

# The Messenger



A Publication of The Assembly Board of Province IV

December 2025

## From our President

My dear sisters-in Christ,

How blessed we are to be approaching the holy seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany! It is a time of enjoying family, friends, worship services, giving and joy. Most importantly, it is a time of preparation for His light and glory to be seen in us. We are called to do more than behold and adore. We are called to reflect His light and glory as His Daughters. We “let our light so shine that others see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven”. As the Light of the World breaks through into our world, may each of us live in awe of the mystery of God, reflecting His love and glory.

Our year of 2025 has been one of blessings, changes and challenges. The Holy Spirit has been active in moving our Order in Province IV forward:

- 1) We enjoyed our first Province IV Fall Assembly in Alabama at Camp McDowell. More Daughters (178) attended our Assembly, October 29-October 3, 2025 than in the last few years. We enjoyed Dr. Beth Sarah Wright’s presentations as Speaker, various workshops, worship, our Prov. IV Memorial Service plus time for fun in building community. Your leadership and participation in all areas produced this wonderful event! Thank you.
  - 2) Senior Chapters grew throughout Province IV. With your help, we are trying to correct Prov. IV’s membership roster to reflect more precise numbers. We added 8 new Chapters and re-instituted 4 Chapters as of Dec. 1, 2025. This is the Holy Spirit working through you.
  - 3) The Junior Daughter Retreat scheduled for June was cancelled due to lack of participation. We are focusing on reviving our Juniors and finding what will work best to reinvigorate Junior growth and to call Directresses into serving as leaders. We ask for your prayers and support.
  - 4) Our January 2025 Board Meeting was held at Camp McDowell for the twenty Diocesan Presidents of Province IV and the Assembly board chairs. This Board meeting proved a learning experience for Province IV leadership focusing on training, discussing new responsibilities, initiating new ideas and building community. Sister Tonette Sperando, a Benedictine nun, led our workshop on Christian Leadership.
- As ministries and outreach grow in 2026, I pray each of us experiences God’s love to overflowing. His love ignites and sustains our mission of the extension of Christ’s kingdom



through prayer, service and evangelism. May your love of Christ and your commitment to our Order light the way for all Daughters in their life journey.

Blessings in your ministries,

## Ruth

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Province IV President

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### From our Chaplain



Dear Friends,

There's an old French proverb that says: "Gratitude is the heart's memory." There's extraordinary grace in looking back on your life. We're able to see with a new perspective. Thanksgiving is a chance to be with family and friends, to reflect on this past year, and deliberately give thanks. Doing so, maybe we'll get a glimpse of what's most important, most valuable.

Maybe we'll give thanks for the challenges we faced or the helpers that God sent. As we look back, we'll see those life-givers who've loved, supported, and cheered us on. Or maybe we'll find ourselves giving thanks for the surprises and gifts of grace that landed on us out of nowhere.

In his letter to the Philippians, writing from prison in some of his very last words before his death, Paul tells us not to worry when things look bleak or uncertain, to be gentle with ourselves and the world around us. He assures us that there's transforming power and freedom in praying and giving thanks, in rejoicing for all life's circumstances. And there is the mysterious gift of a Peace that the world cannot give, a Peace that guards your heart and mind, like a sentry guards a tomb, to keep it safe.

As we trust God's love and providence, all things are possible. Paul invites us to think not about our circumstances but to think over and over on higher truths, excellence, honor, justice, purity, and most of all on love, which transcends everything. I've noticed that practicing gratitude, even when I don't feel grateful, always renews my spirit. I read that giving thanks, as a practice, is good for your heart. It lowers our blood pressure, reduces our stress, and opens us to new possibilities.

I am grateful this Thanksgiving season for the amazing communities and ministry in our diocese. Please join me in giving thanks for our circumstances, our blessings, and most of all, for the gift of following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May your Thanksgiving be a time of grace and peace. I hope I see you at

church!

Let us pray:

*Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them, Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Blessings,

+Glenda

*The Rt. Rev. Glenda Curry, Chaplain to Province IV Daughters of the King and Bishop of Alabama*

## Province IV Website

Remember our Province IV website is full of information  
for you!

*You can't imagine what you will find!*

**Bylaws  
Updates**

**Latest Handbook/Directory**

## From Province IV



### **“Let Your Light Shine”: Nearly 200 Daughters of the King Unite for Province IV Fall**

#### **Retreat**

The Province IV Board of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) has organized its annual Fall Retreat, drawing nearly 200 participants for a week of worship, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. The gathering

marked the most well-attended retreat in six years, continuing the organization’s long-standing tradition of prayer, service, and evangelism among Daughters across the world.

Held from September 30 to October 2 at Camp McDowell for the first time in nearly five decades, the retreat was on the theme “Let your light so shine before people



that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven,” taken from Matthew 5:14-16. In her welcome letter addressed to participants, Ruth Foss, President of Province IV DOK, encouraged the Daughters to reflect on the retreat’s setting and purpose. She wrote, “Take this time to enjoy the peace and beauty of this setting and to notice the new opportunities it offers for rest, reflection, and fellowship. Let’s pray together that the Holy Spirit will be present in every moment, guiding all that we do.”

[CONTINUE READING HERE..](#)



[CLICK HERE to view Slideshow](#)

## ***A Very Special Thank you to Mr. Hud Heaton***

Each year at the Province IV Fall Assembly, the Daughters of the King participate in a Memorial Service to honor and pray for the Daughters who have passed away during the year. This service is rooted in love,



remembrance, and prayer, and at its center stands a wooden cross that symbolizes our shared faith and commitment to the Order. In 2025, the Assembly moved from Kanuga—its home for 48 years—to Camp McDowell in Jasper, Alabama. With this move, the original memorial cross was retired, and a new one was commissioned. Hud Heaton, the husband of a Daughter and a civil engineer, offered his skills to design and build the new cross. Heaton created a six-by-six-foot wooden cross in the same shape as the one Daughters wear daily. Made from pecan wood harvested from the Heaton family farm, the cross is inscribed with FHS, meaning “For His Sake.” The Order’s watchword, Magnanimiter Cruce

Sustine—“With heart, mind, and spirit uphold and bear the cross”—inspired its design and purpose.

When asked about the project, Hud shared, “I was pleased to make this for the Lord’s work.” He described the experience as deeply personal, reflecting his family’s long tradition of serving the church. “It felt good to have the opportunity to use my skills for something that glorifies God and continues the tradition of honoring the departed Daughters,” he said.

The new cross will remain hanging on the wall of St. Francis Chapel until the Daughters return next year.



### ***Departed Daughters***

The link is OPEN and available for you to report a Departed Daughter for our 2026 Assembly. No need to wait!

***The names of our departed Daughters come from you, our Diocesan Assembly Presidents and Chapter Presidents.***

**Deadline for 2026 Submissions is  
September 4, 2026**

**[CLICK HERE TO REPORT A DEPARTED DAUGHTER](#)**



### **The Help Fund**

This is a Province IV fund that is made up solely from donations from Daughters in our Province IV. Daughters who have a monetary need due to disaster, job loss, medical needs, etc. may apply for assistance.

**[CLICK HERE FOR OUR DAUGHTERS HELPING DAUGHTERS FUND FORM](#)**

***I pray your generosity of spirit and talents will be the light of love shining in this turbulent time in the affected areas of Province IV.***

***Blessings and joy in His service,  
Ruth***

It is with great sorrow, that we





announce the death of Phil de Montmollin, beloved husband of our sister, the Rev. Dee de Montmollin. Please keep Rev Dee and her family in your hearts and prayers

On behalf of their family, they are thankful for all the prayers and support. Below, please find info on arrangements.

A Celebration of Life for Phil de Montmollin is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 3, 11 a.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed on the church's YouTube Channel.

Additionally, friends and family are welcome to join us for a brief, intimate service on Saturday, January 10 at 1:30 p.m. as his ashes are placed in a columbarium at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (464 NE 16th Street) in Miami, Florida.

O King of paradise, where light abounds and life reigns: Give to our dear one who is with thee a full share of thy treasures, that

He may always be white with thy purity, tranquil with thy peace, and glad with thy joy. Let us live vividly in His present love,

as He lives in ours; until the time of separation be past, and we are taken to the place whither He has gone before, there to dwell with Him in the perfect fellowship that knows no end; through thy mercy, who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, dost live and reign ever one God, world without end. **Amen**

## *Across the Province*

### *Central Florida*

*We are the second largest Diocesan Assembly in the US with over 1000 members!*



November 1, 2025,

Our Fall Diocesan Assembly of Central Florida was attended by over 170 Daughters!

Bishop Justin Holcomb was with us and his sermon was so spiritually uplifting!! We also had an Installation Service for our new Chaplain, Fr Rob Strenth, Rector of St Matthew's Episcopal Church, Orlando, FL. Fr Rob requested that a DOK Chapter be established at his church! Discernment will begin in January, 2026!! Blessings abound!!!

November 16, 2025,



Esther Chapter, Church of the Ascension, Orlando, Florida, admitted five new Daughters on Sunday, November 16, 2025. This date held deep significance because it coincided with the chapter's date of institution into The Order. Attending were five visiting Daughters, including the Assembly President/National Membership Chair, Nadine Craig, and International Chair, Sue McIlrath.

New Daughters from left to right: Michelle Lewis (black jacket), Lori Leda, Theresa Wu, Michelle

Howell, and Erika Tilley.

## *East Tennessee*

June 5, 2025,

Several Daughters in East TN met together last June for a luncheon at the Wild Plum Tea Room, followed by a stained glass class in the Arts & Crafts area of the tourist town of Gatlinburg, just outside the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.



Members of the East TN DOK diocese: (from l/r) Meg Evans, CP of St. Elizabeth's Knoxville; Anne McGhee, St. Andrew's Harriman; Ann Callahan, DAL chair; Jennie Lou Goff, CP of St. Raphael's Crossville; Lynne Spires, CP of St. Andrew's Harriman; and Elaine Conger, DAP of East TN.

## *Southeast Florida*

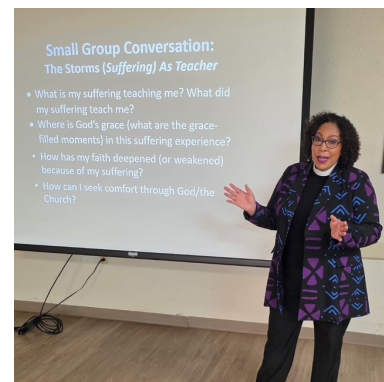




November 1, 2025,  
Southeast Florida's Diocesan Assembly was held at Christ Episcopal Church in Miami. It was well attended by nearly 280 Daughters. We were blessed to have inspiring messages delivered by our Diocesan Chaplain, The Rev. DJ Griffin and The Rev. Canon Terrence Lee from South River, NJ.

## Southwest Florida

September 20, 2025,  
We welcomed the Very Rev. Adreinne Hymes, Vicar of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Wesley Chapel, FL to our Fall Retreat "*Weathering the Storm*". As we gathered in the most dangerous month of Hurricane season. Many of us have weathered many storms in our earthly lives, both literally and figuratively, we are in the eye of the storm. While thankful knowing that right now things are calm but realizing that at any time the back of the storm can make our lives turbulent again. We developed tools to weather through and not get "stuck" knowing that no matter what the suffering is, the Resurrection is still to come.



***All to Jesus, I surrender  
Leadership, Sacrifice, & our Spiritual  
Journey***

November 1, 2025  
Bishop Douglas Scharf lead Women's Spirituality Day at DaySpring in Parrish, Florida. Focusing on Luke 8:13 and other biblical passages, the full immersion retreat utilized DaySpring's beautiful campus, from the Manatee River, to the Outdoor Chapel and the Labyrinth.

## Looking Ahead!!



### Conversations with Daughters with the Rev. Dee de Montmollin

The January 5, 2025 "Conversations with Daughters" will feature the Rev. Dee de Montmollin and her books "'Was that a



Coincidence. I Don't think so!"  
You won't want to miss this!! You DO have to  
register for this zoom

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!!](#)**

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***Province IV Junior Daughter Retreat  
June 11-14, 2026***

***DaySpring Camp and Conference Center  
Parrish, FL***

***It's not too early to save the date for next summer....***

*Time to mark your calendars now!!!*

*Summer 2026 will be here before you know it! The Junior Daughter Summer Retreat is something  
you do not want to miss!!*

**The Order of the Daughters of the King**

**Province IV**

**Junior DOK Retreat**

**11-14 JUNE 2026**

**DAYSPRING CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER  
PARRISH, FL**

**DAYSRINGFLA.ORG**

Girls ages 7 to 21 are invited for a fun weekend enriched with spiritual guidance. We will climb ropes, hang out at the pool, reflect over arts & crafts and so much more!

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***Daughters of the King Triennial  
July 7-11, 2027  
Phoenix, Arizona***

***"Be Thou My Vision"***

*Time to mark your calendars now!!!*

[CLICK HERE for Video Announcement of upcoming Triennial](#)

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## From the Editor

[CLICK HERE FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL FORM AT NATIONAL OFFICE](#)

[CLICK HERE To submit an article for the Messenger! We want to know what is happening in your Diocese! Submit an article about upcoming or past events, or special moments](#)

Deadlines are March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15

For questions regarding this email please contact:

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