



Winter 2025 Edition
Volume 28

Interim Editors
Joy James Williams
Idalia Adams

Email
dokseflorida@gmail.com

DOK SE FL website
www.dokseflorida.org

Diocese of SE FL website
www.diosef.org

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Silver Cross

Diocese of Southeast Florida

Message from our President!

Avonelle Forbes

avonelleforbes@msn.com

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a
highway for our God"
Isaiah 40:5

Dear Sisters-In-Christ,

In this season of Advent, I believe that our focus should not be on the Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals, but rather our focus should mirror behaviors that reflect the beliefs that we as Daughters and followers of Jesus, hold. Christ's whole ministry was about serving, not being served. He saw people who others did not see, and He paid attention to them - to the poor, the lost, and to the lonely; so, too, as His followers, we are called to go and do likewise.

When I was growing up, I was taught that the season of Advent was a Penitential season. The Altar colors and vestments were purple; we sang Advent hymns and we were told that this season of Advent was just as penitential as the season of Lent. In fact, Advent is referred to by many as "the little Lent." During Advent, we were called not only to watch and wait, but to examine our lives honestly in the presence of Jesus, and with His help, to amend our lives as the examination indicated.

We are all living in difficult times; wars are being waged, violence and hatred have not ceased, many people live in fear. I pray that we, as Daughters and Christians, will navigate through these difficult times by putting our faith and our trust in Jesus Christ, who is our Hope, and that we hold fast to the unshakeable belief that He will come again.

"Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

Stay awake, sisters, we have work to do!

*Come thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee. (BCP Hymn 66)*

Blessings,
Avonelle Forbes

President, Diocesan Assembly of SE FL
The Order of the Daughters of the King

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Dear Daughters,

On the First Sunday of Advent this year, we hear Jesus make a reference to one of the most well-known stories in the Bible:

“For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:37-39).

For the people of the world before the Flood, it was business as usual. They had their boss’s dinner party and their niece’s wedding to attend. They ran small businesses and made investments for their retirement. And meanwhile crazy old man Noah built his big dumb boat and actually thought God was talking to him. We all know how that ended.

But what set Noah apart from his neighbors? Hebrews says, “By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith” (Hebrews 11:7).

Noah had faith. He believed God’s message to him. He heeded God’s warning. He trusted in God to save him.

And how does God save Noah? This is a great mystery. The very waters that destroy the earth also bear up Noah’s ark. Noah is saved not from disaster but through and in the midst of disaster. St. Peter picks up on this paradox in 1 Peter 3: “God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.” And he even goes on to connect this to baptism, “Baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Salvation through and in the midst of disaster, obtained by faith in the God who is present in disaster, who walks on the water and whom the winds and seas obey

And when the rain stops and the waters recede, what is left? God’s judgment is exhausted. “I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth” (Genesis 9:11) And to prove it, God sets his bow, his weapon of judgment, in the clouds, his “bruised arms hung up for monuments.” Even the story of the Flood is ultimately not one of judgment, but of mercy. As St. James says, “mercy triumphs over judgment” (James 2:13).

“So too,” Jesus says, “will be the coming of the Son of Man.”

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiven,

That, when next he comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
May he with His mercy shield us
And with words of love draw near.

Peace,
The Rev. D. J. Griffin+
Chaplain



A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE HAPPENINGS AT THE 56th ASSEMBLY
OF THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
DIOCESE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA
November 1, 2025

By: Joy James Williams

For the first time in a long time, the Assembly was held on All Saints Day, a day that is of special importance to the Order, as all of us know. In fact, our Chapter Manual encourages us to “participate together as a group, celebrating together as a group in a Service of Holy Communion.” How fortuitous, then, that we, the Assembly of Southeast Florida, were gathering together as a group and celebrating the Holy Eucharist, as a group! Only God arranges these calendars!

The Assembly was held at Christ Church in Coconut Grove (Rector: The Rev. Jonathan Archer), and the Church was filled to capacity with more than two hundred Daughters present. Looking out from the altar, there was a sea of ‘blue and white’ stretched out before us - everyone filled with happy anticipation of the joy that this day could bring to us, but first, we needed to register! Registration proceeded smoothly along under the very excellent leadership of our second vice president, Fay Kelly, and soon we were under the tent for Breakfast.

Breakfast was our first opportunity to meet our old and new friends and to participate in conversations about the very full Agenda for the day. But the day had to begin, and so, in due course, we were ushered into the Church for the beginning of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist; Celebrant-The Rev. Canon Licia Affer, and Preacher, The Rev. D. J. Griffin, Diocesan Chaplain to the Order and Associate Rector of Holy Trinity. If you were not present, and therefore missed this sermon from Father D.J., you missed a rousing sermon, full of the Holy Spirit, and focused on the third charism of our Rule of Life, EVANGELISM.

During the service of Holy Communion, the Memorial Service for Departed Daughters was held; the Presider was Fr. D.J., and the lay leaders were Janelle Hall and Joy James Williams. The Deanery Coordinators for all three Deaneries placed flowers in a vase in memory of the Daughters who have gone on before us into the blessed rest of everlasting peace. The solemnity of the occasion was enhanced by a moment of silence for our dear sisters.

We ended with the singing of the DOK hymn, “Lift High the Cross” and I cannot describe to you the full throated, wholehearted passion with which this song was offered up to God. The glorious singing of the Daughters at this Assembly was truly passionately alive and robust.

After this celebration, we were ready for the business of the day, and it did not take long to be consumed by it.

Our keynoter was The Rev. Canon Terence Lee, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, South River, New Jersey. This keynote address was very timely, direct, and grounded in the Holy Scriptures and if you were not there, I am sorry that you missed it. I could not even attempt to give you an abbreviated version, but if I remember nothing else, I remember the 3 D's – Division, distraction, and Doubt. If we recognize the D's, we will know when the enemy is ready to sow discord among us – a dangerous state for the people of God because God has told us in many ways and certainly in Holy Scripture that He is a God of peace and not a God of discord, strife and disunity. Jesus said that we 'should be one as He and the Father are one.'

Our treasurer, Barbara Harris, presented the financial report for '24-'25 and presented the proposed budget for '25-'26, which was accepted and filed.

The Right Rev. Peter Eaton facilitated the choosing of the Daughter who would wear the Bishop's Cross for 2026. The name drawn from all those submitted was Octavia Jabuli from Good Shepherd, Tequesta.

Unfortunately, because we were running well behind by this time, we did not have time to hear, in detail, the Retreat experiences of the three delegates who represented us from this Diocese, but we did hear 2-minute presentations from each one about the impact that the Retreat had upon them, and it was deep and life-changing.

Three new delegates were elected to represent us at the 2026 Fall Retreat. They are Heather Stanislas, Dade Deanery; Corona Robinson, Broward Deanery, and Margaret "Peggy" Greene will be the representative from the Palm Beach Deanery.

The Holy Spirit was with us, and the Assembly as a whole, was a wonderful experience. It is also true that although we accomplished a great deal, I am aware that we must improve in some areas. I am sure that our Executive Board would appreciate hearing ideas that would make the 57th Assembly an even more rewarding and successful event.

Click on the image to remember the day.



Around Palm Beach Deanery

The St. Margaret of Scotland Chapter, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palm Beach Gardens attended the dedication and grand opening of the St. Mark's Nativity Campus in Pahokee, FL on June 13 and contributed 2,000 diapers to the center.



The dedication ceremony was led by faith leaders from St. Mark's where over a million dollars was raised to renovate the former Church of the Nativity located at this site.

The campus is now home to BRIDGES, a community resource center designed to serve the needs of families and children in the Pahokee community. Services offered are parenting classes, workshops, and education. Parents can also get help with housing, financial and mental health needs.

The center is managed by Community Partners of South Florida and a program of the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County. The ribbon cutting ceremony signaled that the long-awaited campus was now open.

Evelyn Medcalf, former president, welcomed President Cary VanAntwerp and St. Margaret of Scotland Daughters at the June 22, 2025, Admission Service for The Rev. Dr. Patsy McGregor at St. David's in the Pines



Around Palm Beach Deanery

The St. Brigid of Kildare Chapter of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Boca Raton, installed new Officers on September 7, 2025.



Chapter Officers from L to R - Paula Behul, Secretary, Jean McDonald, Treasurer, Maria Provost, President & Patricia Lusk, Vice President.



St. Brigid of Kildare Daughters pose with their Rector, Rev. Andrew Sherman as they celebrate the Installation of their 2025-2028 Officers. Also present to offer support are SEFL DOK Diocesan Assembly President Avonelle Forbes and Palm Beach DOK Deanery Coordinator Laurette Bagley.

Around Palm Beach Deanery



The Reverend Dr. Patsy McGregor and Cheryl Ann Leslie were Admitted to the Order of the Daughters of the King® on June 22nd, 2025, at St. David's-in-the-Pines.

In attendance to provide support were Avonelle Forbes, SEFL Diocesan Assembly President, Merrilene Peramune, St. Joseph's Chapter President, Malvern Mathis, Province IV DAL Chair/Dade Deanery Coordinator and Elaine Hamilton, St Bernard de Clairvaux and Joy James Williams, past president (Diocesan).

St. David's Daughters, St. David's in-the-Pines in Wellington, began the new 2025-2028 term on September 14th with the installation of their DOK Chapter Officers. The Reverend Canon J. Fletcher Montgomery was the Celebrant for Sunday's Services at St. David's and was delighted to officiate the installation.



New Chapter Officers from left to right Eileen Licitra, Secretary, Claudette Wray, President, Dr. Beatrice Deshommes, Vice President, Joyce Parker, Treasurer

Around Palm Beach Deanery

St. David's Daughters gave a warm welcome to September's monthly meeting Guest Speaker, Lydia Schweizer from St. Mary's DOK Chapter in Stuart. Lydia provided an update on the Palm Beach Deanery Service Project which serves the Mariners at the Port of Palm Beach.



The Palm Beach Express left North Palm Beach @ 6:30 a.m. on November 1, 2025, headed for Coconut Grove.



Four stops along the way...

1. St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2. Palm Beach Outlet
3. St. Joseph's Episcopal
4. Town Center, Boca Raton

We arrive at the 56th DOK Assembly!



Louise E. Hindry Chapter Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach

Holy Trinity DOK enjoyed a presentation from Kyla Ann Faircloth as she shared her Thailand Mission Trip Adventure. Our Chapter has supported her with prayers and donations. We are so proud of the good work she is doing in spreading the Good News around the world.

Submitted by:

Dawn Roog

President

Louise E. Hindry Chapter



Louise E. Hindry Chapter Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach

The Palm Beach Deanery DOK Advent Breakfast was held December 6 at Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach.

After enjoying a delicious breakfast, The Rev. D.J. Griffin, Diocesan DOK Chaplain, gave us a new way to think about Santa in his talk entitled "Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus." His talk focused on St. Nicholas and stories which still persist today whether true or not but all of them emphasize the miracle hidden in the Christmas story of a beautiful gift coming into the world.

Submitted by:

Dawn Roog

President

Louise E. Hindry Chapter



Mary and Martha Chapter St. Andrew's, Lake Worth Beach

When I was asked to write this month's article, I realized how blessed I am that all the women in my life have belonged to the Daughters of the King. My grandma, my mom, both my aunts, many of my friends, and now me. As a Daughter of the King, we take an oath of evangelism, service, and prayer. Now any one of those could be a tad bit intimidating, but the prayer was the one that really threw me for a loop. Yes, I pray every day. I have prayers on my phone, at my desk, by my bed. Prayer is just something I do naturally. But when you take an oath that you are going to pray for other people, possibly that you do not know, well that sent me in total panic mode. I remember thinking "I can't do this, no way, I'm out". But, sometimes in the midst of change, we often discover wings we never knew we had. My mom always taught me, "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called"! God did not add another day to our lives because we needed it. He added it because someone out there needs us. Maybe to tell them about Jesus and how He died so we could live. Maybe they need us to pray for them or help them in some way. The Bible presents prayer as a vital way to connect with God, seek His guidance, and express gratitude. It is important to pray regularly, and we are encouraged to pray for others. Prayer is a way to support and help those in need. I believe in prayer and have seen many prayers be answered in one way or another. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." Well, I realized that I did want to make a difference and that with God help, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me! (*Philippians 4:13*)

Thank you, Jesus, for blessing us more than we deserve. Please help us be content with who we are, what we have and where you are leading us. Help us to have the mindset of confidence, courage, and thankfulness all day long. Amen.

May our Lord bless you this month with courage and thankfulness.

Kelly Boudle,
Daughter of the King

St. David's Chapter St. David in the Pines, Wellington

On October 12 and 19, Joyce Parker helped coordinate St. David's outreach to St. George's Table in Rivera Beach. The effort resulted in seventy-two bags of toiletries for women in need.

Joyce leads our campaign for blood donations throughout the year. November 9 was a very special appeal in honor of her late husband, Tom Parker, who was a dedicated blood donor. The November 9 campaign resulted in an outpouring of support with twenty-six successful donations, making an impact for others in desperate need!

On Nov 16, Beatrice Deshommes coordinated a free CPR training session for St. David's parishioners. The training was provided by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. Attendees left informed and empowered.

This month, our daughters will begin holding a weekly online vigil each Sunday for our newly appointed rector until his arrival. Father Tees will be instituted as rector at St. David's in the Pines in mid-January.

Submitted by:
Beatrice Deshommes



St. Margaret of Scotland Chapter St. Joseph, Boynton Beach

Piecing together St. Margaret of Scotland @ St. Joseph's Episcopal Church Boynton Beach



Our August meeting focused on St. Margaret of Scotland, the patron of our Chapter. One of our members, Clara DiGrigoli, led us in a very informative session on St. Margaret and we learned so much about this great lady and how she used her time, talents and position to bring people to Christ, feed the poor, influence the church for good, bring order into the church and the kingdom and bring up her family to praise and honor God. She died at the young age of forty-eight and she used her brief time on earth to accomplish all this! She was in Scotland not by choice but by accident (yes literally - she was in a shipwreck). Born an English exile in Hungary, raised in the Hungarian court, called back to England only to have her father mysteriously die soon after they landed. They suffered many setbacks and the life she knew, and perhaps dreamed about as a girl, was not the one she ended up living. But we know with God there are no accidents. God used her desire to serve him to place her in an environment where she could have the greatest influence.

We had a great time putting together a puzzle of the stained-glass window from St. Margaret's Chapel in Edinburgh. The many pieces of the puzzle reminded us that everyone has a role and a place, and the Order will not be complete without each one of us who has been called to be a Daughter responds to the call.

We have turned our puzzle into a portable prayer wall that has been offered as an additional prayer tool in our Lady Chapel for intercession, thanksgiving, or just prayerful meditation.

The prayer wall marks the 35th anniversary of our chapter and the 140th anniversary of the Order.

More on Prayer Walls next time.

Love and blessings,
FHS
Merrilene Peramune



St. Margaret of Scotland Chapter St. Joseph, Boynton Beach

Breakfast Meeting at Panera on the Art of Evangelism



**Breakfast meeting on Evangelism
– St. Margaret of Scotland
Chapter @ St. Joseph's Episcopal
Church**



Summer DOK meetings can be interesting and lively events for those of us who reside in Florida all year round. In July, our Chapter met at Panera and our guest speaker The Rev. David Cycle Morse, Music Director at St. Joseph's, led us in a discovery of how to make evangelism work.

We learned so much about evangelism, and how to create and take advantage of moments to share our Christ story with someone else, connect with other people, both Christians and those who have not yet experienced Christ, is a wonderful way to enrich each other's spiritual journey.

We all read various Bible verses on Hope that Father David had put together for us. Timidly at first, and then as we got bolder some of us even stood up and read the verses because we wanted to make sure that others at our table could hear us. At that moment we stopped thinking about ourselves and our unfamiliar surroundings and started to focus on the other people who needed to hear. And that I think is what David was trying to teach and lead us to about evangelism. If someone had told us that we would be standing up and reading the Bible at Panera many of us would have said 'no way!'

At the end of the program David left us with a set of verses on hope that we could reflect on each day of the month and a beautiful letter from his buddy 'Koko' on Evangelism so we could start our own story.

FHS
Merrilene Peramune

St. Catherine of Siena Chapter St. Paul, Delray Beach

On Saturday, August 9, members of the St. Catherine of Siena Chapter, St. Paul's Delray Beach, Daughters of the King & Clergy, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and the Lay Healing Ministers gathered for the Blessing of the St. Catherine of Siena Chapel! The name of the Chapel is in recognition of the Daughters' service project which included renovating, refurbishing, and furnishing the Chapel. The Chapel will be used for individual prayers, quiet meditation, counseling and for administering the healing rites of intercessory prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing by the Lay Healing Ministers.

Blessings!

For His Sake
Your Sister-in-Christ
Claudette Alexander
President
St. Catherine of Siena

Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.



Around Broward Deanery

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

I must give the Heavenly Father all the Glory and Gratitude for keeping me during 2025.

Broward Deanery Meetings are held four (4) times per year, in-person or by zoom.

2026 Upcoming Broward Deanery Meetings:

January 21, 2026

May 30, 2026

September 26, 2026

November 14, 2026

We welcomed fourteen new Senior Daughters: St. Mark's Episcopal Church (3), St. Benedict's Ann Saunders Chapter (1), Church of the Atonement, Ruth Ann Chapter (3), and St. Mary Magdalene & St. Martin (7).

Welcome to four new Presidents to Broward Deanery:

- St. Benedict's - Ann Saunders Chapter: Stephanie Williams.
- St. Anne's Hallandale - Ruth Naomi Chapter: Jennie Turnquest-Williams.
- St. Andrew's Hollywood - Lillian Rebecca Chapter: Denice Thompson.
- Church of the Atonement - Ruth Ann Chapter: Michelle Ruddock

For Thanksgiving Bernice Laramore Chapter at St. Christopher provided fruit and snack baskets to the sick and shut in members. During Christmas, they will be giving snack bags to the Sunday School children at their church.

Church of Atonement, Ruth Ann Chapter will visit La Mercie's Retirement Home, in Lauderdale Lakes on Saturday, December 20, 2025, to provide the residents with a very delicious meal and Christmas gifts.

Holy Sacrament's Chapter was revived, and they are in Discernment and four new Daughters will be added to the Order. The Admission Service is scheduled for January 4, 2025. Thanks to Avonelle Forbes, our Diocesan President and Joy James-Williams, our Board Advisor and President LaVerne Comerie-Hubbard for their leadership.

Broward Deanery will close out the year 2025 with a "Getting to Know You" brunch on December 29, 2025.

Dear God, I come before you today with a grateful heart. Thank you for this beautiful day. Thank you for all the blessings you have given me. It is by your kindness and grace that I am able to go this far. I adore you and give you all the glory. Thank you for forgiving my sins and thank you for loving me. Thank you for helping me to make right decisions. I trust you with all my heart. In Jesus Name, AMEN!

FHS - Barbara Mitchell
Broward Deanery Coordinator

St. Mary Magdalene Chapter St. Mary Magdalene and St. Martin, Coral Springs

St. MM&M Episcopal Church located in Coral Springs, Florida first Admission service to The Order of The Daughters of The King, The St Mary Magdalene Chapter was held on Rose Sunday, December 14, 2025, at the 10:30 a.m. service. Let us welcome our new Daughters Elizabeth Shirk-Lambert, Lillia Cufy, Rosy Glenrose-Allyene, Dahlia Cunningham, Janice Villiers, Wendy King, and Colleen Bogle.

The new Daughters of The St. Mary Magdalene Chapter were well supported by their Sisters In Christ throughout the diocese. Officers observed the new Daughters taking their vows included Chapter President Rose Vance, SEFL Diocesan President Avonelle Forbes, Margaret Dunstan and Joy James Williams, Board Advisors, SEFL Diocesan Treasurer and Chapter Member Barbara Harris, Laurette Bagley, North Palm Beach Deanery Coordinator, Chapter Secretary Corona Robinson, and Chapter Vice President Ruby Brewster.



The new Daughters of The St. Mary Magdalene Chapter were well supported by their Sisters In Christ throughout the diocese.





Corona Robinson being installed as the secretary of The St. Mary Magdalene Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King by Rector and Chapter Chaplain, The Rev. Lee Davis.



The introduction of the Chapter Banner was made & presented by Chapter President Rose Vance.

A proud Rector and Chapter Chaplain, The Rev. Lee Davis is a strong supporter of The Order of The Daughters of The King. He worked diligently to make this happen. The chapter thanks you!



Father Lee giving his sermon and a powerful message to the congregation and visiting Daughters



The Choir and Choir Master at St. MM & M took the time to practice and perform For His Sake in honor of the first admission service for the St. Mary Magdalene DOK Chapter. For His Sake was last performed by The Order of The Daughters of The King Glory Bound singers at our 2018 Triennial in Baltimore, Maryland.

St. Mary Magdalene Chapter St. Mary Magdalene and St. Martin, Coral Springs

Our Discernment classes started August 30, 2025, on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. As classes progressed, we decided to take on a service project. We decided our labyrinth needed beautification and we started our first service project!



Ruth Ann Chapter Church of the Atonement, Lauderdale Lakes

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Lauderdale Lakes, FL. Ruth Ann Chapter, joyfully welcomed three new Daughters as members of the Order. Gloria Brown, Christina President-Graham, Joleen Steadman.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Kwasi Thornell, officiated at the service which brought our Diocesan President, Avonelle Forbes, and other Daughters from other chapters to witness the admission.

A reception followed in the Parish hall, with the Diocesan President and new chapter president, Michelle Ruddock, cutting the cake.

Submitted by:
Fay Kelly



Around Dade Deanery

Submitted by Evangelist Malvern Mathis, Dade Deanery Coordinator

We have begun our New Church year ... What have you left behind?

On November 30, 2025, we started the Church's New Liturgical Year as we began the Advent Season; the season of preparation and reflection as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth. In this time of reflection, we can also ponder what things we can shed or leave behind as we continue on our spiritual journey. So, what have you shed? What are you leaving behind?

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

This verse teaches the importance of letting go of the past and striving for what lies ahead. Paul encourages us to focus on the future and our heavenly calling in Christ, not on past mistakes or achievements. For many of us, letting go of the past is quite a challenge.

In an article written by Dr. Elena M. Rivera, she states that leaving things behind is more than just a physical act; it holds profound spiritual connotations and ancient wisdom. It gives us an opportunity to cleanse ourselves from burdens, regrets, past hurts, and/or attachments that stunt our spiritual growth.

God opens the windows of heaven and pours out many blessings for us. But we block those blessings when we choose to not shed what we have left behind. Leaving things behind and shedding old habits and situations that no longer serve our spiritual growth, acknowledges that we are ready for renewal and new beginnings.

I will admit that I have been guilty of having held on much too long to past hurts and things that hindered my spiritual journey. I am so, so thankful that God never laid down on the job; He sent others in my path that helped unshackle those chains that had me, bound paving the way to a stronger journey.

For the Dade Deanery, this year has been a wonderful time of growth and fellowship. We have celebrated each other, we have been strengthened by teachings throughout the year, and we have been blessed as we sought to bless others.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



SAVE THE DATES ---

DADE DEANERY MEETINGS

February 21, 2026
May 16, 2026
September 26, 2026
November 21, 2026

Please be sure to have your Chapter Members
save these dates!!

Additional meeting details will be distributed
prior to each meeting.

Malvern Mathis
Dade Deanery Coordinator
305-323-9616 (Cell)

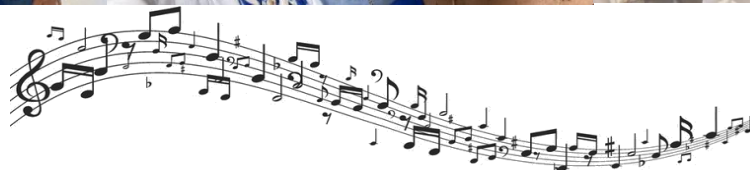
St. Helena's Chapter Church of the Ascension, Miami

The Saint Helena's Chapter of the Daughters of the King in Southeast Florida held its annual Quiet Day on December 6, 2025. This year's theme, "I Need Thee Every Hour," guided the spirit and reflection of the day. The Retreat was led by Margaret Dunstan, whose inspiring presentation kept the audience fully engaged from start to finish.

Music played a meaningful role as well, with the organist offering beautiful selections that enriched the atmosphere and added a spirit of praise to the gathering.

Attendees enjoyed a warm breakfast followed by a delicious and plentiful lunch. The event was well attended by both chapter members and visitors, making it a wonderful Advent day of fellowship, renewal, and quiet reflection.

Barbara Killen
President



St. Bernadette Chapter St. Bernard de Clairvaux, North Miami Beach



From left to right: Lozina McCartney-Gunter, Virginia Williams, Dr. Nichole Castater, Maria-Georgina Ross & Joan Dwyer



New Daughters. pictured with parish priest Fr. Gregory Mansfield and chapter president Leleith McDonald



St. Bernadette Daughters at Camp McDowell



May Elsa Rest In Eternal Peace. She is so missed by all of us.



St. Bernadette's Chapter Daughters



St. Bernadette's Angel Tree for Christmas outreach project at North Beach Nursing Home

St. Catherine of Siena Chapter Holy Family, Miami Gardens

The St. Catherine of Siena and St. Marie Chapters of Holy Family Episcopal Church hosted a Farewell Breakfast for The Rev. Horace D. Ward in the Clinton Brown Hall on Saturday, November 22, 2025.

Father Ward began the event with a reflective time after a sumptuous breakfast was served.

Following the reflective time, Father Ward and Chapter members and their guests looked back at all that has been accomplished with the Daughters over the thirty years that he had served as Rector of the Church and Chapter Chaplain.

During the early years of his ministry, he began to attend our Quiet Days, Assemblies and other activities and after he was given a brochure on the role of the priest, he began to pay special attention to the Daughters and how they could strengthen the spiritual life of the church.

He began to attend meetings of the chapter (there was only a senior chapter in the first years of his ministry) and soon he began to encourage Daughters to become certified LEMS and to involve themselves in other ministries in the Church. One of our members, Margie Lyttle became Diocesan President, and shortly thereafter we were one of the first chapters to inaugurate a Junior Daughter chapter.

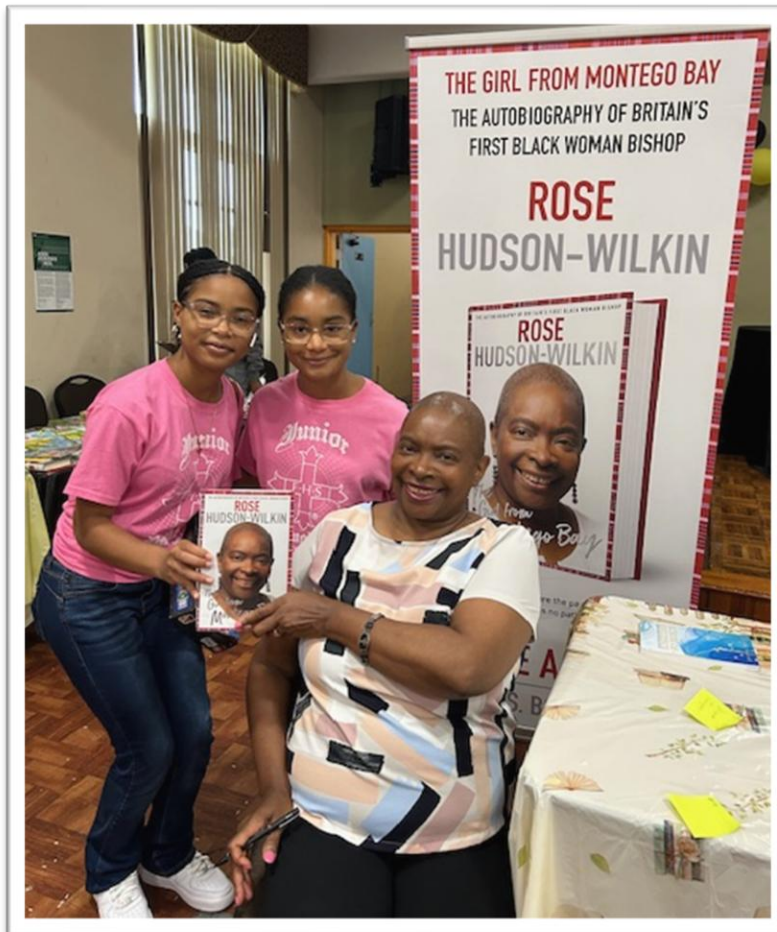
On the fiftieth anniversary of our chapter, the Diocesan President at the time, Margaret Dunstan, visited our chapter, and participated in the admission of new Daughters. At this same service, the chapter presented Father Ward with a Chaplain's Cross of the Order of the Daughters of the King.

Several officers of the Daughters of the King Assembly of the Diocese of Southeast Florida joined us to celebrate and mark his thirty years with us, and his years as Chaplain to the Order in this Diocese during the presidency of the late and revered Linda Ramsay. Those participating in the event were: Helen Bhagwandin, National Council member; Avonelle Forbes, President; Margaret Dunstan and Joy James Williams, past presidents and current Advisors to the Board; Malvern Mathis, Dade Deanery Coordinator, and Deacon Deborah McLaughlin from St. Benedict.

Jean Robinson
President
St. Catherine of Siena Chapter

St. Catherine of Siena Chapter Holy Family, Miami Gardens

It was a blessed morning on Saturday, August 9, when the St. Catherine of Siena Chapter, Holy Family, Miami Gardens, in conjunction with the Positive People Network, hosted a Community Love Event. What excitement as children from the neighborhood gathered to collect “back to school” supplies, enjoy treats and listen to presentations. The highlight of the event was a special visit by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Britain’s first Black woman bishop! She honored us with a book signing of her memoir, ‘The Girl From Montego Bay’ (Jamaica). We listened attentively as Bishop Rose shared from her heart, encouraging our youngsters to prayerfully follow their God-directed path. Here Juniors from the St. Marie Chapter, beam with pride meeting the Bishop on this God-filled day.



St. Margaret of Scotland Chapter Church of the Epiphany, Miami Lakes

On November 16, 2025, the Church of the Epiphany in Miami Lakes held a bilingual service in celebration of our Patron's Day, St. Margaret of Scotland. The admission service included four new daughters into The Order of the Daughters of King, St Margaret of Scotland Chapter, three of which are Spanish speaking daughters.

Our chapter, St. Margaret of Scotland is proudly now, a bilingual chapter. Our new Daughters are Milagros Ahumada, Belia Barrera, Romelia Calviz and Adrian Williams.

In attendance were Ruth Foss, Province IV President; Joy James Williams, past Diocesan President; Edith Newbold, Diocesan First Vice President, and Malvern Mathis, Dade Deanery Coordinator.

Also present were our two former chapter members, Ruby Brewster and Ana Carvajal. They all joined us and enjoyed the beautiful reception following the service in the church hall.

Submitted by
Juliet Nwahiri
Chapter President



From our Historian....

Historian's Page Coming soon on our Website

The Order of the Daughters of the King® – Southeast Florida

Our Purpose

The Historian's Page is a living record of our journey as Daughters of the King® in Southeast Florida. Here, we will preserve our milestones, honor our members, and celebrate our shared mission of prayer, service, and evangelism — so that future generations may know the faithfulness of those who came before.

Our Roots

The Order of the Daughters of the King® was founded in 1885 as a spiritual sisterhood of women and girls who take a lifelong vow to follow Christ, serve His Church, and spread His Kingdom.

Members wear the distinctive cross as a visible sign of that vow, committing to a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service.

In Southeast Florida, our story began when faithful women from several parishes felt called to unite their efforts in prayer and service. This vision led to the formation of our diocesan assembly. Our Diocese extends from Jensen Beach to the North all the way to Key West. We currently have chapters in the Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County, Martin County and Monroe County (Florida Keys). [Click here for a list of our Chapters with year of institution.](#)

The National Membership Chair informed me that our first chapter was instituted on April 8, 1895, in Key West at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, under the chapter name St. Paul. This chapter was reinstituted on July 10, 1994.

The Southeast Florida has a total of fifty-two chapters. 47 Seniors and 5 Juniors. Currently we have a total of 808 Senior members and 29 Junior members including 13 Daughters At Large.

Our Journey in Southeast Florida

From our earliest gatherings in parish halls to diocesan-wide retreats, the Daughters of the King® in Southeast Florida have been a steadfast presence in the life of the Church. We have prayed through hurricanes, celebrated baptisms, and confirmations, and stood beside our clergy and congregations in times of joy and challenge.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world. As the Spirit continues to move among us,

He draws all His "Daughters" to a closer, more personal relationship with Him through our dedication to prayer, service, and evangelism.

"For His Sake... I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something."

Marcia White

Diocesan Historian Chair 2024-2027

A Note of Gratitude and Transition

Dear Sisters in the Order of the Daughters of the King,

Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the anticipated Fall newsletter. As many of you know, the past season brought with it the wonderful but time-consuming work of planning our Province Fall Assembly. That project required the full attention of our editors, and as a result, the newsletter was not published. We are grateful for your grace as we balanced these responsibilities in service to our Diocese and Province.

I also want to share an update. After much prayer and reflection, I will be stepping aside from my role as co-editor of the DOK newsletter. It has been a true blessing to use my gifts in this ministry—to help share valuable information, highlight events across our Diocese, and support the work we do together as Daughters. Serving in this capacity has been an honor, and I am deeply thankful for the trust you have placed in me.

As I step away, I am confident the newsletter will continue forward with fresh energy and a renewed perspective in the very capable hands of Joy James Williams and Merrilene Peramune.

I ask that you join me in offering support and encouragement as Merrilene begins this important work in collaboration with Joy.

Although I am stepping out of the editor's role, I am not stepping away from service. I will continue to serve as your Communications Chair—distributing email updates, sharing prayer requests, announcing admission services, quiet days, prayer breakfasts, and, of course, fulfilling any other duties requested by our President! Not to mention, taking many pictures at our events. So, when you see me, smile for the camera! It remains my joy to help keep us connected through prayer, fellowship, and shared ministry.

Thank you again for your understanding, your support, and your continued dedication to our Order.

For His Sake,

Idalia Adams

Communications Chair, Daughters of the King
Diocese of Southeast Florida

A REMINDER THAT
YOU'VE GOT MAIL...
THAT IS AN EMAIL FROM DOK SE FLORIDA!

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used to distribute emails in large volumes.
It allows us to send professional looking emails
and track who has received and opened them.
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DOK SOUTHEAST CALENDAR 2026

January 3 – Executive Committee Meeting, Zoom
January 4 – Holy Sacrament Admission Service, Pembroke Pines
January 17 – Diocesan Assembly Board Meeting, Zoom
January 18 – St. Gregory's Admission Service, Boca Raton
January 21 – Broward Deanery Meeting
January 25 – St. Andrew's Admission Service, Lake Worth Beach
February 7 – Palm Beach Deanery Meeting
February 21 – Dade Deanery Meeting
February 28 – Diocesan Quiet Day, St. Gregory, Boca Raton
March 15 - Silver Cross deadline for submissions
April 25 – Diocesan Leadership Workshop, TBD
May 16 – Dade Deanery Meeting
May 23 – Palm Beach Deanery Meeting
May 30 – Broward Deanery Meeting
June 15 - Silver Cross deadline for submissions

Please send all calendar events and correspondence to
[**dokseflorida@gmail.com**](mailto:dokseflorida@gmail.com)

Chapter Presidents - It is important that you coordinate your events with the Daughters of the King Diocesan calendar so that the President, or her representative, can attend the events that they should, such as institution of chapters, installation of officers and admission of daughters.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

DOK SOUTHEAST CALENDAR 2026

August 15 – Marian Service, TBD

September 5 – Executive Committee Meeting

September 12 – Palm Beach Deanery Meeting

September 15 – Silver Cross deadline for submissions

September 19 – Diocesan Assembly Board Meeting

September 26 – Dade Deanery Meeting

September 26 – Broward Deanery Meeting

September 28 – October 2 – Province IV Assembly Meeting and
Retreat, Camp McDowell, Alabama

November 7 – Southeast Florida 57th Diocesan Assembly,
St. Mark the Evangelist, Ft. Lauderdale

November 14 – Broward Deanery Meeting

November 21 - Dade Deanery Meeting

December 5 – Palm Beach Deanery Advent Prayer Breakfast,
Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach

December 12 – Palm Beach Deanery Meeting

December 13 – St. Mary Magdalene & St. Martin Admission Service,
Coral Springs

December 15 – Silver Cross deadline for submissions

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