

Who are The Daughters of the King

by Cathy Henry

On June 13, St. Paul's Mary Magdalene Chapter of the Daughters of the King will accept its newest member as a part of the service. Debi O'Toole has completed the study guide under the expert guidance of Dee Whitley and will officially join Dee, Kathy Harlan, Ali Whyte, Cathy Henry and Lynn Weatherly, though she has been meeting with the group since she began the preparation. There will be a reception afterwards on the patio with refreshments.

But you may be asking yourself just what does that mean? Who exactly are the Daughters of the King? And some of you may even be asking how one might join the Daughters. The Daughters are an international order of women who have pledged to follow a Rule of Life that includes prayer, service and evangelism. The order began in 1885 and its initial vision was to establish 50 chapters. There are now chapters throughout the world and, though the Daughters were established through the Episcopal Church, today there are chapters in Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches as well.

The Daughters are prayer warriors, committed to praying daily for the church and its members at home and throughout the world. In addition, Daughters are committed to service, both in their congregations and in the wider world. The Order also has funds that support missionary work, scholarships for members, and continuing education for Daughters looking to expand their service. In addition there is a Junior Order for girls and young women from 7 to 21. And, so as not to leave anyone out, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is a similar organization for men.

Daughters also wear a special cross that is a modified Greek Fleury design. The Latin inscription means "With heart, mind, and spirit uphold and bear the cross". The cross is to be worn at all times, and more than once, I have made a new friend while traveling when she has seen my cross and said, "Oh! You belong to DOK!"

Kathy Harlan leads the chapter at St. Paul's and has worked hard to increase the visibility of the DOK here. The chapter meets once a month, and we even learned enough about technology to continue meeting virtually during the pandemic. For the past two years, we have included a book study in our meetings and in June we will be starting Bishop Curry's book Love Is The Way.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to recognize the DOK member of longest standing at St. Paul's, Dee Whitley. She joined the original chapter at St. Paul's and was the driving force behind establishing a new chapter here after the split. Dee has also been in charge of leading prospective Daughters through the study guide in preparation for joining DOK. It is a job she loves, and being able to work with Dee in that capacity shows one the ideals of the Order reflected in a devoted member.

If you are interested in finding out more, please take a moment to chat with one of the Daughters, or you can e-mail Kathy Harlan at kharlan805@gmail.com.