



# Diocese of Central PA Assembly Newsletter

Number 2

December 2012

*"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?"*

## In this Issue:

**What's new in Central PA**

**Description of the first Diocesan Assembly in State College**

**President's Corner**

**Chaplain's Message**

**Daughters@Large**

**New Chapters**

**Announcements**

**Book Ends**

## What's Going on in Central PA

Well, we held our first ever Fall Diocesan Assembly on Saturday, November 3rd. A majority of the membership from the then-current three chapters were in attendance, along with all but one or two of the soon-to-be members from the Daughters of Glory, St. Andrews in the Valley, Harrisburg and their rector, Fr Bill Alford. It was really exciting to have so many of our members present at the Assembly, and I want to hereby declare the event a resounding success. We confined the business of the Order to the morning hours, then moved to a scrumptious lunch prepared by members of the St. Andrews, State College, Journey to Adulthood program, and then spent a couple of hours with Walter Wells and Gwen Catchen in a whirlwind tour of hymns throughout the church history. Gwen and Walter worked hard to educate us about what hymns really are, while still giving us time to sing some familiar and not so-familiar hymns.



(Photo courtesy of Diocese of Central PA Website – Installation of Executive Council by Bishop Baxter)

**“Prayer without work is empty words. Service without prayer is labor lost.”**

### **Executive Officers**

*President:*

*Michele Marini,*  
*St Andrews, State College*

*1st Vice President:*

*Ann Dodd,*  
*St Andrews, State College*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:*

*Susan Steffen,*  
*Prince of Peace, Gettysburg, PA*

*Treasurer:*

*Cathy Rippeon,*  
*St Andrew's in the Valley, Harrisburg, PA*

*Chaplain:*

*Rev. Richard Wall,*  
*St Andrews, State College, PA*

*Recording Secretary:*

*Sarah Terhune,*  
*All Saints, Hanover, PA*

*Corresponding Secretary:*

*Barbara House,*  
*Prince of Peace, Gettysburg, PA*

The program was informative and fun, and we got to shake those commemorative tambourines, both during the program and again during the closing Eucharist. I am still thanking Walter and Gwen on a regular basis for their effort and presentation. We were most fortunate to have Bishop Baxter there to celebrate the Eucharist with us, and he delivered a truly inspirational and uplifting message. The feedback that we received from those who filled out the exit surveys was overwhelmingly positive with only a couple of ladies who expressed the sentiment that they wished we had more time for fellowship. I second that opinion - that had been my hope at the start of the day, but the business of our Diocesan bylaws and constitution interfered. I do want to say a hearty 'Thank you' for all the feedback that we received about those two documents. I have made the suggested changes and we will send out the new, updated version to you after the New Year. The good thing about the writing of the Constitution and By-laws - it will NEVER be that long or involved again. I hope to have the next set of changes incorporated and back out to you in email before the Spring Assembly. That way we can vote on and adopt what will hopefully be the final documents and move on to more fun activities. Lastly, I want to thank our clergy who supported our Assembly, Bishop Baxter, our Diocesan chaplain, Fr Richard Wall, and Fr Bill Alford who joined us to support the ladies from St. Andrews, Harrisburg and, of course, to sing! We did make a joyful noise! And thank you to all who attended. For those who were unable to join us, I hope that you might have a chance to join us at the Spring Assembly. God is good, all the time!

God is good.

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**Michele Marini**

President, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

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*"Expectancy is the atmosphere for miracles."*

*Edwin Louis Cole*

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS – APRIL 27, 2013 “DIFFERENT WAYS TO EXPRESS YOURSELF IN PRAYER” ASSEMBLY IN HANOVER**

The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania Daughters of the King will hold a Spring Assembly on April 27, 2013 entitled ***“Different Ways to Express Yourself in Prayer.”*** The Assembly will be at All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Hanover, 890 McCosh Street, Hanover, PA 17331. Please contact Sarah Terhune at [frankterhune56@gmail.com](mailto:frankterhune56@gmail.com) or Ann Dodd for more information at [ahd2@psu.edu](mailto:ahd2@psu.edu). More information to follow...

All daughters are welcome as well as anyone looking to explore the many forms of prayers. The Assembly is open to all.

There will be a short business meeting prior to the beginning to the program.



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## **President’s Corner . . .**



Well, it is hard to believe that more than a month has passed since our first Diocesan Assembly. Where has the time gone? Thanks to so many of you for traveling to State College for this inaugural event. It was so wonderful to meet so many Daughters from the Diocese. I think we made great strides in forming and growing our community of Daughters in Central Pennsylvania and I look forward with great anticipation to our future.

I do want to share two items with you concerning the Assembly. First, I received a lovely thank you letter from Bishop Baxter. He thanked us for including him in our celebratory Eucharist on Saturday afternoon. He is truly excited that we have come to the place where we could assemble our Diocese and he pledged to support us as we work to spread Christ's kingdom. I also want to share a compliment that was relayed to me about those of us who attended the afternoon program. The ladies who were in the kitchen remarked to me that listening to us sing those hymns that first Saturday in November rivaled any church choir they had ever heard. It just goes to show when you make a joyful noise, with love in your heart and faith in the Lord, that the heavenly choir will join in.

For me, singing all those hymns was certainly a good prelude to the Advent season, because for me, singing hymns is praying twice, first with the words of the hymn and second with the music. Ten or twelve or more years ago our family started the tradition during Advent that instead of saying grace before a meal, we sing a verse from Hymn 56, O Come O Come Emmanuel as we light the Advent wreath. The men in my family really chime in on the chorus – "Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel". That prayer leads our family into and through Advent.

I give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings that He has bestowed upon us in 2012: for His presence in our lives, for bringing us all together to form a formidable band of prayer warriors and for His promise that He will come again. Before we know it we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am excited for all that is in store for us in the coming season. May you and your family have a very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

For His Sake,

***Michele Marini***

President, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

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## **Chaplain's Message . . .**

Dear Daughters:

I expect that your lives - both at home and church - are spinning into whirlwinds, as we brace ourselves for December 25th. So I invite you to take a moment of respite from wrapping, cooking, shopping, packing - or whatever else you may be doing - and ponder with me the mystery of The Word made Flesh.

For the Incarnation is, of course, a mystery. Over the centuries, theologians, artists and poets have struggled to explain or even describe what took place in that stable in Bethlehem - yet their best efforts only scratch the surface. All we can do is peer through the glass darkly and behold this holy baby, born, as the famous hymn puts it, "to raise the sons of earth." Perhaps the sheer busyness of the holiday season - this different world that we inhabit for a month or so every year - is our way of marking the magnitude of God's gift to us in Christ.

This love we celebrate is no sentimental mush: it packs a punch and is, I believe, the most powerful force in the world. Today it makes us seek out what is good. It compels us to reach out to one another. And here, I think, we find the special ministry given to Daughters. For our Order is founded on the recognition of the relationship between what we believe - what we celebrate at Christmas - and what our faith compels us to do next: prayer and service; faith and action. Daughters are here to help our beliefs, creeds, theology and Episcopal ethos hit the ground running. This is the DOK witness in our home parishes and mission to our diocese.

In this spirit, I ask all Daughters to join with me in a particular prayer ministry on Christmas Day. During my first Christmas in ordained ministry, I discovered a pastoral truth that has been reinforced every year since: while many of us are excited for the holiday season with all its attendant joys, for others this is a time of hopelessness and despair. Some are haunted by a sense of sorrow and loss. Some brace themselves for a day alone - deserted through death or human frailty. Others face situations of more immediate need and even danger: on December 25, alcoholics will drink more; abusive spouses explode; fragile families dissolve into noise and conflict. This is why clergy never make too many personal plans for the rest of the day after the last "Amen" in Church.

So - please, Daughters - pause at some point on December 25th, and spend five minutes praying for those for whom this day is not happy. Pray that the love which lit the skies and guided rich and poor to kneel before a manger may surround them in their vulnerability and pain. Pray, through the mysterious workings of God, that the peace which passes all understanding may fill the hearts of those who need it most.

We have so many gifts to be thankful for as we review all God has achieved in 2012: especially assembling Daughters within our beloved Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. I am excited for all that God will call us to do and become in 2013. I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Assembly. Be sure of my prayers for each one of you over this holy season.

Merry Christmas!

- **Richard**



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## **Psalm 96**

**1**

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**2**

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

**3**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**4**

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

**5**

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**6**

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

**7**

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**8**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

**9**

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his[a] holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

**10**

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

**11**

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

**12**

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

**13**

Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.



## ***Point to Ponder:***

### **St. Boniface Story**

Why do we have a decorated Christmas Tree? In the 7th century a monk from Crediton, Devonshire, went to Germany to teach the Word of God. He did many good works there, and spent much time in Thuringia, an area which was to become the cradle of the Christmas Decoration Industry.

Legend has it that he used the triangular shape of the Fir Tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The converted people began to revere the Fir tree as God's Tree, as they had previously revered the Oak. By the 12th century it was being hung, upside-down, from ceilings at Christmastime in Central Europe, as a symbol of Christianity.

The first decorated tree was at Riga in Latvia, in 1510. In the early 16th century, Martin Luther is said to have decorated a small Christmas Tree with candles, to show his children how the stars twinkled through the dark night.





“We must not sit still and look for miracles; up and doing, and the Lord will be with thee. Prayer and pains, through faith in Jesus Christ, will do anything.”

-George Eliot

*Please send ideas and articles and other information for publication to Barbara House [bghhouse@aol.com](mailto:bghhouse@aol.com) or call at 717-334-8554*

## Daughters@Large

If you are a Daughter@Large or know of a Daughter@Large who would like to receive this newsletter and more information from the Assembly and Diocese, or if you are doing something of interest, let us know. Please send your name, location and email to Susan Steffen at [susancsteffen@gmail.com](mailto:susancsteffen@gmail.com) or call her at 717-420-5052.

## New Chapters

On November 11, 2012, at the 10:00 AM Service at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in the Valley, Harrisburg, our fourth Daughters of the King (DOK) Chapter in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania was installed. Michele Marini, DOK President of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania presented the newly formed chapter with its Charter. The Reverend Bill Alford installed 11 new members into the Daughters of the King, **Daughters of Glory** Chapter. Each new member was presented with their Greek Fluery Cross. This cross will be worn as a reminder, we cannot live a day without Christ in our lives. We had daughters visiting us from State College and New Market MD. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal together after the installation. God truly blessed us on this day. For information about the DOK in the Harrisburg area, please contact Cathy Rippeon at 717-469-1578 or [cathyww93@aol.com](mailto:cathyww93@aol.com).



(Photo courtesy of St. Andrew's in the Valley Website-Daughters of Glory and Guests)

## Book Ends . . . . .

Hello Daughters, have you read a particularly good book lately? Did it move you spiritually, emotionally, or thoughtfully? Was it just a fun read? Please send in your recommendations for others to read and enjoy.

**A current recommendation** is **Wrapped Up: God's Ten Gifts for Women** by Cheryl Dickow and Teresa Tomeo (Aug 21, 2012). *Wrapped Up: God's Ten Gifts for Women* offers a healthy alternative to the false messages women hear today. Each chapter focuses on a different gift a woman is meant to discover and unwrap, ultimately leading to peace and fulfillment. Cheryl draws from her extensive knowledge of Old Testament women to unveil life lessons found in the rich history of our faith, and Teresa uses her media expertise to reveal how to counter the cultural messages that inundate women today. Together, the authors provide a timeless and timely look at God's life-giving gifts. (Amazon)

**A second recommendation** is **The Hiding Place** by Corrie Ten Boom, Elizabeth and John Sherrill (2006) Corrie Ten Boom was a woman admired the world over for her courage, her forgiveness, and her memorable faith. In World War II, she and her family risked their lives to help Jews escape the Nazis, and their reward was a trip to Hitler's concentration camps. But she survived and was released--as a result of a clerical error--and now shares the story of how faith triumphs over evil.

For thirty-five years Corrie's dramatic life story, full of timeless virtues, has prepared readers to face their own futures with faith, relying on God's love to overcome, heal, and restore. Now releasing in a thirty-fifth anniversary edition for a new generation of readers, *The Hiding Place* tells the riveting story of how a middle-aged Dutch watchmaker became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's death camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century. (Amazon)

“Somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others, is the joy that comes back to you.”

John  
Greenleaf Whittier

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**#END#**



