

## **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

The Order of the Daughters of the King® is an organization of Christian women, both lay and ordained, who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We follow a discipline of prayer and are supported through the companionship of our sisters. Our goal is to know the Lord and to make HIM known to others.

February 2022 was the first time, in many years, that we collaborated with another local Daughter's chapter to host our Spring Assembly. After much planning and a few learning curves, we succeeded in hosting a spiritually moving weekend. Over the course of two days, not only did we pray, we ate, shared and gained helpful knowledge from one another. This assembly welcomed many DOK Chapters from across the Diocese. Fun and blessed sisterly love were in full display.

In May, we hosted our "St. John's-Daughters of the King-Sunday Tea". Women over the age of 12 were invited to attend. The goal was to share knowledge about who, what and why our organization exists. It was great getting to know the ladies from all of our church services, all while sipping our tea, and nibbling on cake, pastries and sweets.

In June we welcomed four new "Daughters In Training". Our sister, Lisa Shirah-Hiers, graciously accepted the mission of becoming our new Chapter Trainer. She took the extra time to learn the rules and specifics of training in our organization. All four trainees successfully completed the course work required to become part of the DOK organization. They now begin, not just as a member of a group, but as a link in a sisterhood of hope, faith and prayer.

One of our DOK service missions, for the summer, is to assist with the Annual "Fans For Senior's & PAWS" Drive for Austin Family Elder Care. This year, St. John's raised and donated over \$1,100 for fans to keep Austin Senior Citizens, along with their pets, a little cooler throughout the hot summer. This amount surpasses any St. John's funds donated to Family Elder Care in previous years.

In Oct, during both the 11am and 1pm services, Rev. Minerva Skeith, honored our newly trained daughters with an Installation Ceremony. Partaking in this ceremony is like a "right of passage". During the ceremony, each Daughter, new and veteran, pledged their commitment to prayer and promises of the organization. At the closing, Rev. Skeith blessed the crosses for which each Daughter vowed to wear, upon her breast, for the entirety of her life.

Our St. John's DOK Chapter finished off the year with our Annual "Gift Box Giving" for Austin State Hospital. During the year, we gather up and stockpile personal hygiene products, donated and bought, such as, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Then in December, we all meet to pack

shoeboxes with these products, making sure each box is gender specific. The boxes are each topped off with a scarf, hat and gloves; which are graciously knitted and donated by our congregational knitting circle and/or Margaret Beare. Like clockwork, each box is packed, tagged with the gender, and lastly it's surrounded with Christmas wrapping. The process is a beautiful sight to see; an assembly line of daughters working together to accomplish a common "good".

This year we completed and donated a total of 64 Christmas boxes for the Austin State Hospital. This service mission is extremely important to our chapter. Upon a patients' release from the Austin State Hospital, there is no guarantee on where they will end up; a home, shelter or the streets. We prepare these boxes in hopes of offering each person a little bit of love and holiday cheer during the, often lonely, Holiday season.

Sandra E. Ward/Chapter President