

FIRST DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA CIRCLE ESTABLISHED IN TN

The St. Thomas Aquinas Parish of Cookeville, TN and the St. Andrew Parish of Sparta, TN would like to announce the formation of the first Daughters of Isabella circle in the state of Tennessee. The Daughters of Isabella is a fraternal order of Catholic women, ages 16 and over, dedicated to their motto of Unity, Friendship, and Charity. The very first DOI circle was formed in 1897 in New Haven, CT as an auxiliary to the Knights of Columbus. Currently, more than 60,000 women of the U.S. and Canada comprise the body of this now fully independent organization. They devote their time, energy and funds to aid their fellow parishioners and communities in a wide variety of ways. Local circles support an innumerable **list** of charities. **Several** international concerns include supporting youth development, Breast Cancer Awareness and Right to Life.

On Saturday November 5th, 2005, the Lady of Grace Circle No. 1414 was officially established when 41 **women** of the two middle Tennessee parishes **were conferred in a solemn ceremony** at St. Thomas Aquinas Hall. Following the ceremony, the group proceeded to the sanctuary where they joined the Legion of Mary in the praying of the rosary prior to Saturday evening mass. **Lady of Grace Circle** members served as **Commentator, Lector, Eucharistic Ministers. The International Officers in attendance were the** gift bearers. After mass, the 19 newly elected officers were installed by the DOI International Officers and blessed by Fr. Chad Puthoff, S.D.S. of St. Thomas Aquinas. This ceremony was made extra special by the participation of Cookeville's Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard. The day was brought to a close **with a delicious** gourmet dinner prepared and served by the Knights of Columbus and the St. Thomas Aquinas Youth Group.

The circle's first Regent (President) is Carolyn Howell. **Her** enthusiasm and tenacity was the spark for the circle's creation. The circle's **Chaplain** is Fr. Fred **Schmit** of St. Andrew Parish. The ceremonies and organizational training were led by the Daughters of Isabella's International Regent Joan Breton of Maine. She was assisted by International Vice-Regent Elaine Leger of Florida, International Director Susanne Suchy of Michigan, and International Director Leola Myers of North Carolina. These four inspiring women also oversaw the new circle's first monthly meeting on Sunday, November 6th, assuring procedures were correctly established.

For more information about the Daughters of Isabella or to inquire about starting a circle in your parish, please contact Elaine Leger, International Organizer at (941)794-6514 or a-mail her at [javascript:parent.ComposeTo\('info@daughtersofisabella.org'\);](mailto:info@daughtersofisabella.org). If you would like to contact the Lady of Grace Circle #1414 e-mail **Carolyn Howell** at [javascript:parent.ComposeTo\('howellcr@tnaccess.com'\);](mailto:howellcr@tnaccess.com); or call the St. Thomas Aquinas church office at (931)526-2575 to leave a message and someone from the circle will return your call.