

# THE NATIONAL STUDY GUIDE



2021 EDITION



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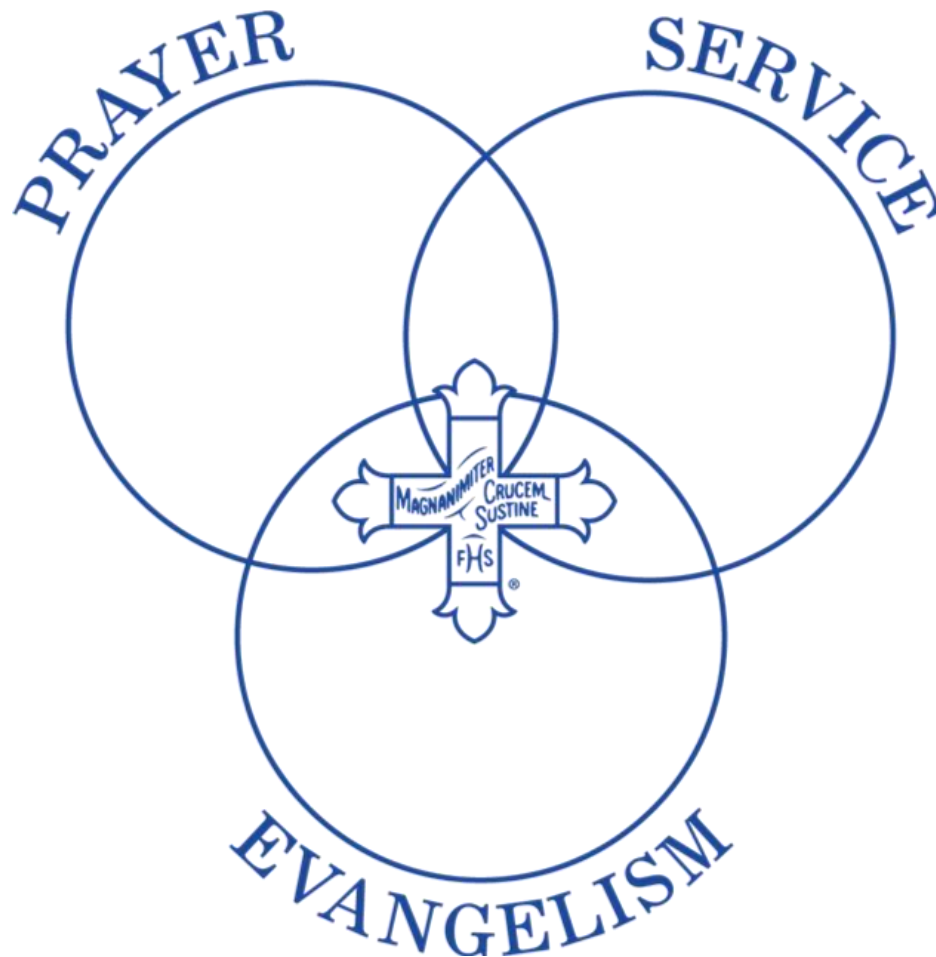
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*The Order of the Daughters of the King, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by members' dues and donations.*

**NATIONAL STUDY GUIDE**  
**Preparation for Admission Into**  
**The Order of the Daughters of the King®**



**2021 Edition**

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**For the purpose of standardization of this study guide, *An Outline of the Faith*,  
*Examination of the Candidates for Confirmation*, and *The Baptismal Covenant*  
were taken from the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*.  
If denominational equivalents are available, they may be used.**



# PART ONE: TAKING THE FIRST STEP



*"Faith is taking the first  
step even when you can't see  
the whole staircase."*

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

# ORIENTATION

## *Introduction*

The material in this *National Study Guide* has been adopted by the National Council, of The Order of the Daughters of the King® as the official course of preparation for those seeking admission into The Order. All materials contained in the *National Study Guide* belong to The Order. To use this material for any other purpose, please contact the National Office for permission.

You are to use this study guide as presented and to complete the course of preparation within the recommended time. The study guide leader should report any significant deviations from the content or substance of the study guide to the National Office.

A companion publication to be used with this study guide is the most current edition of *The National Handbook and Bylaws of The Order of the Daughters of the King*®. It is an invaluable reference tool and the official source of information about The Order. It includes our Vision and Mission Statements, Bylaws, The Service of Admission, Service of Rededication, Service for the Installation of Officers, the Hymn of The Order, prayers and other official information.

The study guide offers insight into the basic philosophy and practices of The Order. It presents the history, fundamental principles and accomplishments of The Order. It is not a course in skills and techniques. Rather it is intended to prepare the prospective Daughter to come to the date of her admission or the seasoned Daughter to approach her rededication with an understanding of The Order, paraphrasing the *Book of Common Prayer*, “*not unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and according to the purpose for which The Order was established.*”

## *The Purpose of This Study Guide*

1. To serve as the official preparation for prospective members
2. To establish an understanding of The Order
3. To introduce prospective members to The Order’s Rule of Life
4. To serve as a review for members of The Order
5. To be a source of information

The *National Study Guide*, consisting of twelve sessions, will help you explore your faith and learn about The Order of the Daughters of the King®. Each session asks challenging questions and leads to an understanding of The Order. Meeting regularly for study and prayer offers the best opportunity for deepening spiritual growth and building community among current and future members.

A twelve-week period of preparation is **required** for membership in The Order. We encourage you to use this as a time of reflection and discernment. It can be an opportunity for growth in your commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and an awareness of how important prayer and service are for the spread of his kingdom.

It is therefore very important that as you prepare for membership in The Order, by taking the full twelve weeks to learn about:

1. Who we are?



2. What we do?
3. What is expected of us as members of The Order of the Daughters of the King®?
4. Whether God is calling you to make this commitment.

A thorough study or review of The Order and its Rule of Life will provide a solid foundation for every Daughter and chapter to build upon. The woman who is well-informed about The Order and her role as a member is in the best position to fulfill her vows, commitment and responsibility involved in being a Daughter in The Order.

### **Some suggestions for using the *National Study Guide***

- ✠ Make a commitment to complete the entire 12 weeks of study.
- ✠ Each week set aside enough time to complete each study. Some will take longer than others.
- ✠ Begin your study preparations with prayer.
- ✠ Read each study thoroughly and highlight material that seems important.
- ✠ Answer the questions in the space provided or use a separate notebook or journal.
- ✠ Be prepared to share your answers in class.
- ✠ Do not schedule any vacations, meetings, or appointments during the twelve weeks that would be in conflict with this commitment.

## ***The Service of Preparation for Membership***

**Presenter:** It is my privilege to present these persons \_\_\_\_\_ as candidates for membership in The Order of the Daughters of the King®.

*Addressing the candidates:*

**Clergy:** You have expressed an interest in becoming a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King®. You are asked to serve a twelve-week preparation period during which you will learn about and follow the two Rules of The Order: The Rule of Prayer and The Rule of Service. In addition, you are asked to learn about The Order, including its Prayer and Motto, and participate in twelve sessions using the National Study Guide, which will help you grow in your knowledge and love of God as you pray and serve him daily.

Do you promise to commit yourself to this time of preparation?

**Candidates:** I do.

**Clergy:** May Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, grant you the strength and power to perform them, so that he may accomplish the work he has begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*\* Optional Candle Lighting Service may be inserted here.*

**Candidates:** Almighty and Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we here dedicate ourselves to you and your service, in faith and joy and love. In this preparation time we pray that you will confirm and strengthen us that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**Clergy:** Direct us O Lord in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and give us your help, that all

our work begun, continued, and ended in you may glorify your holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Clergy:** The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## **\*Optional Candle Lighting Service\***

*The Clergy then blesses the candles.*

**Clergy:** Bless, O Lord, these candles and the ones who receive them, that they may be your faithful and willing servants, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*As each candle is lit and handed to the candidate the clergy says:*

**Clergy:** Receive this candle; let it remind you of the promise you have made, and that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. May He enlighten your heart and mind as you prepare to become a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King®.

*After receiving their candles, the candidates will continue with the prayer in the Service of Preparation:*

# ***Beginnings***

## **COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE**

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **THE MOTTO OF THE ORDER**

For His Sake...I am but one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
What I can do, I ought to do.  
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.  
Lord, what will you have me do?

## **THE PRAYER OF THE ORDER**

O Eternal Father, you have sent us your Son to teach us things pertaining to your heavenly Kingdom. Give your blessing to our Order wherever it may be throughout the world. Grant that we, your Daughters, ever may discern your truth and bear the cross through the battles of our earthly life. Give us strength to overcome temptation and the grace to work to spread your Kingdom and to gather your scattered sheep within your fold. Pour out upon us the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit that we may always remember it is your work we are called to do, that all we think, do or say may be pleasing in your sight. We ask it all For His Sake, our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

# *Class Information*

This study guide belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

Date study began: \_\_\_\_\_ Date study completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Study Guide Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Discernment Class Members

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*THIS IS YOUR STUDY GUIDE. KEEP IT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORDER.*

**God bless you as you begin your study.**



## **PART TWO: DAUGHTERS ON A JOURNEY**



**Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.**

Psalm 119:105

# STUDY ONE

## *What is a Christian?*

A Christian is a person on a journey with Jesus, a journey that begins with the gift of eternal life received at Baptism and lived out in a relationship of love and trust with Jesus, the Christ, who is acknowledged as one's personal Lord and Savior. Our creeds, the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, are basic affirmations of our Christian faith for this faith journey and state the truths of both individual and corporate Christian life.

All people are on a life journey of one sort or another, but Christians consciously travel theirs with Christ and with each other. No one is to be excluded from the invitation to travel along, for it is together as Christians that we are God's people. We are an eclectic group embracing all strata of human existence. What a picture we make – all colors, shapes and sizes, young, old, married, single, career women, and home managers! No matter our worship style, our physical state, our emotional health, we come to know in our deepest heart that the love of Jesus Christ invites and includes everyone.

We seek to follow Him on this journey, to live our daily lives as Jesus would. We ask, we listen, we follow, we depend first on Him and then on each other, and in the events of our daily lives, we become aware that we are on an eternal journey of endless surprise and grace. The life journey to which He calls us to is more than assenting to certain truths or closely following a set of rules. It is a relationship with the Living God, incarnate in a real person, Jesus Christ, and we discover to our wonder and delight that in this journey of love, He is both the journey and the journey's end. Our journey is Jesus.

*You are our peace, O Lord.  
From the thousand weariness's of our daily life,  
From the disappointments,  
From the nervous and senseless haste  
We turn to you and are at peace.  
The clamor dies.  
We are alive in the sunshine of your presence.  
Even so, come, Lord Jesus, to this soul of mine.*  
*Anonymous*

**Please read *An Outline of Faith*, commonly called the Catechism, found in the Appendix of this study guide.** If a denominational equivalent is available, it may be used.

## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY ONE**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)**

Now take some time to reflect on your journey with Jesus. The following questions may help in that process. There are no right or wrong answers. Please be prepared to share your answers with the group. Remember confidentiality must be honored and all remarks respected and kept within the group.

1. How do you answer, “What is a Christian?”
2. Where/when/how did you begin your journey with Jesus?
3. Along your journey, has there been a particularly significant person or event that showed love “as Christ” to you?
4. Who/what has recently renewed or enlightened your journey?
5. Name some of the stumbling blocks you have encountered on your journey.
6. Is it hard to talk about your journey? Why is that?
7. What do you do when you are feeling “stuck, dry, and empty”?
8. Is there more to being a Christian than service, prayer, corporate worship and leading a moral life? If so, explain?





# STUDY TWO

## *What is an Order?*

A **religious order** is a lineage of communities and organizations of people who live in some way set apart from society in accordance with their specific religious devotion, usually characterized by the principles of its founder's religious practice. An order is composed of initiates (laity) and, in some traditions, ordained clergy. Religious orders exist in many of the world's religions.

Religious orders and communities serve the greater church in several ways. Many offer retreat houses and individual spiritual direction. Each community has a rule of life and is committed to prayer, life in community, and hospitality.

1. **A Religious Order** of the Church is a society of Christians who voluntarily commit themselves for life, or a term of years, to holding their possessions in common or in trust; to a celibate life in community; and obedience to their Rule and Constitution.
2. **A Christian Community** of the Church is a society of Christians who voluntarily commit themselves for life, or a term of years, in obedience to their Rule and Constitution.

### ***WHAT IS The Order of the Daughters of the King®?***

The Order of the Daughters of the King® is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by members' dues and donations.

Our tradition includes episcopal oversight, recognizes that Holy Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation, acknowledges the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, the real presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, and worship. The Order's purpose is to bring others into a living, loving relationship with Jesus our Lord and Savior and to help strengthen the spiritual life of our churches.

Members undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, study, service, and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her church (See *The Baptismal Covenant* and the *Examination of the Candidates For Confirmation* in the Appendix of this study guide. If a denominational equivalent is available, it may be used.) A Daughter vows to uphold the two parts of the Rule of Life of The Order: The Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.

The Rule of Prayer is mentioned first since it should come first in every Daughter's daily life. Through the Rule of Prayer, Daughters promise to pray daily for the spread of Christ's kingdom, for God's blessing on all members of The Order and for the spiritual growth of their churches. A Daughter is also faithful in her personal devotional life through Bible or Christian spiritual studies, participation in quiet days, retreats, prayer groups and diocesan/provincial assemblies.

Through the Rule of Service, Daughters regularly take part in the worship and work of their church, undertake a personal program of evangelism in a conscientious effort to bring others into a personal relationship with Christ, and work with their clergy, as directed, for the spiritual upbuilding of the church.

## The Order's Beginnings

Margaret J. Franklin instituted The Order on Easter eve, 1885. The idea grew out of her senior Bible class for young women at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, now Church of the Resurrection, in New York City. The first chapter was called Alpha Chapter. The formation of other groups and their desire to affiliate with the original Daughters of the King group quickly increased the number of chapters. The Rev. Ralph Wood Kenyon, rector of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, was the first national chaplain for The Order. He was a man of vision and when the number of chapters reached fifty, he participated in drafting the first constitution. It was formally adopted during the first council meeting in 1892. Just one year later, on October 25, 1893, the first national convention was convened in Baltimore, Maryland. Nearly two hundred delegates attended this convention. They represented two hundred fifty chapters and a total membership of about eight thousand. The Order was originally incorporated in New York in 1917 under the official name "The Order of the Daughters of the King, Inc." In 1986 it was incorporated again under the laws of the State of Georgia, where the National Office is now located.

Significant in the annals of our Order was the establishment of the Junior Division. In 1896 Mrs. Mary C. Davenport formed the Alpha Chapter of Junior Daughters with girls from the Sunday school class at her parish, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Washington, DC.

A Junior chapter is made up of three or more baptized girls and young women, aged seven to twenty-one. A Junior chapter must first be approved by the clergy, is under the leadership of a senior Daughter and has the support of the senior chapter. Junior members complete a period of preparation and make the same promises of prayer and service for the extension of Christ's kingdom as senior Daughters.

## The Cross of The Order

As a constant reminder of our vows, every day we wear the emblem of The Order: a silver pin in the form of a modified Greek Fleury cross. This is worn over the heart or on a chain around the neck. The horizontal Latin inscription, "MAGNANIMITER CRUCEM SUSTINE", broadly translated means "with heart, mind and spirit uphold and bear the cross". The initials "FHS" at the base of the cross mean "FOR HIS SAKE". The emblem, never wavering from the original design, has been trademarked for the exclusive use of The Order. **The emblem and cross itself remain the property of The Order** and if a member resigns, she must return the cross to the National Office. When a Daughter dies, the cross may be buried with her, or placed in the urn, otherwise it must be returned to the National Office.



### The Cross Policy

**Please read *The Cross Policy*** found in the Appendix of this study guide or on the national website.

## The National Website and Publications

The website for The Order of the Daughters of the King® is [www.doknational.org](http://www.doknational.org). The official publication of The Order is *The Royal Cross*, which serves as its primary form of communication. It provides news of activities, inspirational articles and general information and has been published since the first council meeting in 1891. Non-members may also subscribe. A monthly online newsletter called *Cross+Links* is another form of communication available to the Daughters. Members can sign up to receive *Cross+Links* through the website. Most provincial and diocesan assemblies publish a newsletter about their activities.

**Please read *Website and Publications of The Order* found in the National Handbook.**

### **General Information**

The colors of The Order are blue and white. The first hymn of The Order, “Lord, Speak to Me,” was adopted in 1915, with lyrics by Frances Ridley Havergal. However, it was not included in the 1982 *Hymnal*. The hymn “Lift High the Cross” was adopted as the official hymn of The Order in 1985. All Saints’ Day has been set aside as a day of corporate communion for The Order and every Daughter should regard it as her privilege and duty to attend.

### **Annual National Dues**

In The Order of the Daughters of the King® annual dues are required. Members are not permitted to raise money in the name of The Order. The money received is used to support the work of The Order on the national, provincial and diocesan, levels. Payment is due by September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. **Please read the chapter on *Annual National Dues and Lifetime Membership* found in the National Handbook.**

### **Funds of The Order**

The work of The Order continues through voluntary contributions made annually to several funds. The Master’s Fund is used to provide tuition grants for women seeking to prepare for church-related careers. The Endowment Fund receives donations made in thanksgiving for blessings, to honor members, and as memorials and bequests and is used to further the work of The Order. The Self Denial Fund provides support for missionary endeavors. The Alpha Fund is used to develop and support the Junior Daughters ministry. Non-members may contribute to these funds. The Funds of The Order will be discussed more fully in Study Six.

### **How We are Organized**

The organization of The Order parallels that of the Episcopal Church. Three or more interested women, with the approval of their clergy, form chapters in parishes, missions and other appropriate institutions (See the *National Handbook*, Bylaws Article IV). When three or more chapters are chartered in a Diocese, they can form a diocesan assembly. And where there are chapters in three or more diocesan assemblies within a province, a provincial assembly is formed. A representative from each province, along with 15 members elected by ballot, form the National Council of The Order. Elections are held at the National Triennial Convention, which meets every three years in the year of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The Order cooperates with many other church-related agencies, such as the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, the Bible Reading Fellowship, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and other groups as determined by action of the National Council.

It is not necessary for a woman to be a member of The Order to pray and serve in the church. The Order is a spiritual community in a busy world where women with similar interests can pray, study, share together, affirm ministries and support each other. Members are present to each other in Christ’s love.

# *Who May be Called to The Order?*

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision is  
to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others  
and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world.

*The Order of the Daughters of the King®*  
*Vision Statement*

By virtue of baptism, all members of God's holy family are sons and daughters of our Father. Some women choose to follow a pattern of regular prayer, study and devotions, which forms their personal rule of life. They deepen their baptismal vows by becoming members of The Order of the Daughters of the King®. Through membership in The Order, women are given strength through prayer, challenged through study, provided fellowship with other Daughters, disciplined through following The Order's Rule of Life and offered an opportunity for useful work through service for their clergy, congregation, diocese, and beyond. Daughters have the desire to become more committed Christians who serve Christ in fellowship with other Christian women sharing the same desire. Read Matthew 18:20.

The Order of the Daughters of the King® is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. Today our membership includes women in the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church in North America, Churches in the Anglican Communion, Lutheran Church (ELCA) and Roman Catholic Church. Members from all eligible churches enjoy full membership privileges.

When a Daughter takes her vows at the time of her admission, she is voluntarily responding to The Order's fixed goal, "the spread of Christ's Kingdom." She makes four promises that, with God's help, she will keep for the rest of her life. These promises are stated in the Service of Admission (See, *The Service of Admission* in the Appendix of this study guide.)

- ✝ To obey the two Rules of The Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.
- ✝ To offer at all times loyal aid to her clergy and parish to advance the cause of Christ.
- ✝ To wear habitually the cross of The Order.
- ✝ To work for its purposes as God may give you the opportunity.

Daughters seek to walk with God as their guide and try to draw those with whom they come in contact into the church. They are women who try to spread Christ's Kingdom here on earth. They can never forget that prayer is the foundation from which their service grows.

*"Prayer without work is empty words.  
Service without prayer is labor lost."*  
*Anonymous*



## QUESTIONS FOR STUDY TWO

(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)

1. What is the motto of The Order? What initials represent the motto and where are they found?
2. When a Daughter takes her vows, she receives the emblem of The Order, a silver cross. To whom does the cross belong?
3. When and how should a Daughter wear her cross?
4. What should be done with the cross when a Daughter dies?
5. What distinguishes The Order of the Daughters of the King® from other Christian women's organizations?
6. Why are annual dues required?
7. Why do you think The Order is as relevant now as it was in 1885?
8. Why have you decided to explore the possibility of becoming a member in The Order of the Daughters of the King®?
9. What are your expectations of becoming a Daughter?
10. What is a vow and what does the Bible say about taking one?

**REACHING DEEPER** List some Biblical references indicating what Christians can claim.



## **PART THREE: OUR COMMITMENT**



**Here I am,  
Send me!**

# STUDY THREE

## *What Does Christ Expect of His Daughters?*

Christ expects Daughters to accept their duty, as stated in the Outline of Faith (as found in the Appendix of this study guide.)

**Q.** What is the duty of all Christians?

**A.** The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

- ✝ To follow Christ
- ✝ To worship God weekly in his church
- ✝ To work for the spread of his kingdom
- ✝ To pray for the spread of his kingdom
- ✝ To give for the spread of his kingdom

The Baptismal Covenant also states what is required of us.

**Please read *The Baptismal Covenant* found in the Appendix of this study guide.** If a denominational equivalent is available, it may be used.

The sacrament of Baptism is so much more than membership into Christ's Church. It is the beginning of a life long journey, a new way of living which fosters our relationship with God and others, through spiritual practices both individual and communal. There exists a considerable variety of spiritual practices such as;

- ✝ Prayer
- ✝ Fasting
- ✝ Study
- ✝ Worship
- ✝ Fellowship
- ✝ Service
- ✝ Giving (tithing)
- ✝ Journaling
- ✝ Spiritual Direction
- ✝ Confession

The vows that you will be taking to become a member of The Order are a reaffirmation of the commitment made in *The Baptismal Covenant*. As a member of The Order you have additional duties and responsibilities.

**Please read *Duties and Responsibilities of Membership* found in the National Handbook.**

**Duties** (spiritual obligations)

1. *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.* Luke 10:27
2. Pray without ceasing.

3. Study God's word.
4. Serve God in and through your Church and community.
5. Tell others about God's love and saving grace through your words and example.

**Responsibilities** (faithful requirements)

1. Wear the Cross habitually.
2. Follow my Daily Rule of Life.
3. Pay my annual dues promptly.
4. Give to the Funds of The Order, annually.
5. Regularly attend and participate in
  - a. Chapter meetings
  - b. Diocesan assemblies
  - c. Provincial assemblies (when possible)
  - d. National Triennial assemblies (when possible)
6. Periodically review my Rule of Life

## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY THREE**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the class)**

1. What does the phrase “personal commitment to Jesus Christ” mean to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you think Christ will expect of you as a member of The Order?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Read James 2:14-26. What does it say to you as a Daughter of our Lord?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How will undertaking the discipline of The Order help to deepen your spiritual life and commitment to Jesus Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does “Seeking to serve others For His Sake” mean to you in your own Christian walk?



## **PRAYING THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

*Do you believe in God the Father, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and in God the Holy Spirit?*

Our Father, it's one thing to say the creed but another to put my trust in you. Help me to live with the assurance that you are my Father and that nothing can separate me from your love, trusting in your forgiveness expressed in Jesus and looking to your Spirit to make me your person.

*Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?*

Our Father, I know I was not meant to go it alone because you created the church to be a supportive family for your children. And I know the church is made up of people like me – so it isn't perfect! Help me to play my part in the church, so I can learn from the teaching, be encouraged by the fellowship, be renewed in the Eucharist, and find strength for living each day through prayer.

*Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*

Our Father, you understand that sometimes I do things I never intended to do. My sorrow does not put it right. Neither can I use my weakness as an excuse. Help me to begin anew, to experience your forgiveness and to walk again in Jesus' way.

*Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?*

Our Father, help me to live the way Jesus called me to live. May my actions speak louder than my words of your love and of new life in Jesus. At the same time, help me rise above my own stumbling speech and give me the words to express what I believe. Let me be a witness to the Truth.

*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?*

Our Father, all too often I have looked at people in a very superficial way. Help me begin to see them with your eyes, knowing that every person is created in your image as your child. If Jesus died for that person, how can I despise them? Give me a new love that reaches out to everyone because Jesus died for all.

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?*

Our Father, I do not want my attitudes to be shaped by the injustices that mar society, by the discriminations, greed and lust that spoil relationships in Jesus. Color does not count, wealth carries no weight, and gender is not important. Help me to live in Jesus, to see people through His eyes, and work for the harmony that reflects your kingdom.

Praying the Baptismal Covenant by Reginald Hollis Copyright © 1993. (May be used with acknowledgement to the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer.)



# STUDY FOUR

## *What is the Primary Purpose of The Order?*

The answer to this question is *The Spread of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism.*

It is a message of hope and joy in a world of cynicism and despair. It can be done at work, at parties, over the kitchen table or wherever two or three are gathered together. It is not just the work of a certain specialized group of people in the church or of the clergy. It is the work of the whole church and of every member. It is a duty we took on at our baptism and reaffirmed at our confirmation.

***Celebrant*** Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?  
***People*** I will, with God's help.

That statement commits us to share in the church's work of bearing good tidings to those who have not yet heard.

One thing needs to be kept in mind as you prepare for the basic Christian task of Spreading Christ's Kingdom. You cannot give someone else what you do not have yourself. As you share the good news of God in Christ with others, you must share that which comes from your own experience of God's grace as well as from your own knowledge of God's word in Scripture. We all know the basic essential beliefs of Christianity. These beliefs are very well expressed in both the Apostles' and Nicene creeds used in your worship. People will hear the Good News only if they are made aware of how you have been personally affected. Your own life experience can be the best example of the Gospel. Sharing the Christian story is difficult for many but sharing the Good News as we have experienced it, quietly and humbly, is a way to reach out and tell others of God's love. Often, we hesitate to share with others because we fear rejection and failure. God calls us to be obedient and faithful in sharing his word. Success is in God's hands. We may fail at times but failure has been a common experience in the lives of the saints throughout the ages. Our Lord encountered many whose hearts, minds, and ears were closed to the Good News. We can expect the same. The experience of failure can be very stressful in our success-oriented society. We tend to judge and be judged by the quantifiable results of our work. We need to remember that the most important thing is not numbers. When just one person repents and enters the kingdom of God, all heaven rejoices.

Read the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

The sower's business is to scatter the seed as widely as possible. Some will sprout and some will not, according to the soil upon which it falls. The sower is not responsible for the results, only for sowing the seed. God is only asking you to be the sower, just to plant seeds. You are not responsible for the growth... God is. Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-6. He has commissioned you to spread the Good News. Read Matthew 28:18-20.

Sharing the Good News should become the prime focus for each of us in our daily lives. In places where we least expect it, there may be pockets of receptive soil. We must be prepared to share the Gospel with anyone God puts in our path. We must not forget that the call to proclaim by word and example extends to every race, language, people and nation. If we cannot love our neighbor whom we see every day, how can we love our neighbor who is far away?

It is important to be involved in the wider mission of the church through our prayers for Christ's Church on Earth; including the Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, other churches, the missionary communities who bring the light of Christ to those who live in darkness, and especially the missionary endeavors sponsored by The Order. Perhaps you might become personally involved in one of the mission organizations of your Church. Whatever the specific ministry you undertake, it is important to expend part of your energy and resources on a ministry beyond your own church. Reaching out to others provides a way to live out the catholic (universal) and apostolic (sent out) nature of the church in your own life.

To paraphrase Rosalind Rinker from her book, *Sharing God's Love*:

Our responsibility is to be guided by the Holy Spirit as we seek to share God's love.  
God's responsibility is to strengthen us for his service.

Our responsibility is to believe that in Jesus Christ we have the answer all people seek.  
God's responsibility is to lead the person to Jesus.

Our responsibility is to prepare ourselves to share God's love.  
God's responsibility is to prepare the hearts of those with whom he leads us to share Jesus.

Our responsibility is to take the risk, to be willing to fail in trying to share God's love.  
God's responsibility is to redeem our honest mistakes.



## QUESTIONS FOR STUDY FOUR

(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)

1. Have you, in word or action, ever shared the Gospel with others? How did it go? When you think about doing it again how does it make you feel?
2. Why is it necessary for you to share the Good News with others?
3. Read Matthew 9:35-38, Mark 16:15-16, Galatians 6:7-10 and 1 Peter 3:15-13-17. Then summarize these readings into one statement.
4. Do you see the correlation between Matthew 28:18-20 and the *Mission of The Order* (found in the National Handbook)?
5. What is the difference between The Order of the Daughters of the King® and other organizations in your church?



## FOR YOUR ENRICHMENT

### EVANGELISM

“Each Daughter promises to make a conscientious and constant effort to live out the definition in her life, doing all she can through her words and deeds to bring others, especially women and girls, into a relationship with Jesus and into the fellowship of the church.”

(NH, Evangelism)



Grant Us, Lord God, the vision of your Kingdom, Forgiveness and new life,  
And the stirring of your Spirit So that we may share your vision,  
Proclaim your love and Change the world.  
In the Name of Christ  
Amen

Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
Make yourself known through me.  
Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
Speak through me to others.  
Amen



### ME WITNESS?

If Christ's love has warmed your home, tell someone.  
If in worship you have come close to God, declare it.  
If prayer has shown you the power of God, say so.  
If through Christ you have found forgiveness and the power to forgive, let someone know.  
If the church has given you a chance to serve the God you love, tell someone.  
If God has worked a miracle in your life, say so.  
Say so...in your business, to your friends, in your home, as you travel and while you play, through your church, with your lips, by your life.  
Whenever and wherever God gives you the chance, say so!  
No one else can be as effective a good news teller, an evangelist, to your friends as you can.  
With a genuine Christian you cannot tell where religion stops and living begins or where living stops and religion begins.

Anonymous

# STUDY FIVE

## *What is the Purpose of a Chapter?*

The purpose of a chapter is the spiritual support of its members in upholding their Rule of Life and carrying out the mission of The Order.

The work of the chapter is to:

1. Support its members in their spiritual growth by offering:
  - a. Fellowship/friendship/companionship, and solidarity with sisters in Christ
  - b. A sacred break from the rest of the world and the demands of life
  - c. Prayers and support for each other, the members of the parish, and the clergy
  - d. An opportunity to serve the church and community
2. Serve as a model of Christian community.
3. Prayerfully discern ways in which to support, participate in, and facilitate programs which promote spiritual growth.
4. Support the clergy by praying for them and partnering in ministry to promote the spiritual growth of their church.
5. Engage in intercessory prayer for their clergy, members of their Church, and members of their chapter.

Chapter meetings are held to enable members to reflect on their Rule of Life and how they are—or are not—living it out. Some important components of a chapter meeting are:

1. **SPIRITUAL SUPPORT.** Offer an opportunity to share stories of spiritual and personal growth, accountability in the keeping of our vows, Rule of Life, and spiritual practices in an environment of safety and Christian love. This should be the main focus of the meeting.
2. **A STUDY PROGRAM.** This is where Daughters learn and grow in their faith. The study may be a devotional and discussion, a scripture reading and discussion, or a guest speaker. *Continuing the Journey*, *The Strategic Plan Companion*, and the *National Study Guide* are excellent resources for study and may be found on the national website.
3. **PRAYER.** Begin and end each meeting with prayer. Some chapters have a brief meditation time or centering prayer. Other chapters form a prayer circle where everyone has a chance to offer their own prayers if desired. Additionally, prayer lists may be made and prayed over at the close of the meeting.
4. **The BUSINESS MEETING.** While very important, business should be kept to a minimum. Business can often be effectively transacted via email or phone outside of chapter meetings.
5. **FELLOWSHIP.** Set aside time to meet and greet one another at the beginning or end of the meeting. This may also include refreshments or a meal.

Not every meeting needs to have all of these components. When these components work harmoniously together, they create a community where every Daughter feels supported and strengthened.

These general rules should prevail at all chapter meetings to foster community.

- ✚ Start and end on time.
- ✚ Begin and end in prayer.
- ✚ Show courtesy and respect in what is said and how it is said.
- ✚ Stay on topic and listen to each other.
- ✚ Keep confidentiality on all levels at all times. This is vital for creating a safe and trusting environment.
- ✚ Keep topics relevant to spiritual growth, interesting, and focused on the goals of The Order.
- ✚ Daughters should be present, on time, and stay for the entire meeting whenever possible.

# *How Do We Become Community?*

The dictionary offers many definitions of the word *community*. It may be a social group that shares a common goal, a place where one lives, or an affiliation with others that share a common interest, affinity or need.

In terms of Christian community, a definition or explanation may go something like this: “a group of baptized people who meet together with Jesus as their head.”

A Christian community exists to glorify God, to provide strength for each other along the Christian way and to serve others in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Community was important to Jesus. Beginning with twelve, he established a well-organized community. Each was responsible to the other members and the group as a whole. They shared their lives and concerns. They submitted to one another in love and welcomed all who would do likewise. Christian community comes into being any time two or three gather regularly to journey with Jesus and put His teachings into action through prayer, study, service and evangelism. Daughters serve each other by listening, active helpfulness, and bearing with each other.

<sup>9</sup> *Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;* <sup>10</sup>*love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.* <sup>11</sup>*Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.* <sup>12</sup>*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.* <sup>13</sup>*Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.* <sup>14</sup>*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.* <sup>15</sup>*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.* <sup>16</sup>*Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.* <sup>17</sup>*Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.* <sup>18</sup>*If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* Romans 12:9-18

Community happens when each participant shows a willingness to accept all members just as they are and come together to grow in faith. Two things help make community come about – *commonality* and *commitment*. Within Daughters, two evidences of *commonality* are reflected in the vows we willingly take to wear our cross habitually and to live by a rule of life in prayer and service. A Daughter’s *commitment* will vary according to her ability. The commitment of time and self will determine both the strength and the vitality of the community. The more we “are willing to learn to know others and allow others to know us,” the greater will be the depth of the community. Community does not happen immediately but over a period of time and requires openness to each other and love for each other. Growth comes when we keep ourselves focused on the Holy Spirit, so that we neither get bogged down by our differences nor become inflated with our own importance.

It is not necessary for a woman to be a member of The Order to pray and serve in the church. The Order is a spiritual community in a busy world where women with similar interests can pray, study, share

together, affirm ministries and support each other. Members are present to each other in Christ's love.

It is important that we not forget what we are all about – women who have made a commitment to pray and work and give for the spread of Christ's kingdom. Through The Order we have many opportunities to form community as we share our talent, ability and gifts in service. While our participation at the chapter level is vital, participation at the diocesan and provincial levels enriches our view of community beyond our local chapter. Attending assemblies, conferences or retreats, or helping others to be able to do so, provides insight from the larger community. Participation beyond the parish nurtures a Daughter and her local chapter so that they can grow and flourish into all that God intended.

“Christian Community is solely this: we belong to one another through and in Jesus Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Life Together

*Give us true knowledge of others, in their difference from us and in their likeness to us, that we may deal with their real selves measuring their feelings by our own, but patiently considering their varied lives and thoughts and circumstances...*

*Excerpt from The Southwell Litany*



## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY FIVE**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)**

1. Why is it so important for Daughters to:
  - a. Regularly attend chapter meetings?
  - b. Attend assemblies and retreats at the Diocesan, Provincial and National levels?
2. How can I model Christ's life?
3. What should I do if I disagree with a member of the clergy in my Church?
4. Why is confidentiality so important in a chapter?
5. What personal commitment is required of you to become part of a community?
6. What is the commonality of The Order?
7. What are some ways you can strengthen, enrich and nurture your chapter's community?
8. How does serving and praying together strengthen community?



# STUDY SIX

## *The Funds of The Order*

The ministries in which Daughters are involved are as varied as their personalities and spiritual gifts: healing, evangelism, teaching, outreach, hospitality, welcoming newcomers, comforting the bereaved, food banks, soup kitchens, hospice and visiting the elderly, the sick, shut-ins, and those imprisoned. Members help sponsor Junior chapters, study groups, workshops, quiet days, retreats, and intercessory prayer groups. Daughters serve the church as Deacons, Lay Readers, Lectors, Altar Guild members, Sunday School Teachers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Vestry members. When Daughters hear the call of the Lord and are empowered by the Holy Spirit, they willingly do whatever is needed. In addition to serving as an individual, chapters should be serving in their church, Community, and International. The chapter, as a whole should decide where they are being called to serve and how to involve as many members as possible.

The *National Handbook* states that the fifth responsibility of every Daughter is “to participate in the offerings to the Funds of The Order.” Each Daughter has the opportunity and responsibility to further the ministry of The Order by supporting the Funds. The individual contributions, used collectively, provide the financial resources needed by The Order, “for the spread of Christ’s Kingdom.” It has been said that the reason the early Christians were such phenomenally successful evangelists was not because of their charisma and not because Christianity was such a palatable doctrine, but because they had discovered community and shared their lives, concerns, and resources through love in observable, visible actions.

The Order has four funds: the Self Denial Fund, the Master’s Fund, the Endowment Fund, and the Alpha Fund. Each has its mission and its own story.

### **The Self Denial Fund**

*Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two... Mark 6:6b-7a*

Members of The Order of the Daughters of King® have given generously since 1897! Because of their donations, the love of God has spread around the world through missions and missionaries. Read on for the history of how it all began and where we are today!

“The Lily Funsten Ward Memorial Fund,” known as the “Self Denial Fund,” was established by a resolution adopted at the fifth annual convention held in Washington, DC, in 1897. Miss Lily Funsten Ward, a Daughter of the King and a missionary in China, asked that a day be set aside for the celebration of Holy Communion with special intention for the church in China. In compliance with this request, it was resolved that a Self Denial Week be observed every year. At a subsequent convention held at Portland, Oregon, in September 1922, a resolution was adopted setting aside February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, as a special day for the ingathering of the Self Denial Fund. The Self Denial Fund supports missionaries and missions around the world. Self Denial Fund grants support missionaries and mission trips for both senior and Junior Daughters.”

**February 2nd is the ingathering day for the Self Denial Fund.**

### ***Prayer for the Self Denial Fund***

*O God, who summons the church and her faithful to be the messenger of your Gospel, receive the gifts of your Daughters to hasten your message of Love to the ends of the earth. Open our hearts and enable our service to reflect your glory, awakening the light of your presence in the lives of others. In the name, our Lord and King, Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves and our petitions. Amen.*

### **The Master's Fund**

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.* Matthew 5:16

The Order of the Daughters of the King® supports higher education in leadership development and service for Episcopal church-related careers for women. The Master's Fund was inaugurated at the Order's Triennial Convention in 1922 as a thank offering to be given at Pentecost in loving commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Master's Fund is intended to assist Daughters and other women to attend school to prepare for missionary and other church-related work. The emphasis is on the intended church-related career of the applicant, so that attendance at any accredited college, university or graduate school is permitted. Master's Fund scholarships will be limited to communicants of the Episcopal Church, of churches in communion with the Episcopal Church, or of churches with the Historic Episcopate but not in communion with it. Modest grants are made from available funds and are based on anticipated renewal grant needs and the number of applicants reviewed.

**Pentecost has been set aside for the ingathering of the Master's Fund.**

### ***Prayer for the Master's Fund***

*O heavenly Father, bless the prayers and the gifts we receive for the furtherance of your kingdom. Give both the giver, and the receiver of the gift, wisdom and guidance to listen for your will in their lives. By your grace, empower and prepare your servants for the work you give them to do. As they grow in the knowledge of you and Your Word, fill them with your peace, love, and joy and send them forth to meet the needs of a wanting world. May their work proclaim your goodness, build your kingdom, and be a blessing to all. For His Sake. Amen.*

### **The Endowment Fund**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'* Matthew 28: 18-20

The Endowment Fund was established in 1928 to further the work of The Order. The resolution that was then presented read "That a cumulative endowment fund be inaugurated by the National Council at this session, each member present contributing, such Fund to be a permanent trust fund. It shall be increased by bequests, thank offerings, memorials and other special gifts from persons believing in and desiring to forward the objectives of The Order of the Daughters of the King®." There are many reasons to contribute to this fund and it's now easier than ever!

**November 1st is the ingathering day for the Endowment Fund.**

This date was selected in honor of All Saints Day, a day when we remember all the saints who have come before us.

***Prayer for The Endowment Fund***

*Almighty God, giver of all gifts, we thank you for the generous giving to the Endowment Fund in loving remembrance, honor, and thanksgiving by members and friends of The Order. Guide us in the wise use of these funds, calling us to be ever mindful of those who will follow after us that, in good stewardship of your abundance, our work will glorify you and bless your creation. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.*

**The Alpha Fund**

*But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' Luke 18:16*

The Alpha Fund was established at the 2009 Triennial Convention in Anaheim, California. Named in honor of the first Junior Chapter, the Alpha Fund is used to provide financial support to Junior Daughter Directresses in their efforts to extend Christ's kingdom especially among young women and girls through the ministry of the Junior Daughters of the King.

**September 5th is the ingathering day for the Alpha Fund.**

This date was selected in honor of the day Mother Teresa died in 1997.

***Prayer for the Alpha Fund***

*O Lord Jesus, you said that when we welcome your children, we welcome you. Assist us in our work of guiding and safeguarding your children. May we learn from them the joy of being, the trust of what is real and purity of heart with which they see you. May we be strong companions for all Junior Daughters as they step into their truth and the future of The Order. For His Sake we pray together to prepare them for the journey. Amen.*

At the ingathering of each of the four Funds, the offerings are blessed at the altar. The funds are then forwarded to the National Office along with a "Contribution Form." Individual contributions may be made at any time online on the website. Gifts from those who are not Daughters are always welcomed and are a great help in funding domestic and international expansion of The Order and of our mission. For additional information, forms, and applications please visit the national website under: Support Our Mission.

## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY SIX**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)**

1. What is the “work of The Order”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do the Funds fit into the work of The Order?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. If you have the opportunity to serve with one of the Funds, which one would it be and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. List two reasons why you should support the Funds?
  - 1.
  - 2.



**PART FOUR:**  
**WHO WE ARE**  
*Marthas and Marys*



**Not to be Served,  
but to Serve**

Matthew 20:28



# STUDY SEVEN

## *Prayer and Study*

Prayer and Study are listed together here because they are symbiotic. Prayer undergirds study and study enriches prayer.

### WHAT IS THE RULE OF PRAYER?

In the Christian life nothing can be substituted for prayer. It is a Daughter's daily recourse of life and strength. Every member must have a rule of daily prayer. Communication with God must be a growing, deepening relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each Daughter's Rule of Prayer should be carefully considered and guarded. It should be prayerfully chosen, reviewed regularly and revised periodically.

Part of the Rule of Prayer is to pray daily:

- ✠ For the unity of Christ's church.
- ✠ For the spread of Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls.
- ✠ For God's blessing upon the members of The Order.
- ✠ For the spiritual growth of your church and its clergy.
- ✠ For the grace to follow your Rule of Life.

According to the 1891 Constitution of The Order, the original vow of Prayer was this: *"Each member pledges to pray daily for the spread of Christ's kingdom among young women, for God's blessing upon all the members of The Order, and for the prosperity of the parish to which her chapter owes allegiance."*

Daughters commit to the discipline of a Rule of Prayer and are obedient to it, even when they do not feel like praying. A Daughter has vowed to pray daily and makes prayer a top priority. Daughters should always be growing in their prayer lives. By reading and/or attending prayer seminars, retreats and quiet days, our prayer lives are nurtured and grow.

A Daughter who is preparing her Rule of Prayer should start with the definition of Prayer; prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words. True prayer requires two things: (1) opening one's mind and heart to God from whom the initiative in prayer comes and (2) responding in thought, word and deed to what we hear.

The Virgin Mary is a good example for Daughters. Read *Luke 1:26-38*. Mary was obedient, listened, and responded to God. Read other Bible stories of women and their response to prayer. Mary and Martha in *Luke 10:38-42*, Ruth in *Ruth 1:1- 4: 17*, Esther in *Esther 1:1- 7: 10*, Hannah in *Samuel 1:1-20*, Susannah in *Susannah 1:1-64*.

Our service must be the fruit of prayer. Read *John 15:1-8*. We are called to be the followers of Christ. Prayer helps us to know where He is leading us and opens us to His Spirit, allowing His power to work through us. Read *Ephesians 6:18* and *Romans 8:26*. Faithfulness in daily prayer demands commitment of time and energy. Time with God each day should be a priority. God encourages Daughters to grow in faith and communion through dialog with Him. *"Be still and know that I am God"* Psalm 46:10

## Prayer

*Almighty God, you know my needs before I ask, help me to pray according to your will and ask for those good things which I dare not, or in my blindness cannot ask. and grant them for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## How do chapters pray together?

They open each meeting with the Prayer for The Order and close with a prayer circle. They maintain a chapter prayer list. Every Daughter and clergy member should have a copy of the list. It is not a “news sheet.” **DO NOT DISCUSS THE PRAYER LIST. IT IS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.** Speak to your clergy or another Daughter if you need guidance about a certain situation. Your chapter may devise its own format for the prayer list. A good method is to begin “new” each month. This keeps the list current. An organized prayer chain is an effective way to communicate prayer needs between meetings.

## Guidelines for Intercessory Prayer

1. Find a quiet place to pray away from the imaginations, desires, burdens and distractions of the world.
2. Be still and empty your mind.
3. Start your prayers with praise and thanksgiving.
4. Ask God to forgive your sin, known and unknown.
5. Pray believing, expecting God to answer your prayers.
6. Do not limit God to what you believe the person’s needs are.
7. Accept God’s will for that person.
8. Be still and listen.

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalms 32:8*

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27*

9. End with praise and thanksgiving.
10. Pray in Jesus’ name.

Remember, your prayer list is confidential. You should never talk to anyone about the names on the list or their needs, not even the person you are praying for.

## Should the chapter serve as a parish prayer group?

Your chapter may or may not be called to be the parish prayer group. Some people have a special vocation in prayer. Therefore, your parish may already have an active prayer group. If so consider your parish blessed. Under this circumstance, the Daughter’s prayer group could be an effective instrument in the hands of the clergy for the spiritual up-building of the parish, for spreading Christ’s kingdom into the community and for crisis prayer needs.

## Why should a chapter pray as a community of faith?

In the Gospel of *Matthew*, 18:19-20, our Lord says, “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (NIV). Corporate prayer makes us aware of Jesus in our midst. To pray together strengthens us in our commitment.

There are more than 100 references to Prayer in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Jesus set an example for us by praying 38 times throughout the Gospels and there are additional references to Jesus praying in Acts and other books of the New Testament. If it weren’t so important it wouldn’t be in the Bible so many times.

*But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.* Matthew 6:6

*Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.* Matthew 26:41

*Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.* Luke 18:1

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* James 5:16

*But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit.* Jude 1:20

*Now during those days he (Jesus) went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles.* Luke 6:12-13

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* Philippians 4:6

Read “*Prayer Changes Me*” found in the Appendix of this study guide.

### ***Prayer***

*Prayer is so simple.*

*It is like quietly opening a door and slipping into  
the very presence of God.*

*There in the stillness*

*we can listen to His voice or even petition.*

*What we have to say matters not*

*just to be there...in His presence...is prayer.* (NH, Prayers and Meditations)

## **Study**

*Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* Hebrews 4:12

*"Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them ... "* Thomas Cranmer

The studying of God's word is the foundation on which we build our gift of faith. Holy Scriptures were written to give us an understanding of God and our relationship to him. To guide us on our life long journey. It is your instruction manual for life.

### **The Bible equips us to serve God**

*All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### **It helps us know how to be saved from our sin and its ultimate consequence**

*Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.* Psalms 25:4-5

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.* 2 Timothy 3:14-15

### **Meditating on God's Word and obeying its teachings will bring success in life**

*This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful.* Joshua 1:8

*But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.* James 1:25

### **God's Word helps us see sin in our lives and helps us get rid of it**

*How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. I treasure your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.* Psalm 119:9-11

### **It gives us guidance in life, making us wiser**

<sup>97</sup> *Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.* <sup>98</sup> *Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.* <sup>103</sup> *How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!* <sup>104</sup> *Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way.* <sup>105</sup> *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Psalms 119: 97-98. 103-105

The Bible is not merely for reading. It is a book for studying and meditation so that it can be

applied. Reading, studying, and meditating on Holy Scriptures helps us see beyond the attractiveness of the world around us. We should read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Bible because God does not change. It is as relevant for us today as it was when it was written.

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever. 1 John 2:15-17*

In addition to your daily scripture reading, a Daughter should be an active member of an ongoing Bible study group. Scripture studied in community will give you greater insight into a reading based on other member's life experiences, gifts, and knowledge.

Study also includes the reading of other books which have been inspired by God, such as the writings of Thomas Merton, Henry Nouwen, and N.T. Wright just to name a few. The selections of authors and topics is endless.

## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY SEVEN**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)**

1. Why do Daughters have a Rule of Prayer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What should be included in the Rule of Prayer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How do you feel about your present prayer life and how could you improve it so that it would better fit The Order's Rule of Prayer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why should you pray for someone who has hurt you, someone you are angry with or for your enemy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Why is it important to read scriptures daily?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Why is it important to be in a bible study group?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What other book have you read that brought you closer to God?



## FOR YOUR ENRICHMENT

### AN ORDER FOR DAILY PRAYER

You can begin your commitment to a Rule of Prayer now, joining in prayer with Daughters everywhere. Open with the Motto and the Prayer of The Order and then pray for the items listed in *The National Handbook* under the Rule of Prayer.

#### **Part of the Rule of Prayer is to pray daily:**

- ✝ For the unity of Christ's Church.
- ✝ For the spread of Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls.
- ✝ For God's blessings upon the members of The Order.
- ✝ For the spiritual growth of the parish and for the clergy of the parish to which the chapter owes allegiance.
- ✝ For the grace to follow our Rule and for our own needs.

#### **As you develop your personal Rule of Prayer, you may also be led to pray more specifically and by name:**

- ✝ For all churches that have Daughters chapters in the United States and other countries
- ✝ For all bishops and ministers and DOK chaplains
- ✝ For missionaries, seminarians, and for all who serve God in His Church
- ✝ For Daughters in your chapter
- ✝ For all Daughters throughout the world, including Junior Daughters, Daughters at Large and Daughters in preparation for admission
- ✝ For all DOK leaders: our National President and National Council; provincial, diocesan and chapter officers; Junior Directresses; the National Office staff
- ✝ For parishes seeking to establish chapters
- ✝ For the intercession list of your parish
- ✝ For your DOK chapter prayer list

**For more information on how important prayer is in fulfilling the mission of The Order, please read the *Pray Your Way into Their Story* booklet which is available on the website.**



# STUDY EIGHT

## *Service and Evangelism*

Service and Evangelism are listed together here because they are synonymous. The very act of serving others to show them God's love, is evangelism and when you are evangelizing you are serving God.

### WHAT IS MEANT BY THE RULE OF SERVICE?

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. Ephesians 2:8-10*

### THE MOTTO OF THE ORDER

*For His Sake . . .  
I am but one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
What I can do, I ought to do.  
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.  
Lord, what will you have me do?*

The ultimate objective of a chapter must be group and individual service for Christ. Through prayer, Daughters can find what work God has in mind for us. Daughters know that no job is more important than bringing others closer to Jesus Christ.

Daughters renew their baptismal covenant every time a new member joins the body of Christ in the church, both as a recommitment and as a reminder of who we are and what we are called to be as Christian women. As we renew our promises of faith, we do so with awareness of our need for God's help. *"I will, with God's help,"* acknowledges that we need more than just our own strength to carry out our ministry as Christians. If we serve others without being in relationship with God and being fed by His love, we burn out and can no longer be of help to anyone.

In the baptismal covenant we proclaim; that *"I will, with God's help proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ and to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself."* We do this by seeing Christ in everyone we meet. This is often hard to do. Yet we are commanded to love and serve everyone, just as Christ loves everyone in different ways. We may offer our presence, our resources, and our prayers on their behalf, our ability to listen, our compassion, or our time. The discovery of need is the first step in Christian service. Through the Rule of Service, a Daughter seeks daily to do the will of God where she is, remembering Jesus' words: *"Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these my children, you have done it unto me."* Any word or act, said or done, with the sincere purpose of bringing a soul nearer to Christ is an earnest effort and this makes the rule simple and practical. It means the dedication of a woman's common sense, sympathy, and influence to spread Christ's kingdom. The

rule of service is the application of one's baptismal covenant with God, which was reaffirmed at confirmation, to be Christ's faithful servant in the extension of his kingdom. You are Christ's hands and feet in the world so unless you are physically unable to serve then you should be out in the field spreading seeds. As important as prayer is it should not be considered your only service.

Service should be done on three levels as a chapter and as an individual;

### **In your Church**

In selecting a service to be done by your chapter in your church, it is important to discuss the following with your clergy:

- ✚ Will this service help in a real way to bring others to Christ?
- ✚ Is it a project being done by another parish group?
- ✚ Does it fit into the overall parish program?
- ✚ Is it something the whole chapter wants to do?
- ✚ Does the chapter have the potential means to do it successfully?

In selecting a service that you would like to do as an individual in your church, you should also discuss with your clergy where your particular gifts can best be utilized in the parish. If you are already involved in a church related service that you feel called to then you should continue with it.

### **In your Community**

In selecting a community service to be done by your chapter, it is important that the service is one that will involve as many members as possible. Remember that being in The Order is about being in community with your sisters so this service should be done as a group. This service should require actual participation out in the community and not just monetary support. It is important the chapter discuss the following:

- ✚ Will this service help in a real way to bring others to Christ?
- ✚ Is it something the whole chapter wants to do?
- ✚ Does the chapter have the potential means to do it successfully?
- ✚ Give everyone a chance to pray about it before making your final decision.

If you feel you are called to do individual community service then ask for God's guidance in choosing a service that you will feel comfortable doing and that God has given you the gifts to be successful.

### **In the World**

Your chapter can partner with its church or choose a world mission need of their own. This may be a monetary gift, or a collection of food, clothes, Bibles, or another specific need of a group they are trying to help. When choosing your world service remember that The Order emphasizes the spread of Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls. Not everyone is called to do individual world mission work but if you feel called, pray about it and then discuss your call with your clergy.

Another important aspect of service is the degree to which members are already engaged in other service activities. These members should be encouraged to continue their activities while remaining members of the chapter. Their spiritual support is important and needed. The discipline of The Order's Rule of Life has been instrumental in helping Daughters gain the confidence needed to begin assuming active and important roles in their church, community and in the world.

Although it is important that service be done in community with members of your chapter it is ultimately done through the ministry of the individual. It is also a fact that even in The Order some are more conscientious than others in carrying out the work they have all agreed upon. While this may be

discouraging, committed Christians dig deeper into their faith and find the strength to persevere.

*“Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?”*  
(Baptismal Covenant)

*Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.* Matthew 4:10b

*Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.* John 12:26

*But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me<sup>\*</sup> and to those in which I will appear to you.* Acts of the Apostles 26:16

*Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.* Romans 12:11

*The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval.* Romans 14:18

*Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.* Colossians 3:23-24

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.* 1 Peter 4:10

*Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.* 1 Peter 4:11

## **Collect**

*O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your son; Look with compassion on the whole human family; Take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; Break down the walls that separate us; Unite us in bonds of love and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; That, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# What is Evangelism?

Evangelism: (noun), preaching, spreading the word, spreading the gospel, telling the gospel message.

## The Great Commission

*Jesus said to them,  
'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news  
to the whole creation. Mark 16:15*

The definition of evangelism adopted by the Episcopal Church at the General Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1973, states: “*Evangelism is the presentation of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in such ways that persons may be led to believe in Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord within the fellowship of the church.*”

Evangelism comes from the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον (transliterated as *euangelion*) meaning, “to bring or proclaim good news.” The canonical titles of the Four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are also known as the Four Evangelists. An evangelist is a bearer of good tidings. To be a Christian evangelist is to be a bearer of the best news this world has ever heard in such ways that other persons may be led to believe in Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord within the fellowship of the church.

Each Daughter promises to make a conscientious and constant effort to live out the definition in her life, doing all she can through her words and deeds to bring others, especially women and girls, into a relationship with Jesus and into the fellowship of the church.

Through evangelism, we try to reach those who do not know the love of Jesus Christ. We make a conscious effort to reach out to those who are new in the community and looking for a church home, to those who are in hospitals, to shut-ins and to those in sorrow or personal trouble. We do all we can to help newcomers experience God’s love through the fellowship of the church. Daughters recognize that our faith is not to be a private faith hidden in our hearts. Our faith is to be lovingly and joyously proclaimed so that Jesus Christ, lifted up in our lives and in our words, might draw all to God, that all might experience his love and saving grace.

## What does the word evangelism mean to you?

Your job is not to save people, that’s God’s job. Your job is just to let others know of God’s saving love through word and example, as God gives you the opportunity.

## QUESTIONS FOR STUDY EIGHT

(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)

1. What should be every chapter's corporate Rule of Service?
2. What process should a chapter follow before undertaking any service project?
3. How can participation in church groups such as Altar Guild, Choir, Lay Eucharistic Ministry, contribute to your spiritual growth?
4. List any service activities in which you are already involved that could become a part of your personal Rule of Service.
  - a. In your church
  - b. In your community
  - c. In the world
5. List service activates you feel the chapter might become involved in as a group.
  - a. In your church
  - b. In your community
  - c. In the world
6. How can I show forth my "faith in action" toward others?
7. On which of the three levels of service do I need to improve?
8. Do I remember to pray as I serve and serve as I pray?



# STUDY NINE

## *What is a Rule of Life?*

A Rule of Life is a self-imposed discipline that is practiced daily by an individual in spiritual matters; a pattern of regular and seasonal devotions, both private and public; a commitment intelligently and prayerfully considered. This rule leads to a pattern of Christian fellowship personally, in chapter groups, and in corporate worship. It sets apart The Order from other church organizations. Living under a rule of life brings us into a strong sense of companionship with Christ. You should begin to think about formulating a Rule of Life that is particularly suited to you. The rule should be flexible and adaptable to accommodate changing circumstances and growth in your life. Start simply. Do not be overzealous. Pray and ask for God's guidance. As you begin to implement your Rule of Life, remember to guard your thoughts and curb your tongue from boasting about your good works. Read James 3.

“...the Rule of Life is a balanced approach to life, designed to make room for worship, reflection and caring: the real ultimates of our lives.

Living a rule begins with the decision to take time for what is most important. At the beginning or during periodic crisis times, the time we take may not be enough to fit in all the observations and details of the Rule. So be it. But the priority must remain: to take the time to attend to God, to the meaning of my life, and to what God wants my life to mean. The center of the Rule is not the exact observance of the Rule's prescriptions – it is to take time.

The decisions involved in balancing the obligations of your life and the obligations of a Rule are not easy. Each of us come regularly to the point where we feel that, for the sake of those who depend on us, for the sake of the richness of our life, for the sake of our family, for the sake of our job, there is just no time to pray. This regularly recurring crisis is what the Rule is for – to remind us of the difficult and painful truth – those who take time, have time.”

Excerpted from notes of Fr. Bede Thomas Mudge, OHC,  
Mundi Medicini, Spring 1991 issue.

Your personal Rule of Life should incorporate the two parts of the Daughter's Rule of Life, the Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service

**Please read *The Daughters' Rule of Life* found in the National Handbook**

Part of the Rule of Prayer is to pray daily:

- ✠ For the unity of Christ's Church.
- ✠ For the spread of Christ's kingdom, especially among women and girls.
- ✠ For God's blessing upon the members of The Order.
- ✠ For the spiritual growth of the church and for the clergy of the church to which the chapter owes allegiance.
- ✠ For the grace to follow your Rule of Life.

Part of the Rule of Service is:

- ✠ To be Christ's faithful servant in the extension of his kingdom.
- ✠ To regularly take a part in the worship, study and work of the church.
- ✠ To render at all times aid to the clergy as deemed necessary for the spiritual development

of the church.

A Rule of Life is a considered pattern of activities designed to embody and focus our relationship with God.

A Rule of Life may be thought of as:

- ✠ a covenant between God and me
- ✠ a way to provide “prime time” for God in my life
- ✠ the routine side of loving God
- ✠ that which I can use to focus my Christian walk

Observing a Rule of Life:

- ✠ gives a high priority to our religious dimension
- ✠ acknowledges that rhythm is the key to vigorous life
- ✠ provides assurance in periods of spiritual dryness
- ✠ develops inner strength and resources for times of supreme stress and testing
- ✠ facilitates gathering with other believers in order to celebrate our common life in Christ, expressing the social dimension of faith

## **HOW TO LIVE OUT YOUR RULE OF LIFE**

### **A Discipline of Christian Ideals of Prayer, Study and Action**

#### **DAILY DISCIPLINE**

Establish a regular time each day for quiet prayer and study. Let it be as essential to you as your pattern of eating. If we did not eat we would sicken and die. Spiritual nutrition is no less vital. Have your time with God whether you particularly feel like it or not. This kind of determination makes the difference! Though prayers are essential throughout the day and into the evening, it is good to begin each day with devotions. We invoke God into our daily pursuits as the day begins. It makes all the difference as we work, meet people, relate to our families, and encounter temptation.

#### **QUIET**

Spend the first part of your devotions in quiet, “Be Still and Know.” Too often we approach God in an attitude of impatience, with a form of spiritual activism. We need to practice the joy of simply being in His presence, seeking nothing except just to be with Him. Try to find a quiet place. Noise and confusion are obvious enemies of inner peace. There still may be noise within our spirit and we need to offer that up to the Lord. Do not begrudge time spent in quiet. It is productive, for God is beginning to arrange the disarray of your life as he comes into your being.

#### **PRAYER**

It is artificial to distinguish between quiet and prayer, but for the sake of progression in our devotions, we need to understand that God, whom we know as the compassionate Christ, is ready to hear us. He is the one who said, “Ask and you shall receive, seek and you will find, knock and it shall be opened to you.”



Therefore, take time to speak to Him, even to cry out from the depths of some need. In a productive Rule of Life, it is good to have a pattern of prayer that allows for breadth. One helpful pattern is that of using the word “ACTS.”

- ✠ **Adoration** - Spend time simply telling the Triune God of your love for him and your joy in being in his Presence.
- ✠ **Confession** - Offer God your sin. Sin is not simply what we have done or left undone; it is our lapse of trust in God in the totality of our lives.
- ✠ **Thanksgiving** - Consider the Lord’s gracious forgiveness. Ask for a spirit of gratitude so that all you do will be done not for duty’s sake but as a joyful act of thanksgiving.
- ✠ **Supplication** - Our lives are intertwined with others and in love we lift them up before God.

Pray for the members of your family. If you do not, who will? Pray for the needs of those whom Christ places before your vision who are your neighbors, whether near or far. Pray for your larger family, which is the Church; remember always your clergy. So often we leave these prayers to formal liturgical acts on Sunday. Bring your needs before God. If it is worthy, he will honor your prayer, if it is unworthy, God will deal with you in love and patient correction. Remember, personal piety always leads us to corporate prayer.

## STUDY AND MEDITATION

Spend time in prayerful study, preferably with the Holy Scriptures. St. Paul said, “Have this mind in you which is in Christ Jesus.” To have the mind of Christ is to come to know him more and more intimately in the Gospel narratives. This is essential in coming to have more assurance about doing everything according to his will. We need to be able to ask ourselves in all that we think or do, “Is this the way of Christ?” Studying the Bible with openness to the illumination of the Holy Spirit, we will come more and more into an awareness of his loving and righteous response to all things. Read systematically, not sporadically. Progress slowly, meditatively, through portions of scripture on a day-to-day basis. Do not worry about passages you do not understand. Rather underline what you do understand. Let that shape your thinking and living. God has a way of making the more difficult passages clearer when we need to hear them. Use a daily devotional guide if you feel the need for a directed approach to your study.

## ALL THROUGH THE DAY

“This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” As we leave our devotions and launch into each day, we need to go forth with a strong sense of the companionship of Christ. We do not leave this to a chance encounter.

We make a conscious recognition of him throughout the day. There is nothing so great or trivial in your life that you cannot refer to Christ. In our Rule of Life, we are taking seriously the promise of Christ, “Lo, I am with you always.”

## PRAYER GROUPS & STUDY GROUPS

Small groups offer fellowship. Groups who gather for prayer or study are important in a Rule of Life, especially those who have shared an experience of renewal in Christ. If there is not a prayer group or study group already active that you can join, form one of your own! Select a simple Bible study or prayer study guide for direction. It only takes two or three people to begin. Let Christ be the leader, if you want to grow in piety, study and action. “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

## **WORSHIP**

Remembering that the spiritual life of a Christian always leads into the whole experience of the Body of Christ, a Rule of Life always includes the corporate worship of the church. The person who practices a Rule of Life comes to the liturgical acts of Church with a fervor that makes them alive and ignites the faith of others. What a difference in the hymning, praying and communing of the daily Christ-bearer from those who come perfunctorily with no great expectation! Though it is almost unthinkable that weekly worship would become an effort, the same discipline applies here as in daily prayer, worship God whether you feel like it or not. In our discipleship we are called to live above the level of feeling – on the level of responsive obedience. Holy Communion is a command: “Do this,” Christ said. Sacramental means of grace becomes power for action.

## **ACTION**

Action is always a part of a Rule of Life. You are led from what could be sentimentality to a life of service. It obviously reaches into your stewardship. The tithe is a simple response to the Lord who has given you everything. Action has to do with your willingness to share what you have been given in both your time and talent. The church should be able to see a direct relationship between a new life in Christ and a life of offering. Remember that giving includes sharing with others what Christ means to you. Witnessing for Christ is, indeed, a reflection of what you are becoming as Christ walks with you daily. It includes the unaffected speaking forth to others concerning the goodness of God. Others hunger for Christ’s love and the life of assurance and serenity that he offers. Be willing to express your faith to those whom God puts in your path.

Your Rule of Life is not meant to be a static document but an ever evolving one. Spiritual growth and life changes will require adjustments to be made. You will need to review your Rule of Life periodically to keep it current and give order to your spiritual life.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITING YOUR RULE OF LIFE

*Each person's Rule of Life is different. It should never be a burden, so try not to take on more than you can handle at first and then slowly grow into your full Rule.*

**Daily time for Prayer and Study** \_\_\_\_\_ (am or pm)

### Prayer

#### To pray daily for:

1. The unity of Christ's Church.
2. The spread of Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls.
3. God's blessing upon the members of The Order and the work of The Order.
4. The spiritual growth of my church and for the clergy.
5. Answered prayers and thanksgivings.
6. Pray for the names on the:
  - a. Church prayer list.
  - b. Chapter list.
  - c. My family and friends.
7. My own needs and the grace to follow my Rule of Life.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (other.)

### Study

1. Read scripture daily from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Read daily from \_\_\_\_\_ (devotionals, or other materials which will draw me closer to God.)
3. Attend weekly worship service and Eucharist.
4. Attend a weekly group bible study \_\_\_\_\_.

### Service

1. Serve as \_\_\_\_\_ at church.
2. Participate in chapter outreach projects.
3. Participate in \_\_\_\_\_ (community service.)
4. Participate in and/or support the missionary work of your chapter, your church, your diocese \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (other.)

## Evangelism

1. Be ready to share God's saving grace and love as he gives me the opportunity.
2. Be ready explain the Daughter's cross when asked about it.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (other.)

## Responsibilities

1. Wear the cross of The Order habitually.
2. Pay my annual dues promptly.
  - a. National dues \$\_\_\_\_\_ (due each year by September 1<sup>st</sup>.)
  - b. Chapter dues \$\_\_\_\_\_ (due each year by September 1<sup>st</sup>.)
3. Give to the Funds of The Order, annually.
  - a. Alpha (September 5<sup>th</sup>.)
  - b. Endowment (November 1<sup>st</sup>.)
  - c. Self Denial (February 2<sup>nd</sup>.)
  - d. Masters (Pentecost.)
4. Regularly attend and participate in:
  - e. Chapter meetings.
  - f. Diocesan assemblies.
  - g. Provincial assemblies (when possible.)
  - h. National Triennial (when possible.)
5. Periodically review my Rule of Life.

Date written \_\_\_\_\_

Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

Date revised \_\_\_\_\_

## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY NINE**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)**

1. What two parts of The Order's Rule of Life are stated in the National Handbook?
2. What are your thoughts about a personal Rule of Life – your covenant with God?
3. In formulating your personal Rule, it is helpful to define it in writing. Write your personal Rule of Life and review it periodically.
4. How does your Rule of Life help you in fulfilling your Christian duty?



## FOR YOUR ENRICHMENT

### A SPIRITUAL CHECKLIST FOR MY RULE OF LIFE

#### **PRAYER** “*Without Me you can do nothing*”

What spiritual helps brought me closer to Christ this week?

Morning Prayer  
Personal Devotions  
Holy Communion  
Act of Restitution  
Family Prayer  
Spiritual Direction  
Examination of Conscience  
Meditation  
Altar Visit  
Confession  
Prayer Group  
Evening Prayer  
Other

#### **STUDY** “*If you knew the gift of God*”

What have I studied this week in order to better know Christ and His Mystical Body?

Scripture Reading  
Study Group  
Scriptural Books and Periodicals  
Special meditations and prayers  
Other studies

#### **ACTION** “*I will make you fishers of men*”

What did the Lord accomplish through me this week?

With what disappointment did the Lord test my discipleship this week?  
Do I have a plan of Christian witness?  
Am I willing to share my faith story?  
Am I willing to help someone regain or strengthen their faith?  
Am I willing to help my church in its ministry?

## PART FIVE: REACHING OUT TO SERVE



**WOMEN JOINED IN PRAYER  
FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD**



# STUDY TEN

## *How Daughters Are Empowered to Serve*

### The Sevenfold Gift of the Holy Spirit

In the **Prayer of The Order** we ask God to “Pour out upon us the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit”. What is the Sevenfold Gift of the Holy Spirit? Do we really understand what we are asking? Where do we find it referenced in the Bible?

**Isaiah 11: 1-3 is known as the Messianic Prophecy.**

**Isaiah 11:2 reveals:**

*The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

As many Hebrew/Arabic words have multiple meanings the Greek translation of this Old Testament verse added the seventh attribute, godliness or piety:

*And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom, and of understanding, the spirit of counsel, and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge, and of godliness. And he shall be filled with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.*

The Sevenfold Gift of the Holy Spirit is a single gift with seven attributes. It was given to Jesus at his baptism in fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah. Also given to us, they are infused into our inmost being at the moment of our baptism. As we grow spiritually and as our faith matures so this gift of the Holy Spirit evolves within. It is a gift that is continuous and permanent when nurtured. It is an ever-increasing awareness.

- ✠ **WISDOM** - the awareness of God's love.
- ✠ **UNDERSTANDING** - the awareness of who God is.
- ✠ **COUNSEL** - communication with God.
- ✠ **FORTITUDE or MIGHT** - fully triumphant living.
- ✠ **KNOWLEDGE** - the awareness of God's existence.
- ✠ **GODLINESS or PIETY** - acknowledging our need of God.
- ✠ **FEAR OF THE LORD** - the awareness of God's presence within us.

How this Sevenfold Gift is manifest in our lives?

At Baptism, as we are surrounded by the love of others who commit to support us in our new life, the initial gift of **WISDOM** or awareness of God's love is received. Our **UNDERSTANDING** of who God is and our need for a relationship with him becomes clear. Through **COUNSEL** the Holy Spirit opens two-way communication with God to guide us in our daily lives. In prayer we can praise God, thank God, confess our sin, communicate our wants and needs, and in silence we can listen and await love's response. With the grace of **FORTITUDE or MIGHT**, we are given the strength to walk in faith, trusting God's path to triumphant and joyous living. Through **KNOWLEDGE** we become aware of God's presence and existence in us and all creation. **TRUE GODLINESS or PIETY** helps us acknowledge our need of God and inspires within us the desire to seek first the kingdom of God, to put God first in our lives. With **THE**

**FEAR OF THE LORD, or HOLY FEAR** we become aware of God's spirit within us, his constant presence, so that we watch what we think, do, or say in order to become who he created us to be.

Each time the Sevenfold Gift is poured out on us it is given on a higher, yet deeper level. God's will for our lives becomes clearer. As the gift increases, so our faith grows.

*Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.* Philippians 3:12

## The Gifts of the Spirit

In contrast to the Sevenfold Gift of the Holy Spirit, the **Gifts of the Spirit** are multiple and are indications of God's presence at work in us at varying degrees and forms. They are given as needed, allowing us to accomplish the work of the Kingdom.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6  
Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Note that in verse 8 we are not given the gifts of wisdom and knowledge. Those are given with the Sevenfold Gift of the Holy Spirit. In this Scriptural passage, the Spirit gives the **UTTERANCE** of wisdom and knowledge - the ability to talk to others about God with love.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-28  
Read Romans 12:6-7

In Romans 11:29 Paul tells us *"the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."* You can't give them back.

## The Gift ~ A Story

There was a girl named Mary who had a best friend, Carol. Mary and Carol grew up together. They went off to college together, and Carol was there at Mary's wedding. Things changed and Mary moved away, but Mary still kept in contact with her best friend and from time to time, Mary would call Carol, especially when she needed to talk to someone who knew her well.

Each year Carol would send Mary a gift, one that Carol had carefully chosen just for her. Carol would wrap it in the most beautiful paper, decorate it with ribbon and send it to Mary.

When Mary received the gift, she would thank Carol but never said much more than that. So, Carol never really knew if Mary liked the gifts or not. It was very disconcerting.

Years went by before Carol was able to make arrangements to come visit Mary. When she arrived, Mary greeted her warmly and said, "I'm almost ready. Just put your coat in the closet there, and I'll fix us a cup of tea. Then we can just sit and catch up on each other's lives." Carol walked over to the closet and opened the door. There before her were shelves filled with all the beautiful gifts she had sent Mary, **unopened!** She just stood there, frozen, looking at all the gift-wrapped boxes.

When Mary came back into the room and found Carol staring at the gifts, she said to her, "Aren't they stunning? They were just too beautiful to unwrap, so I put them on the shelves and I can look at them whenever I want."

What is your reaction to this story? How would you respond to Mary?

God sends you beautiful gifts too. Do you open them or do you tuck them away? You have the freedom to choose not to open or use the gifts that are given, but God will continue nudging, giving us the gift until we open it, waiting for us to share it for the common good.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

Read Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-13

We are given these gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ. We are endowed so that we can “be like Christ, to be his hands and feet in the world.” Now reread 1 Corinthians 12 in its entirety. So, what is this “**more excellent way?**”

## **The Fruits of the Spirit**

The Fruits of the Spirit are wonderful gifts of virtues bestowed on us when we open and use our Gifts of the Spirit. They are reservoirs of wholeness freely given for the healing of the world.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – God’s poetry of love.

Read Galatians 5:22

Read James 3:17

As you welcome and live the Gifts of the Spirit, the Fruits of the Spirit will flourish in your daily living. If it appears the Fruits are not made manifest in your daily living, take it to prayer and await the Spirit’s prompting. There may be gifts in you that are unrealized, and unknown to you, they need to be awakened and offered for the common good.

God has a plan for your life and will empower you with gifts uniquely your own to fulfill that plan. Pray for revelation. Listen with the ear of your heart, step forward in faith and trust God to bring them to fruition in your life.

# ***Some Gifts of the Spirit***

**Each gift is equally valuable**

*utterance of wisdom  
utterance of knowledge  
faith  
healing  
working of miracles  
prophecy  
discernment of spirits  
various kinds of tongues  
interpretation of tongues  
apostleship  
teaching*

*deeds of power  
assistance  
leadership  
hospitality  
advisor or counselor  
encourager  
giver  
generosity  
diligence  
compassion  
cheerfulness*

## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY TEN**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)**

1. What is God's purpose for the giving of Spiritual gifts?
2. What distinguishes gifts, services and activities?
3. What happens when you do not use a Gift that God has given you?
4. What Gift of the Spirit have you opened and offered to others?
5. How have you used your Gift to shine the Light of Christ in the world?
6. Is there a Gift of the Spirit you have not recognized or been afraid to open?
7. How might God be calling you to use that gift?

## **FOR YOUR ENRICHMENT**

- ✝ **LOVE** – agape love completely centered on the Lord
- ✝ **JOY** – true joy in realizing God’s love for us
- ✝ **PEACE** – an inner calm and order
- ✝ **PATIENCE** – awaiting God’s timing
- ✝ **KINDNESS** – seeking the best for another
- ✝ **GENEROSITY** – giving freely of our whole life
- ✝ **FAITHFULNESS** – reliable and trustworthy
- ✝ **GENTLENESS** – strength not passive – firm living with care
- ✝ **SELF CONTROL** – inward strength in obedience to the Spirit



# STUDY ELEVEN

## Called to Humility

This chapter on Humility is an addition to our 2020 National Study Guide. It serves as a reminder that we are called to follow Jesus and his life of true humility. Ultimately, Jesus humbled himself even to death on the cross. Likewise, we are called to humble ourselves throughout life, avoiding thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought, putting ourselves above others, and being arrogant. We should strive to love ourselves as Jesus loves us, to love others as Jesus loves them, and to respect the dignity of every person.

*<sup>2</sup>Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments... <sup>16</sup>and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good.* Deuteronomy 8:2, 16

Humility is the quality of being humble, which is the absence of pride or arrogance, and understanding that you are not greater or lesser than others. Being humble does not mean that you need to become weak, gullible, or submissive. In fact, most people who practice humility are strong, confident individuals with great leadership skills, like Jesus.

Saint Benedict set down 12 steps of humility in his Holy Rule for those who live under the discipline of a Rule of Life. Below are two versions of these steps. On the left are St. Benedict's original rules, adapted slightly for relevance to The Order. On the right are the rules outlined by Joan Chittister, a nun of the Order of Saint Benedict, from her book *Radical Spirit*.

As you read through the twelve steps, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you deeper into what humility looks like for you personally. Try to see how the practice of each step will bring you into a closer walk with Jesus and a more loving relationship with your sisters in The Order.

# 12 Steps of Humility

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
1	<p><u>Keep the fear of God always before you.</u></p> <p>Have a reverent knowledge of God through prayer and the study of God's word.</p>	<p><u>Recognize that God is God.</u></p> <p>"God is a presence to be recognized. The first step of humility starts at the center, the core, the desired end of spiritual life. It starts with the contemplative and consciousness of the MYSTERY that is the only reason, the only possibility of ever developing a truly spiritual life." (Page 36)</p>
<p><i>But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at my word. Isaiah 66:2b</i></p> <p><i>Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts, and humble themselves before him. Ecclesiasticus 2:17</i></p> <p><i>If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.</i> 2 Chronicles 7:14</p>		

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
2	<p><u>Put God's will for your life before your own will and do not take pleasure in the satisfaction of your desires.</u></p> <p>Trust that God's plan for your life is better than anything you can imagine or wish for.</p>	<p><u>Know that God's will is best for you.</u></p> <p>"If and when doing the will of God becomes the compass point of my life, no amount of effort toward it can ever be too much, no road to its accomplishment too long. The second step frees me to realize that life's singular purpose is becoming what I was created to be – co-creators with the God of Life." (Page 52)</p>
<p><i>They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. Psalm 1:3</i></p> <p><i>Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. Psalm 37:7</i></p> <p><i>All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted. Matthew 23:12</i></p>		



Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
3	<p><u>Submit to the authority that God has placed above you.</u></p> <p>Have a willing yet discerning respect for those placed in authority over you.</p>	<p><u>Seek direction from wisdom figures.</u></p> <p>“Obedience is not for its own sake; it is for the preservation of the law of God ... it is humility, our total commitment to the glory and the will of God...that keeps us anchored to the mind of God.” (Page 70)</p>
<p><i>Then He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” Matthew 22: 21</i></p> <p><i>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:10</i></p>		

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
4	<p><u>Be obedient even under difficult, unfavorable, or even unjust conditions.</u></p> <p>Endure adversity patiently and calmly.</p>	<p><u>Endure the pains of development and do not give up.</u></p> <p>“Endurance is the cement of human development...one assurance we have those human beings are capable of becoming fully human and can change. By willing to put our personal power down in favor of someone else’s vision and experience, we pledge to benefit from the power and goodness of others.” (Pages 86-87)</p>
<p><i>He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:8</i></p> <p><i>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7</i></p>		

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
5	<p><u>Confess any sinful thoughts or wrongs committed whether done openly or in secret.</u></p> <p>Be willing to acknowledge and repent of your sin.</p>	<p><u>Acknowledge faults and strip away the masks.</u></p> <p>“Without the process of self-revelation and the genuine humility it brings, we doom ourselves to go on hiding within ourselves forever. With the courage of self-revelation, the humility that comes frees us for the fullness of life.” (Page 102)</p>
<p><i>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. Romans 10:10</i></p> <p><i>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8</i></p>		

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
6	<p><u>Be content with what you have and what you are given.</u></p> <p>You have been given the gifts and abilities needed to accomplish the work God has given you to do; do not be jealous of others' gifts.</p>	<p><u>Be content with less than the best.</u></p> <p>“The sixth step of humility, to be ‘content with the lowest and most menial treatment,’ frees us from our false selves. Now we can take life as it comes, full of the personal peace that comes with being relieved of the burden of the superfluous, the inauthentic, the masquerade. It is this kind of humility that is the ground of our growth, the height of our spiritual selves, the best we have to give to the world.” (Page 118)</p>
<p><i>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. James 3: 13</i></p> <p><i>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29</i></p>		

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
7	<p><u>Admit not only in your words but also with your heart that you are not the center of your life or of those around you.</u></p> <p>Put God first in your life, and be open to learning God's ways. Make God the center of your life.</p>	<p><u>Let go of a false sense of self.</u></p> <p>"The seventh step of humility is the self-knowledge, the self-acceptance I need to believe in growth and compassion both for myself and for others. It is here at the seventh step of humility that we finally learn not to say any longer 'That's the way I am.' Now we are able to say with great good will and certain faith, 'There is more that I can become.'" (Page 133)</p>
<p><i>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33</i></p> <p><i>For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite. Isaiah 57:15</i></p>		

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
8	<p><u>Be in community with others and do not draw attention to yourself.</u></p> <p>Community is about the common good. Be a good listener and a reflection of Christ's love.</p>	<p><u>Preserve tradition and learn from the community.</u></p> <p>"Our communities are the world in microcosm. It's in them that we can see the value of tradition and the depth of communal wisdom. Groups shake off the dry leaves of the past. They prune the tree of the tradition over and over again so that in every age it lives on. The order, the tradition, moves on from generation to generation, growing here, being pruned there, always adapting to the soil in which it's planted. And so do we as people." (Page 152)</p>
<p><i>The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so, you will find favor in the sight of the Lord. Ecclesiasticus 3:18</i></p> <p><i><sup>18</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' <sup>2</sup>He called a child, whom he put among them, <sup>3</sup>and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven <sup>4</sup>Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14</i></p>		

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
9	<p><u>Control your tongue.</u></p> <p>Be aware of how your words affect others. Use your words for building up, spreading Christ's kingdom, and for praising God.</p>	<p><u>Listen.</u></p> <p>"The ninth step of humility frees us from making a shrine to ourselves. It connects us. It refuses to allow us to cut ourselves off from the part of creation we were born to bless with our openness. It is through a listening silence that we ourselves gain wisdom from the words and ideas of others." (Page 166)</p>
<p><i>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. James 1:26</i></p> <p><i>But no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. James 3:8-10</i></p> <p><i>For those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; 1 Peter 3:10</i></p>		

Step	St. Benedict	Joan Chittister
10	<p><u>Do not make jokes or laugh at the expense of others.</u></p> <p>Laughter that delights in the Lord and in others is a gift from God. Always be kind and take into account the feelings of others.</p>	<p><u>Never ridicule anyone or anything.</u></p> <p>"The spiritual point of the tenth step of humility is that humility walks through life softly, kindly, caringly, and with a dignity that refuses to stoop to pornographic laughter. And because of it, we are all better, all kinder, all happier, all freer, all more full of the love of life." (Page 179)</p>
<p><i>You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22:37-40</i></p> <p><i>Do not ridicule a person who is embittered in spirit, for there is One who humbles and exalts. Ecclesiasticus 7:11</i></p>		

<b>Step 11</b>	<b>St. Benedict</b>	<b>Joan Chittister</b>
	<p><u>Be gentle and loving towards others and do not raise your voice.</u></p> <p>See others as beloved children of God. Try to understand where they are coming from and treat them with dignity and respect.</p>	<p><u>Speak kindly.</u></p> <p>“The eleventh step of humility is about coming to realize the real worth and skill and gift to humankind of every person I see. It’s about beginning to understand that every person we meet is a gift of wisdom to us. We have something to learn from each of them. And we have something everyone we meet needs from us: a sense of value, a deep-down respect, a genuine admiration, a recognition of their contribution to the world.” (Page 192)</p>
<p><i>Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called.</i> 1 Peter 3: 8-9</p> <p><i>And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ 1 Peter 5:5</i></p>		

<b>Step 12</b>	<b>St. Benedict</b>	<b>Joan Chittister</b>
	<p><u>Be humble.</u></p> <p>You are a beloved child of God. Behave in a way that all you think, do, and say is pleasing in God’s sight, For His Sake.</p>	<p><u>Be serene, stay calm.</u></p> <p>“The twelfth step of humility is about living an integrated life, a life in which each part is in harmony with every other dimension. What we think, what we say, and the way we go about life cannot be well lived when they are in opposition to one another.” (Pages 201-202)</p>
<p><i>for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.” Luke 18: 9-14</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.</i> Ephesians 5: 1-2</p>		

## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY ELEVEN**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)**

1. Why does God call us to a life of humility?
2. Which of the 12 Steps of Humility do you think will be the most difficult for you to follow and why?
3. Why would humility be such an important attribute to have as a member of The Order?



**PART SIX:**  
**ARE YOU CALLED TO THE ORDER?**





# STUDY TWELVE

## *What is the Next Step?*

### Are You Called?

The emphasis of the *National Study Guide* has been focused on the history of The Order, its aim, purpose, and what makes Daughters special and unique. We hope you have begun to understand the depth of The Order's Rule of Life and the vows you will be taking at the Service of Admission.

**Please read *Are You Called to Become a Member of The Daughters of the King?* Found in the National Handbook.**

Remember, not everyone is called to be a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King®. If you are called you will be making a lifelong vow to God. The way of The Order is a narrow path which requires prayers and spiritual direction to discern.

### Spiritual Direction

There are people in your church (clergy and laity), in The Order, and in your life, who have been given the gift of the "utterance of wisdom," the "utterance of knowledge," and/or the "discernment of spirits." Take time to sit down with one of these people and talk about your call.

### How to Apply for Membership in The Order

We will now look at the mechanics of becoming a member of The Order. At the conclusion of the preparation period, the study guide leader will coordinate with the group, the chapter president, the diocesan assembly president, and the clergy to determine a date for the Service of Admission and/or Service of Institution. **The chapter president or the study leader** will then mail the completed form(s) to the National Office, along with your payment for a new member packet. The price of the new member packet includes the admission fee, dues, and your choice of The Order's cross.

#### **If you are becoming a member at a church with an established chapter:**

- ✠ You must complete the *National Study Guide*.
- ✠ You must complete the Application for Senior Membership.
- ✠ You must pay for the new member packet.

#### **If you are becoming a member at a church that is forming a new chapter:**

- ✠ You must complete the *National Study Guide*.
- ✠ You must complete the Application for Senior Membership.
- ✠ You must pay for the new member packet
- ✠ The group must select a name for the chapter.
- ✠ The group must select officers to begin serving when the chapter is instituted.
- ✠ The group must submit a Charter Application.

The chapter name may be the same as your church or it may be that of a saint or another inspirational model, traditional or contemporary; two examples are Julian of Norwich and Mother Teresa. A great deal of information on starting a chapter can be found in *The Chapter Manual*, available for purchase from the National Office or on the website.

The *National Handbook* is the guide to being well informed and a constant source of information for all members and officers. Below is an abbreviated outline of its contents.

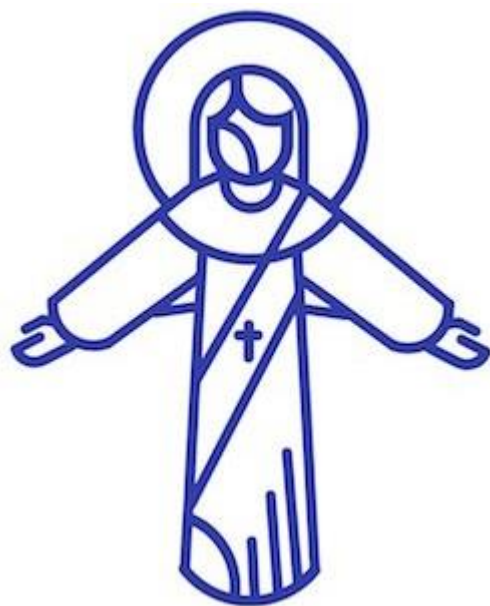
- THE ORDER'S MISSION AND VISION
- RULES, EVANGELISM
- DUTIES, PRAYER, MOTTO
- OUR CROSS
- OUR HYMN
- WEBSITE AND PUBLICATIONS
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- FUNDS OF THE ORDER
- HOW TO START A
- CHAPTER TIMELINE
- PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS
- THE SERVICES
- NATIONAL BYLAWS

## **QUESTIONS FOR STUDY TWELVE**

**(Please be prepared to share your answers with the group)**

1. What is your chapter name and charter number; or as a new chapter, what name have you chosen?
2. Who are your chapter officers?
3. What must you do to apply for membership in The Order? How much is the new member packet?
4. According to our National Bylaws (Article III, Section 7) we may not raise money in the name of The Order. How then is the work of The Order supported financially?
5. Do you understand that there is a monetary obligation in becoming a member of The Order and that you are obligating yourself to the annual payment of - national dues -chapter dues or donations - annual support of the four Funds of The Order - and participation through offerings?
6. How do members pay their annual dues and support the Funds? What is the fiscal year of The Order?
7. During the Service of Installation of Officers, what pledge do members make to the officers?
8. There is information on forming chapters in the *National Handbook*. On what page? How many women are required to form a chapter?
9. What is the Service of Rededication? When is it used? Where is the Service of Rededication found in the *National Handbook*?
10. Review your personal commitment to Christ, as written in your Rule of Life. How do you plan to live into your Rule of Prayer and Service in the coming months and years?
11. Why is it important to take the time to talk to someone about your call to The Order?





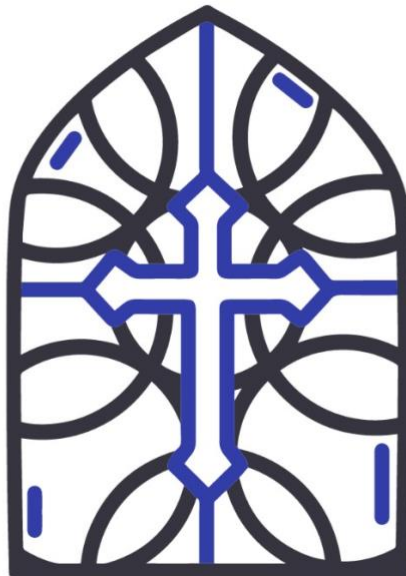
For His Sake, you have completed the  
study designed to  
prepare you for becoming a Daughter.

In His Name – Welcome

# APPENDIX

**For the purpose of standardization of this study guide, An Outline of the Faith, Examination of the Candidates for Confirmation, and The Baptismal Covenant were taken from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.**

**If denominational equivalents are available, they may be used.**



# **Appendix**

- ✝ Frequently Asked Questions
- ✝ An Outline of the Faith
- ✝ The Baptismal Covenant
- ✝ The Cross Policy
- ✝ Prayer Changes Me
- ✝ The Service of Admission
- ✝ Evaluation Form

## Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some questions that Daughters are frequently asked, together with some suggested responses. This information is useful in publicizing The Order.

**1. What is The Order of the Daughters of the King®?**

The Order is a spiritual, praying Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic Episcopate but not in communion with it.

**2. What is the Purpose of The Order?**

The purpose of The Order is evangelism. We desire, through a disciplined Rule of Prayer and Service, to encourage others and ourselves a deeper relationship to our Lord Christ Jesus. A Daughter continually renews her interior spiritual life as she lives out her baptismal vows to follow Jesus as her Savior and Lord, to pray, to work, to witness, and to give for the spread of his kingdom.

**3. What do Daughters do?**

Daughters are called to live out the Baptismal Covenant. Members of The Order are not required to participate in any project undertaken by the chapter. However, most Daughters do wish to give some tangible service, according to their talents, toward the spread of Christ's kingdom and the spiritual growth of their church.

**4. Am I good enough to be a member of The Order?**

Daughters are not members of a spiritual elite, but rather women who feel a need to conform their lives more closely to God's will. The Order will help you strengthen your present religious life as you accept and follow the disciplines of a Rule of Life in a supportive community.

**5. How will being in The Order help to deepen my life as a woman?**

The Order can help by pointing the way to a stable grounding in Christ our King. Through prayer, study and service, with like-minded women, Daughters find their minds and hearts turning from self to God.

**6. Must I become a member of The Order?**

Not at all. Thousands of saints have never heard of The Order of the Daughters of the King®, but those of us who are Daughters find it a source of strength and solace in the modern world.

**7. How does The Order differ from other church organizations?**

Many church organizations have their emphasis on service and socializing. But Daughters share a common Rule of Life and they become aware of growing toward Christ, together with their sisters in Christ. The sign of our discipline is the emblem of The Order (our cross) that we wear daily as a visible witness of a life committed to showing forth the love of Christ to all people. It reminds us that we bear Christ's name and sign and have a responsibility to bring Him into our daily lives through thought and action. The disciplines of The Order pervade your entire life as a woman.

**8. I belong to a women's group in my church, isn't that enough?**

As a Daughter, you are not expected to change the way you participate in general parish life. You will not be asked to do anything more than you are already doing, but you will find your service



will have more purpose and meaning. Anything you do in Jesus' name is Daughters' work, whether done at church or away.

**9. What happens if I move to a church that does not have a chapter?**

Notify the National Office of your new status using the Transition Form found on the website and request a list of nearby churches with chapters. If there is no chapter at your new church, talk to your clergy about forming one. You are considered a Daughter at Large until a chapter is formed in your church or you move to a new church with an existing chapter. You will continue to pay your annual dues directly to the National Office. In this way you stay in touch with The Order, can continue to wear the cross as a sign of your commitment, and will receive *The Royal Cross*. Many diocesan assemblies form a DAL chapter for their Daughters at Large. Contact the Daughter at Large Chair in your Diocesan or Provincial Assembly or the representative on the National Council for ways you may continue to serve.

**10. How are the ministry and administration of The Order funded?**

The ministry of The Order is supported through voluntary contributions made to the Funds of The Order: The Master's Fund – which makes grants to women entering church service; the Endowment Fund – which supports ongoing projects; the Self Denial Fund – which supports missionary efforts; and the Alpha Fund – which supports the Junior Daughters. Annual dues paid to the National Office are divided among national, provincial, and diocesan levels to fund the administration of The Order.

**11. What types of membership does The Order have?**

Active – a senior member whose dues are current. She receives *The Royal Cross*, has voice and vote at meetings and assemblies and is eligible to be an officer of the chapter, diocesan assembly, province assembly or a national council member.

Lifetime – a senior member who makes a one-time contribution that frees her for the rest of her life from the obligation to pay dues. The amount is established at the National Triennial Convention and is deposited into the Endowment Fund. She receives *The Royal Cross* and has the privilege of voice and vote.

Dues Relief – a Daughter 85 years or older, who is in deteriorating health, may apply for relief of her obligation to pay dues. Dues relief members do not receive *The Royal Cross* (unless she subscribes) and are not eligible to serve as officers or be delegates. For more information, please read the Dues Relief Status Policy and Procedures which is available on the website.

Daughter at Large – refers to as a Daughter who attends a church that does not have a chapter. She keeps her vows, follows her Rule of Life, wears the cross, pays her dues and supports the Funds. She keeps The Order informed of any changes in her status by direct contact with the National Office. She should consult her clergy about forming a chapter.

**12. Is there a similar program for girls?**

Yes, girls and young women between seven and twenty-one years of age may become Junior members of The Order. Through their promise of daily prayer and service, they have a special opportunity to grow in the Christian faith and commitment. Junior members must be baptized but may belong to any church. Junior members wear a cross with the initials FHS, For His Sake. They may transition to senior membership at sixteen years old with the permission of their Directress and parents. These girls pray, serve, and reach out in love to all.

# **An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism**

## **Human Nature**

- Q. What are we by nature?
- A. We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God.
- Q. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
- A. It means that we are free to make choices: to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation and with God.
- Q. Why then do we live apart from God and out of harmony with creation?
- A. From the beginning, human beings have misused their freedom and made wrong choices.
- Q. Why do we not use our freedom as we should?
- A. Because we rebel against God, and we put ourselves in the place of God.
- Q. What help is there for us?
- A. Our help is in God.
- Q. How did God first help us?
- A. God first helped us by revealing himself and his will, through nature and history, through many seers and saints, and especially through the prophets of Israel.

## **God the Father**

- Q. What do we learn about God as creator from the revelation to Israel?
- A. We learn that there is one God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- Q. What does this mean?
- A. This means that the universe is good, that it is the work of a single loving God who creates, sustains, and directs it.
- Q. What does this mean about our place in the universe?
- A. It means that the world belongs to its creator; and that we are called to enjoy it and to care for it in accordance with God's purposes.
- Q. What does this mean about human life?
- A. It means that all people are worthy of respect and honor, because all are created in the image of God, and all can respond to the love of God.
- Q. How was this revelation handed down to us?
- A. This revelation was handed down to us through a community created by a covenant with God.

## **The Old Covenant**

- Q. What is meant by a covenant with God?
- A. A covenant is a relationship initiated by God, to which a body of people responds in faith.
- Q. What is the Old Covenant?
- A. The Old Covenant is the one given by God to the Hebrew people.
- Q. What did God promise them?
- A. God promised that they would be his people to bring all the nations of the world to him.
- Q. What response did God require from the chosen people?
- A. God required the chosen people to be faithful; to love justice, to do mercy, and to walk humbly with their God.
- Q. Where is this Old Covenant to be found?
- A. The covenant with the Hebrew people is to be found in the books which we call the Old Testament.

- Q. Where in the Old Testament is God's will for us shown most clearly?  
A. God's will for us is shown most clearly in the Ten Commandments.

## **The Ten Commandments**

- Q. What are the Ten Commandments?  
A. The Ten Commandments are the laws given to Moses and the people of Israel.
- Q. What do we learn from these commandments?  
A. We learn two things: our duty to God, and our duty to our neighbors.
- Q. What is our duty to God?  
A. Our duty is to believe and trust in God;  
✚ To love and obey God and to bring others to know him;  
✚ To put nothing in the place of God;  
✚ To show God respect in thought, word, and deed;  
✚ And to set aside regular times for worship, prayer, and the study of God's ways.
- Q. What is our duty to our neighbors?  
A. Our duty to our neighbors is to love them as ourselves, and to do to other people as we wish them to do to us;  
✚ To love, honor, and help our parents and family; to honor those in authority, and to meet their just demands;  
✚ To show respect for the life God has given us; to work and pray for peace; to bear no malice, prejudice, or hatred in our hearts; and to be kind to all the creatures of God;  
✚ To use all our bodily desires as God intended;  
✚ To be honest and fair in our dealings; to seek justice, freedom, and the necessities of life for all people; and to use our talents and possessions as ones who must answer for them to God;  
✚ To speak the truth, and not to mislead others by our silence; To resist temptations to envy, greed, and jealousy; to rejoice in other people's gifts and graces; and to do our duty for the love of God, who has called us into fellowship with him.
- Q. What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?  
A. The Ten Commandments were given to define our relationship with God and our neighbors.
- Q. Since we do not fully obey them, are they useful at all?  
A. Since we do not fully obey them, we see more clearly our sin and our need for redemption.

## **Sin and Redemption**

- Q. What is sin?  
A. Sin is the seeking of our own will instead of the will of God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other people, and with all creation.
- Q. How does sin have power over us?  
A. Sin has power over us because we lose our liberty when our relationship with God is distorted.
- Q. What is redemption?  
A. Redemption is the act of God which sets us free from the power of evil, sin, and death.
- Q. How did God prepare us for redemption?  
A. God sent the prophets to call us back to himself, to show us our need for redemption, and to announce the coming of the Messiah.
- Q. What is meant by the Messiah?  
A. The Messiah is one sent by God to free us from the power of sin, so that with the help of God we may live in harmony with God, within ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.
- Q. Who do we believe is the Messiah?

A. The Messiah, or Christ, is Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of God.

## **God the Son**

Q. What do we mean when we say that Jesus is the only Son of God?

A. We mean that Jesus is the only perfect image of the Father, and shows us the nature of God.

Q. What is the nature of God revealed in Jesus?

A. God is love.

Q. What do we mean when we say that Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and became incarnate from the Virgin Mary?

A. We mean that by God's own act, his divine Son received our human nature from the Virgin Mary, his mother.

Q. Why did he take our human nature?

A. The divine Son became human, so that in him human beings might be adopted as children of God, and be made heirs of God's kingdom.

Q. What is the great importance of Jesus' suffering and death?

A. By his obedience, even to suffering and death, Jesus made the offering which we could not make; in him we are freed from the power of sin and reconciled to God.

Q. What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection?

A. By his resurrection, Jesus overcame death and opened for us the way of eternal life.

Q. What do we mean when we say that he descended to the dead?

A. We mean that he went to the departed and offered them also the benefits of redemption.

Q. What do we mean when we say that he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

A. We mean that Jesus took our human nature into heaven where he now reigns with the Father and intercedes for us.

Q. How can we share in his victory over sin, suffering, and death?

A. We share in his victory when we are baptized into the New Covenant and become living members of Christ.

## **The New Covenant**

Q. What is the New Covenant?

A. The New Covenant is the new relationship with God given by Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to the apostles; and, through them, to all who believe in him.

Q. What did the Messiah promise in the New Covenant?

A. Christ promised to bring us into the kingdom of God and give us life in all its fullness.

Q. What response did Christ require?

A. Christ commanded us to believe in him and to keep his commandments.

Q. What are the commandments taught by Christ?

A. Christ taught us the Summary of the Law and gave us the New Commandment.

Q. What is the Summary of the Law?

A. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and the great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Q. What is the New Commandment?

A. The New Commandment is that we love one another as Christ loved us.

Q. Where may we find what Christians believe about Christ?

A. What Christians believe about Christ is found in the Scriptures and summed up in the creeds.

## **The Creeds**

- Q. What are the creeds?
- A. The creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God.
- Q. How many creeds does this Church use in its worship?
- A. This Church uses two creeds: The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.
- Q. What is the Apostles' Creed?
- A. The Apostles' Creed is the ancient creed of Baptism; it is used in the Church's daily worship to recall our Baptismal Covenant.
- Q. What is the Nicene Creed?
- A. The Nicene Creed is the creed of the universal Church and is used at the Eucharist.
- Q. What, then, is the Athanasian Creed?
- A. The Athanasian Creed is an ancient document proclaiming the nature of the Incarnation and of God as Trinity.
- Q. What is the Trinity?
- A. The Trinity is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **The Holy Spirit**

- Q. Who is the Holy Spirit?
- A. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world and in the Church even now.
- Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the Old Covenant?
- A. The Holy Spirit is revealed in the Old Covenant as the giver of life, the One who spoke through the prophets.
- Q. How is the Holy Spirit revealed in the New Covenant?
- A. The Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord who leads us into all truth and enables us to grow in the likeness of Christ.
- Q. How do we recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- A. We recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.
- Q. How do we recognize the truths taught by the Holy Spirit?
- A. We recognize truths to be taught by the Holy Spirit when they are in accord with the Scriptures.

## **The Holy Scriptures**

- Q. What are the Holy Scriptures?
- A. The Holy Scriptures, commonly called the Bible, are the books of the Old and New Testaments; other books, called the Apocrypha, are often included in the Bible.
- Q. What is the Old Testament?
- A. The Old Testament consists of books written by the people of the Old Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to show God at work in nature and history.
- Q. What is the New Testament?
- A. The New Testament consists of books written by the people of the New Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to set forth the life and teachings of Jesus and to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom for all people.
- Q. What is the Apocrypha?
- A. The Apocrypha is a collection of additional books written by people of the Old Covenant, and used in the Christian Church.
- Q. Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?
- A. We call them the Word of God because God inspired their human authors and because God still

speaks to us through the Bible.

Q. How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

A. We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures.

## **The Church**

Q. What is the Church?

A. The Church is the community of the New Covenant.

Q. How is the Church described in the Bible?

A. The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.

Q. How is the Church described in the creeds?

A. The Church is described as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Q. Why is the Church described as one?

A. The Church is one, because it is one Body, under one Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. Why is the Church described as holy?

A. The Church is holy, because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's work.

Q. Why is the Church described as catholic?

A. The Church is catholic, because it proclaims the whole Faith to all people, to the end of time.

Q. Why is the Church described as apostolic?

A. The Church is apostolic, because it continues in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles and is sent to carry out Christ's mission to all people.

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q. How does the Church pursue its mission?

A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q. Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?

A. The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

## **The Ministry**

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Q. What is the ministry of a bishop?

A. The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

Q. What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter?

A. The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.

- Q. What is the ministry of a deacon?
- A. The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.
- Q. What is the duty of all Christians?
- A. The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

## **Prayer and Worship**

- Q. What is prayer?
- A. Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.
- Q. What is Christian Prayer?
- A. Christian prayer is response to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Q. What prayer did Christ teach us?
- A. Our Lord gave us the example of prayer known as the Lord's Prayer.
- Q. What are the principal kinds of prayer?
- A. The principal kinds of prayer are adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition.
- Q. What is adoration?
- A. Adoration is the lifting up of the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God's presence.
- Q. Why do we praise God?
- A. We praise God, not to obtain anything, but because God's Being draws praise from us.
- Q. For what do we offer thanksgiving?
- A. Thanksgiving is offered to God for all the blessings of this life, for our redemption, and for whatever draws us closer to God.
- Q. What is penitence?
- A. In penitence, we confess our sins and make restitution where possible, with the intention to amend our lives.
- Q. What is prayer of oblation?
- A. Oblation is an offering of ourselves, our lives and labors, in union with Christ, for the purposes of God.
- Q. What are intercession and petition?
- A. Intercession brings before God the needs of others; in petition, we present our own needs, that God's will may be done.
- Q. What is corporate worship?
- A. In corporate worship, we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments.

## **The Sacraments**

- Q. What are the sacraments?
- A. The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.
- Q. What is grace?
- A. Grace is God's favor towards us, unearned and undeserved; by grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills.
- Q. What are the two great sacraments of the Gospel?
- A. The two great sacraments given by Christ to his Church are Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

## **Holy Baptism**

- Q. What is Holy Baptism?
- A. Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.
- Q. What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?
- A. The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?
- A. The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.
- Q. What is required of us at Baptism?
- A. It is required that we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
- Q. Why then are infants baptized?
- A. Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God.
- Q. How are the promises for infants made and carried out?
- A. Promises are made for them by their parents and sponsors, who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him.

## **The Holy Eucharist**

- Q. What is the Holy Eucharist?
- A. The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again.
- Q. Why is the Eucharist called a sacrifice?
- A. Because the Eucharist, the Church's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, is the way by which the sacrifice of Christ is made present, and in which he unites us to his one offering of himself.
- Q. By what other names is this service known?
- A. The Holy Eucharist is called the Lord's Supper, and Holy Communion; it is also known as the Divine Liturgy, the Mass, and the Great Offering.
- Q. What is the outward and visible sign in the Eucharist?
- A. The outward and visible sign in the Eucharist is bread and wine, given and received according to Christ's command.
- Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace given in the Eucharist?
- A. The inward and spiritual grace in the Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of Christ given to his people, and received by faith.
- Q. What are the benefits which we receive in the Lord's Supper?
- A. The benefits we receive are the forgiveness of our sins, the strengthening of our union with Christ and one another, and the foretaste of the heavenly banquet which is our nourishment in eternal life.
- Q. What is required of us when we come to the Eucharist?
- A. It is required that we should examine our lives, repent of our sins, and be in love and charity with all people.

## **Other Sacramental Rites**

- Q. What other sacramental rites evolved in the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?
- A. Other sacramental rites which evolved in the Church include confirmation, ordination, holy matrimony, reconciliation of a penitent, and unction.
- Q. How do they differ from the two sacraments of the Gospel?



- A. Although they are means of grace, they are not necessary for all persons in the same way that Baptism and the Eucharist are.
- Q. What is Confirmation?
- A. Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.
- Q. What is required of those to be confirmed?
- A. It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Q. What is Ordination?
- A. Ordination is the rite in which God gives authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit to those being made bishops, priests, and deacons, through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops.
- Q. What is Holy Matrimony?
- A. Holy Matrimony is Christian marriage, in which the woman and man enter into a life-long union, make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows.
- Q. What is Reconciliation of a Penitent?
- A. Reconciliation of a Penitent, or Penance, is the rite in which those who repent of their sins may confess them to God in the presence of a priest, and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution.
- Q. What is Unction of the Sick?
- A. Unction is the rite of anointing the sick with oil, or the laying on of hands, by which God's grace is given for the healing of spirit, mind, and body.
- Q. Is God's activity limited to these rites?
- A. God does not limit himself to these rites; they are patterns of countless ways by which God uses material things to reach out to us.
- Q. How are the sacraments related to our Christian hope?
- A. Sacraments sustain our present hope and anticipate its future fulfillment.

## **The Christian Hope**

- Q. What is the Christian hope?
- A. The Christian hope is to live with confidence in newness and fullness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world.
- Q. What do we mean by the coming of Christ in glory?
- A. By the coming of Christ in glory, we mean that Christ will come, not in weakness but in power, and will make all things new.
- Q. What do we mean by heaven and hell?
- A. By heaven, we mean eternal life in our enjoyment of God; by hell, we mean eternal death in our rejection of God.
- Q. Why do we pray for the dead?
- A. We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.
- Q. What do we mean by the last judgment?
- A. We believe that Christ will come in glory and judge the living and the dead.
- Q. What do we mean by the resurrection of the body?
- A. We mean that God will raise us from death in the fullness of our being, that we may live with Christ in the communion of the saints.
- Q. What is the communion of saints?
- A. The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.

- Q. What do we mean by everlasting life?  
A. By everlasting life, we mean a new existence, in which we are united with all the people of God, in the joy of fully knowing and loving God and each other.  
Q. What, then, is our assurance as Christians?  
A. Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Episcopal Book of Common Prayer page 845-862

## **Examination of the Candidates For Confirmation**

*The Bishop asks the candidates*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidate* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidate* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*Bishop* Let us join with *those* who *are* committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Episcopal Book of Common Prayer page 415-416

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

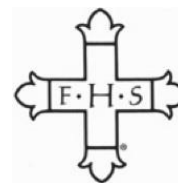
*People* I will, with God's help.

Episcopal Book of Common Prayer page 416-417

# The Cross Policy of



## The Order of the Daughters of the King®



“Accept and wear faithfully the cross of The Order, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, ‘Take up your cross and follow me.’”

*(The Service of Admission)*

When a new member has completed the three-month preparation period, and has prayerfully discerned a call to become a member of The Order, the cross she has chosen to wear as a mark of her membership is blessed by the clergy and handed to her with the powerful words quoted above. The cross she now wears is the sacred emblem of The Order of the Daughters of the King® handed down to her from our foremothers over 130 years ago.

The badge, or cross, of The Order was officially adopted in its first Constitution on November 5, 1891.

**BADGES AND COLORS.** The badge of The Order shall be a Greek Fleury cross, of silver, one-inch square, charged on the horizontal with the words “Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine,” and at the base of the perpendicular, with the initials of the motto of The Order – FHS – “For His Sake.”

Just as a nun’s habit identifies her as one who is called to religious life, members of The Order wear the cross to identify themselves as one who has been called to live according to its Rule of Life – a Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service. As Daughters of the King we pledge ourselves to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ’s Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of our parish.

As members of The Order we understand the responsibility that comes with wearing our sacred emblem. We understand that we must protect the cross we wear because in doing so we protect both the identity and integrity of the cross.

The purpose of this Cross Policy is to provide all members of The Order—senior, Junior and International, with clear and consistent guidance on how to obtain, wear, and ultimately dispose of the cross through resignation or death.

### PREFACE

Daughters of the King acknowledge that the cross we wear as a mark of our membership belongs to The Order. We are essentially guardians of the cross, charged with protecting its identity and integrity from the time we first obtain it at admission until the time we are no longer members due to resignation or death. We further acknowledge that only members in good standing may wear the cross of The Order. ‘In good standing’ means a member is current in paying her annual dues.

Daughters of the King understand that the cross is to be worn as a pendant on a necklace, or as a pin on the left side of our chest so that it is near her heart. The cross may not be worn as ornamentation or jewelry. Further, the cross of The Order may not be altered in any way or permanently attached to anything that could be perceived as jewelry, such as charms, pins, or bracelets.

Lastly, since both the senior and Junior crosses are registered trademarks of the United States, they can only be used exclusively by members of The Order. More information on the trademarked emblems of The Order can be found in “The Trademark Policies and Procedures of The Order of the Daughters of the King®”

available on the website.

## **II. Definitions**

### **A Replacement Cross**

A replacement cross is a cross that is obtained from the National Office to replace a Daughter's original cross that has been either lost, stolen, or broken. A replacement cross can be a new or pre-loved cross.

### **A Pre-loved Cross**

A pre-loved cross is a cross that has been returned to the National Office from a Daughter who has passed away or resigned from The Order. It is available for a processing fee as a replacement cross to current members in good standing, but may not be given to new members.

## **III. Guidance for Use of the Cross-Among Senior Members of The Order in the United States**

### **New Members**

Every woman who becomes a member of The Order and accepts its two Rules must obtain and wear a new cross of The Order. The new cross may not be a pre-loved cross due to the limited number and age of many pre-loved crosses. If obtaining the silver cross is cost prohibitive, a new member may obtain the less expensive rhodium-plated version of our cross. Any exceptions to Section III of the Trademark Policy must be approved by the Trademark Chair.

### **Current Members**

A current member in good standing may obtain a replacement cross when her cross has been lost or stolen or has broken. Replacement crosses may be new or preloved.

### **Upon Resignation**

If a member finds that she cannot fulfill the vows of The Order, she may resign after consulting with her clergy. Either she or a chapter officer must return the cross to the National Office accompanied by a "Transition Form" and a "How to Return a Cross Form" both of which are available on the website.

### **Upon a Member's Death**

When a member is first admitted into The Order, she designates her wishes on the "Disposition of Cross Card" as to what should be done with her cross upon her death. The cross may be buried with her or placed in her urn, returned to the National Office, or securely attached to a suitable marker. The card should be reviewed from time to time but especially when she changes chapters or changes her burial plans.

## **IV. Guidance for Use of the Cross-Among Junior Members of The Order**

### **New Members**

Every girl or young woman who becomes a Junior member of The Order and promises to follow its two Rules must obtain and wear a new cross of The Order.

### **Upon Resignation**

Junior members who formally resign, simply stop coming to meetings for a long period of time, or stop actively participating in chapter life, are encouraged but not required to return their cross to the National Office. Directresses may ask for the cross back at their discretion. When a Junior Daughter reaches the age 22 and has not transitioned she has essentially resigned from The Order. She is encouraged but not required to return her cross with the understanding that the cross may never be sold or given away.

The purpose of allowing Junior Daughters to retain their cross is:

The hope that it could serve as a reminder of her promises of prayer and service while encouraging her to stay active in her church. It could serve as a reminder of God's presence in her life.

### **Upon Transitioning**

A Junior member of The Order who transitions to senior member of The Order may either keep her Junior cross or return it to the National Office. She should make arrangements for proper disposition of both her Junior and senior cross before her death.

### **Upon Death**

While it is never a pleasant thought that a child could pass away, parents of a Junior Daughter may wonder what should become of her cross upon her death. As with senior Daughters, the Junior member's cross may be buried with her or placed in her urn, returned to the National Office, or securely attached to a suitable marker.

However, in memory of their daughter her parents may also retain the cross with the understanding that the cross may never be sold or given away.

## **V. Guidance for Use of the Cross-Among International Members of The Order**

### **Countries Producing Their Own Crosses**

International members in an assembled country may produce their own cross if they find a reputable jeweler or manufacturer that can reproduce the cross of The Order. The cross must be of good quality and be able to be made in large quantities. Before production begins, an actual prototype or pictures of the cross must first be submitted to the International Chair who will then refer it to the Trademark Chair and President of The Order in the United States. Permission to produce the cross is granted when the president of The Order in that country receives a formal letter of approval from the International Chair.

An inventory of the crosses should be kept by the Assembly President and included as part of their annual report to the International Chair.

If members in an assembled country are unable to find a reputable jeweler or manufacturer, they may continue to obtain crosses through the International Cross Chair.

### **New Members**

Every girl or woman who becomes an International member of The Order and accepts its two Rules must obtain and wear a cross of The Order. The cross may be obtained from the International Cross Chair, her country liaison, or her chapter president.

### **Upon Resignation**

If an International member of The Order resigns, she must return the cross to her chapter president.

### **Upon Death**

Upon admission into The Order, an International member should inform her chapter president and family as to what should be done with the cross upon her death. The cross may be buried with her or placed in her urn, or returned to her chapter president.

## **VI. Examples of Unacceptable Practices**

### **Not obtaining a cross upon admission**

Members of The Order wear its cross to identify themselves as one who has been called to live

according to The Order's Rule of Life. Not obtaining or wearing a cross of The Order defeats this purpose. Candidates who choose not to obtain and wear the cross will not be admitted into The Order.

**Supply of extra crosses**

Chapter presidents in United States may not hold extra crosses. It is the responsibility of chapter presidents to ensure that crosses from her chapter members who resign or pass away are returned to the National Office in a timely manner.

**Transfer of a cross to a new member**

The cross of The Order may not be transferred or given from one member of The Order to an incoming new member. New members select and obtain a cross as part of a formal application process, which is ultimately received and processed by the staff at the National Office. If a new member does not follow this application process the National Office will have no record of her and she will not be a part of The Order's membership database.

All inquiries regarding this policy should be directed to the Trademark Chair of The Order.

**This Policy is effective as of:**

October 23, 2015

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**This Policy was approved by:**

**The National Council of The Order of the Daughters of the King®**

**This Policy was amended and approved on:**

October 22, 2017

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# Prayer Changes Me



*We gratefully acknowledge the Anglican Fellowship  
of Prayer for permission to use their material*

## The Gift of Prayer

The desire to pray is God's gift to us. In longing to communicate with the Creator, the soul seeks the source of its being and worships the presence that knows each one of His creations as intimately as a mother knows her child. As we ponder the mystery of God, who talks to and listens to us, the believer realizes an inborn agility to take the leap of faith required to be in communion with God.

Communion with God is as simple as a silent moment in His Presence and as complex as the liturgy of the church. What prayer is and what prayer is not is a discussion one can have only with the bestower of the gift. The discussion itself is a prayer. Allowing the Lord to enter any activity makes that activity a prayer. David danced before the Lord; the shepherds knelt before the Christ Child; a man paces a hospital waiting room, his heart crying out for comfort; a mother cradles her infant in her arms and wordlessly worships the mystery of creation.

Private moments before the Lord are as unique as fingerprints. Although fifty people may be saying the same prayer at the same time, each person is having their own conversation with God. Each person brings a different shade of meaning to the words spoken in unison. To one, "Give us this day our daily bread," may mean, literally a loaf. To another, this petition may mean an extra ration of patience to deal with a difficult situation.

Our Christian heritage offers a wealth of prayer forms that we can call upon to bring us closer to God. These prayer forms have been given names and underlying each name is an action that will initiate communication with God.

### ***TALKING***

We can talk to God in our words or by praying specific written and/or remembered prayers such as the Lord's Prayer, The Rosary, novenas, prayers from daily meditation books, and prayers for different occasions such as familiar table prayers.

### ***READING***

"Lectio Divina" is the formal word for the prayerful reading of the Word of God. When the Bible is read reverently, God speaks through His divine Word to the soul of the reader. Writings by saints, theologians, and other Christians can also speak to the seeking soul. The prayer becomes a conversation between the reader, the writer, and God.



## **WORSHIPPING**

The Liturgy of the Hours; The Liturgy of the Church; and the sacramental prayers of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Matrimony, Healing, and Holy Orders bring the Body of Christ together in one voice. Participation in the prayers of the Church makes the Christian one with the community and gives a firm foundation on which to build their faith.

## **THINKING**

A focused “thinking about God” becomes a prayer of meditation. Meditations can be focused on a Scripture verse or Biblical story. A picture, a flower, a word, any natural or God-inspired scene can be used for a focus. Sounds, colors, and images that appear in the mind’s eye are all valid beginning places for God to reveal Himself through you, His creation.

## **LISTENING**

Contemplation is the act of emptying the mind of all thoughts and images to reach the level of listening where we are in the presence of God. We seek nothing for ourselves, but are receptive to all He wishes to bestow upon us and all He plans to be through us.

## **INTERCEDING**

As we grow in faith and our relationship with God deepens, we realize that we can— we must— bring the needs of others before Him. Intercessory prayer, praying for the needs of others, is public, private, or shared with the person in need, depending on the situation and the circumstances.

## **EXPRESSING**

Prayer can be expressed in song, dance, painting, poetry, or in any action that is taken in His service or in His praise. Kneading dough for a loaf of bread can be a prayer; planting a garden can be a prayer. Teaching, nursing, cleaning, helping in any way can be a prayer when the heart turns to God as the mind and body begin a work of mercy, an act of sharing, or an expression of praise.

## **INTEGRATING**

Communication with God affects and transforms each moment of our existence. As prayer becomes integrated into our lives, we experience the reality of the gift: the conversion of our hearts to God and the passing on of the gift of God’s love and fellowship in service to others.

# **The Practice of Prayer**

## **TODAY**

The desire to pray is within us all but the practice of beginning each day with prayer often becomes another item on the agenda, an item which becomes easier and easier to postpone as the duties of the day command our presence and attention.

Like all good habits, the practice of prayer requires a commitment. Will you commit the first ten minutes of tomorrow to be with God in prayer?

Begin right now by asking God to help you remember your desire to begin tomorrow with Him.

*Lord, I want to meet with You first thing in the morning for at least ten minutes. Tomorrow, when the alarm clock rings, I have an appointment with You. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my*

*portion,' says my soul, therefore I will hope in him. The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.*

Lamentations 3:22-25

## **TOMORROW**

The next morning, take your Bible to a quiet place where you can be alone in the Presence of God who has promised to meet with you. Begin by preparing your heart for prayer:

*Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Open my heart. Fill my heart. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Lord, surround me with Your Presence. Amen.*

Open your Bible and read it for at least five minutes. The Book of John is a good place to begin. Read consecutively—verse after verse, chapter after chapter.

Don't rush; don't stop to do a study of a word, thought or theological problem that may present itself. Read for the joy of reading and allow God to speak. In the weeks to come, you may want to read another one of the Gospels, or you may wish to turn to the Psalms or to another Book. The Holy Spirit will faithfully guide you through the Scriptures.

After God has spoken to you through His Book, speak to Him in prayer. Four elements of prayer are Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. (Remember the word ACTS) From these elements, you can grow into a union with Christ that is uniquely your own.

Be what God enables you to be at this moment and pray as you can, using each of these elements, first in your own words and then by praying a verse of the Bible.

## **ADORATION**

This is the purest element of prayer because it is all for God. There is nothing in it for you. You are in the presence of royalty. Begin with the proper salutation and express your words of worship. Tell the Lord that you love him. Reflect on his greatness, his power, his majesty, and his sovereignty.

*Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou are exalted as Head above all.*  
I Chronicles 29:11

## **CONFESSION**

Having realized His love and His majesty, you now want to be sure every sin is cleansed and forsaken. Confession comes from a root word meaning "to agree together with." Agree with God about your actions and decisions of the day before. In the light of God's love was that "slight exaggeration" in fact, a lie? Were you really "too busy" to help your neighbor, or were you uncharitable? Ask God to reveal the true nature of your thoughts and deeds. Ask his forgiveness for the sins he has helped you name.

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

I John 1:8-9

## **THANKSGIVING**

Express your gratitude to God. Think of several specific things you are thankful for in different areas of your life: your family, your work, your leisure activities. Thank Him for your hardships and sorrows too.

*In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ concerning you.*

I Thessalonians 5:18

## **SUPPLICATION**

This means to “ask for, earnestly and humbly.” Make your petitions known to Him. Be as specific as you are comfortably able to be. For example, can you expand “Lord, help me to be kind” to “Lord, help me to be kinder to \_\_\_\_\_ whom I hurt yesterday”? Ask for yourself and ask for others. Ask God to help you form your petitions.

*Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.* Matthew 7:7-8

End your meeting with God with your own “amen”: a favorite Scripture, a song, the Lord’s Prayer, a moment of silence. Go into this new morning of your life knowing

*This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.* Psalm 118:24

## **AND ALWAYS**

As prayer becomes a habit, you will grow into it and the prayers you express will become uniquely your own. You may realize a desire within you to explore and “try on” other forms and styles of prayer such as those discussed previously. No one form of prayer is “recommended for beginners only” or “available only to advanced Christians.” Many books are available from your library and church about prayer and the different forms of prayer. Much can be learned about prayer from Christians in your own community. But the highest authority and the only authority who is beside you at this moment and will be with you in every moment is the giver of the gift.

*The spirit too helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought.* Romans 8:26

# **PRAY**

## ***For His Sake***

## The Service of Admission

**Presenter:** It is my privilege to present \_\_\_\_\_ as candidates for membership in The Order of the Daughters of the King®.

**Clergy:** We are gathered here in the sight of God and before this congregation to admit *these women* into The Order of the Daughters of the King®. We commend *them* to your earnest prayers that *they* may have grace to fulfill the obligations of The Order and that *their* labors may be to the glory of God and to the welfare of all His people.

*Addressing the candidates:*

**Clergy:** The Daughters of the King is an Order for women whose mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls, through prayer, service and evangelism. Do you desire to become a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King®?

**Candidates:** I do.

**Clergy:** Do you promise to obey faithfully the two Rules of The Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service? To offer your support to the clergy for the good of the parish and the extension of Christ's kingdom? To wear faithfully the cross of The Order? And to work for its purposes, as God may give you the opportunity?

**Candidates:** I do with God's help.

**Clergy:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit I receive and admit you as members of The Order of the Daughters of the King®.

*Addressing the congregation:*

**Clergy:** Will you support *these women* in *their* ministry of prayer and service?

**Congregation:** We will.

*The clergy blesses the crosses.*

**Clergy:** Bless, O Lord, *these crosses* and grant to your *servants* now admitted into this Order such an abundance of your grace that *they* may wear this sacred symbol in the spirit of humility and with devotion to the service of the King of kings. *Amen.*

*Each new member is presented her cross with the following words:*

“Accept and wear faithfully the cross of The Order, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, “Take up your cross and follow me.”

**New Members:** Almighty God, help me to pray so faithfully that I may draw near to you and learn your will. Help me to serve so joyfully that others may be drawn to you. May your Holy Spirit guide me each day, that all I think, do, or say may be pleasing in your sight. I ask it all for the sake of Him whose cross I wear, my King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**All Daughters of the King:** *O Eternal Father, you have sent us your Son to teach us things pertaining to your heavenly Kingdom. Give your blessing to our Order wherever it may be throughout the world.*

*Grant that we, your Daughters, ever may discern your truth and bear the cross through the battles of our earthly life. Give us strength to overcome temptation and the grace to work to spread your Kingdom and to gather your scattered sheep within your fold. Pour out upon us the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit that we may always remember it is your work we are called to do; that all we think, do or say may be pleasing in your sight. We ask it all For His Sake, our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Clergy:** May your love, O Lord, help the Daughters live lives of love, and may your holiness lead them to be examples of virtue, that they, strengthened by your Holy Spirit, may pray and serve you all their days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Clergy:** The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## Evaluation of the National StudyGuide

Please take a few minutes and fill out this evaluation form. Your feedback will help determine how effective the preparation class has been. You do not need to sign your name.

PARISH \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Leader(s)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date Study Program began: \_\_\_\_\_ Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

1. How would you evaluate the National Study Guide? (Please circle one.)

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

2. Did you find it user friendly? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

3. Did you find it informative? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you feel your time was well spent? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

5. How would you rate the class overall?

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions? (Please use the back of this sheet if additional space is needed.)

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Your name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!**







