commitment to help the young women in their villages. They were fed and given food to take home. Almost 30 men and women accepted Christ during the confer-

ence. Another great day!

Our third conference in this area was for families whose babies had been successfully treated in the malnutrition clinic. We had over 50 families who gave testimony to the lives of their babies being saved and to the great love and care they had received while there. What a day!

Our last weekend at the Bethlehem clinic was filled with lots of worship and teaching on the love and servanthood of Jesus. Our team set the example of servanthood by washing the feet of our mothers and staff, followed by the Lord’s Supper and a celebration of those who had accepted Christ as Savior.

We left Uganda with full hearts and tired bodies... boarded our flight for a 30-hour trip home, already planning our next return trip. Thank you to all our donors, many of whom are not named in this summary, for contributing to this beautiful mission that He has called us to.

Bless You,
Candace Priest



Coming out of the water as a new creation in Christ!

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 or whose death was recently reported. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and to Daughters who knew them.

To report the death of a chapter member, please submit a *Member Information Update* form via email to the Membership Chair, Linda DaSilva, at membership@daughtershc.org.

Diane McNamara
Vicki Bruno
Louann Feuille
Kathleen Wilson
Sue Ramsey Smith
Martha Gardenier

Esther (SC)
Holy Family (TN)
St. Theresa of Lisieux (TX)
Bishop’s Chapter (CA)
Holy Communion Daughters (TX)
Daughters of Hope (TX)

October 25, 2023
November 25, 2023
December 15, 2023
December 6, 2023
December 24, 2023
December 30, 2023

Dates noted are actual date of death.



The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross
c/o Barbara Mattick
6605 Man O War Trail
Tallahassee FL 32309

Deadline for the April-June issue is May 1, 2024.

(Please submit articles as Word documents and photos/images as .jpg files.)

Please submit articles and photos for publication in *The Holy Cross* to the Editor of the Holy Cross,
Barbara Mattick at: holycrosseditor@daughtershc.org.
Or Barbara Mattick, 6605 Man O War Trail, Tallahassee FL 32309

Chapter Corner



We want YOU!

(to share your chapter news!)

Send chapter news and photos to

Barbara Mattick at:

holycrosseditor@daughtershc.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

