

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA®
SERVICETTE

“To serve rather than to be served”



AIC USA

VOL. FIFTY ONE, N^o 4
FALL 2011

HEART & SOLE— *Pounding The Pavement Against Poverty*

Kathy Coco
Diocese of St. Louis

The Ladies of Charity St. Vincent/Guardian Angel held their second annual WALK from 9:00–11:00 AM on Saturday, September 10 at Carondelet Park in St. Louis, Missouri. There were one and three mile routes. They were blessed with good weather, which was a pleasant surprise after such a hot summer. This year everyone was asked to bring a pair of gently worn tennis shoes for the homeless. The Arch Rival Roller Derby Club sent six volunteers to lead the WALK. Many of the children brought their skates to follow them. The disc jockey donated his time again and sent everyone off to music.



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11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



Fr. Richard Gielow, CM, LCUSA (left), and Fr. Robert Gielow, CM, were keynote speakers at the 2011 LCUSA Assembly in Kansas City

Lucky Van De Geuchte
Communications

The Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City hosted an assembly we will all remember. The theme, “Embrace It – Drive It – Change It” was reflected by the speakers and a variety of workshops ranging from leadership on a governing board, providing information on treatment for addiction and insight on the needs of young urban boys, to focusing on global loan opportunities. The presentations, workshops and round

table discussions were directly linked to members discovering for themselves the meaning of “it.”

Following the opening Mass, we were honored to have a personal welcome by the Honorable Sylvester James, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri.

Guest speakers and their topics were: Frs. Richard and Robert Gielow, CM, “I Could Have Done More;” Natalie Monteza, Secretary General, International Association of Charities (AIC), “Changes being made on the International Level;” Sr. Caroljean Willie, SC, “Characteristics

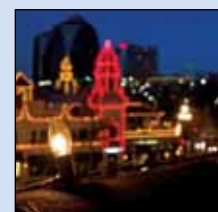
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MISSION STATEMENT

To provide Vincentian leadership to women acting together against all forms of poverty.

VISION STATEMENT

LCUSA-AIC provides Vincentian leadership of transformation assisting persons who are vulnerable to move from marginalization and despair to participation and hope.

New Hours

For the National Service Center
 Mon–Thur., 7 AM–4 PM Central Time



It’s a Close Shave!

Bishop David A. Zubik
Episcopal Chairman

Over a year ago I decided to give a beard a try. Since that time, two of my aunts have been praying incessantly that it would go; some of the stalwart and faithful ladies at the cathedral parish in my diocese have been hoping that it would go; and any number of people have felt free to make a comment that they hoped it would go.

And now, it’s gone!

Taking off the beard was the result of a beautiful pilgrimage in Poland this past summer. During the pilgrimage, I had the chance to reflect a great deal about what is right about my life and



soul and what isn’t right. I then took the opportunity to recommit myself to God to be a better man, a better priest, a better bishop. I made a conscious decision to reconsecrate myself to God through Mary, through our Blessed Mother, through my Blessed Lady.

As I began my journey back home to the United States, I felt I needed to make some outward sign to God to match that inward recommitment. I remembered a practice in the Old Testament called the “Nazarite rite” where a Jewish man who dedicated himself to the Lord would not

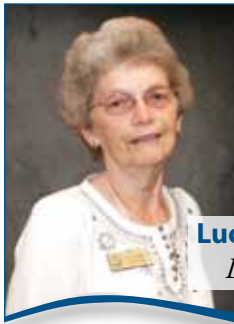
cut any of his hair—even facial—as a sign of that vow to God. I decided to do the reverse—to shave the beard as a sign of my recommitment to God through Mary, a sign of my need to take greater notice and have greater care for the flock which Our Lord has placed in my care.

Once the beard went, it was interesting how many people didn’t even notice. My dear aunt, my godmother who never, ever spared from telling me each time she saw me how much she wanted the beard to go, didn’t notice it gone. My dear goddaughter, Carla, who was so forthright about her dislike from the very beginning that she persisted in calling me “Furry,” didn’t notice that it was gone. Even dear Janice, the woman who cuts my hair and trimmed the beard every two weeks, didn’t notice until she was about to take the clippers to my face.

Interesting, isn’t it? It seems to me that we all find ourselves moving so fast through life that we oftentimes don’t notice the obvious. Whether it’s someone sitting next to us on a plane, a crucifix hanging on our living room wall, a stop sign at a familiar intersection, or the good that someone does for us, we sometimes as very busy human beings simply don’t notice.

While you, like my aunt or my goddaughter or my hair cutter, may have an opinion about beards, I ask all of you to pray for me that I may be true to my recommitment to God through Mary, and that by taking greater notice of the needs of our Church, I might be a better shepherd.

My first step in that pledge – after shaving – is to slow down and better open my ears and eyes to those around me. Might I invite you to do the same. Perhaps that’s the kind of recommitment God wants from us and what we need for God.



President's Message

Lucy Ann Saunders
LCUSA President

With a successful 2010 National Assembly behind us, members of LCUSA's board look forward to following up with associations and members on their needs and future plans. In making our plans as a national board, we will continue to put forth efforts to foster better communications with local associations. I extend a special thank you to the committee members that made the Kansas City National Assembly so meaningful and fulfilling for all of us as members of the Vincentian Family.

The month of October also begins LCUSA's 2011 Annual Appeal. Your generosity will help support the mission of LCUSA in its service to others. From the 2010 Annual Appeal, contributions were made directly to the Daughters of Charity in their ministry to the people of Japan after the earthquake and tsunami. Funding for scholarships was also given for 20 Haitian school children. LCUSA's donation to Haiti was doubled by the Vincentian Family as they stand behind the support of its members. We hope that you too will stand behind us as we continue to be there for disaster relief wherever it might be. All our board members have given to the 2010 Annual Appeal and expect to show their support for the 2011 Annual Appeal with 100% participation. No contribution is too small. The Ladies of Charity USA gratefully acknowledge your support and prayers for the 2011 Annual Appeal.

Another area that needs your support, your physical support, is to consider being a candidate for a position on LCUSA's board for the term of office beginning in 2013. One particular position to be filled in the upcoming elections is treasurer. LCUSA manages all

its financial information through the QuickBooks program. Everything is already set up and sorted by account numbers. There is a great need for someone to come forward with either the knowledge of QuickBooks or with a background in accounting to fill that particular position. Director positions will also be available throughout the five regions. For more information contact the National Service Center and Executive Administrator Maureen McMillan will have a regional VP or officer get in touch with you. Your God-given talents are there and with all the graces already received, what better way to serve and make use of your talents than to share your gifts with LCUSA's board. We need you to play an active part in your national organization.

As Ladies of Charity, we know the meaning of commitment.

Serving on the board affords the opportunity to share your experience and talents with all our local associations and our extended Vincentian Family.

Anticipating the increase of *Servicette* subscriptions next year, please start to organize members' names and addresses on an Excel spreadsheet, setting up individual columns for the first name; last name; street address; city; state; zip code; region. Please note that only the first letter of names and addresses are in caps with the exception of the state abbreviations. The *Servicette* is LCUSA's vehicle to provide information valuable to you as members. This quarterly newsletter affords each subscriber ideas on how to attract new members; offers different approaches on ways to serve those less fortunate; provides spiritually uplifting prayers and history about our Vincentian heritage; and publishes book reviews and other treasured articles to inspire you as a Lady of Charity. Quoting a statement

written in our Silver Anniversary book (LCUSA's history of the first 25 years), "Communication, both through the written word and personal contacts, is of the greatest importance to the success of an organization such as LCUSA and its affiliated members on the national level and the local level." Today, more than ever, those words should resound to all of us on the importance of hearing and reading accounts of what is happening in the lives and work of the Ladies of Charity throughout the United States and the world.

Even though we sometimes feel our impact is lacking the luster and publicity that seems to be all around us, I have seen from my visits so much caring and love spread throughout local communities because of your support and effort. This same feeling has been reiterated by other board members who have visited and enjoyed meeting local association members. The board and I appreciate the welcoming hospitality we have received and look forward to visiting with many more of the local associations.

As Ladies of Charity, we know the meaning of commitment. It is defined by St. Camillus de Lellis "as doing what you said you would do after the feeling you said it in has passed." We know this is true commitment by all of our standards and it is particularly evident in our daily service to others as Ladies of Charity. You have found your place, a rewarding place, doing the work of Christ in the service of the poor. Thanks for all you do and continue to do for others.

SIGN-UP FOR LADIES OF CHARITY E-MAIL LIST

Stay informed.
Stay in touch.
Sign-up today to receive email notifications.
Visit the link below!



<http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us/resources/lcusa-forms/join-lcusa-mailing-list/>

ADVOCACY CONNECTIONS COLLABORATION

Mary Ann Dantuono ~ St. John's University

"We should assist the poor in every way, and do it both by ourselves and by enlisting the help of others."

—St. Vincent de Paul

In establishing the Systemic Change Commission of the Vincentian Family in 2005, the Very Rev. Gregory Gay, C.M., stated, "We are called upon to start actions, especially political actions, to eradicate the causes of poverty and unite in solidarity for justice in favor of the poor, because unjust systems created by selfish hearts have caused social, political and economic poverty." This call to action has been taken seriously by the National Board of the Ladies of Charity USA. We began by studying the systemic change methodology in *Seeds of Hope*, in the publications of formation #11 and #12 and the materials that are available on FamVin.org. We began to develop ideas that could help LCUSA become more effective in responding to Fr. Gay's call. One result of the Board's study was the establishment of the Advocacy Committee of the Board in the spring of 2009.

We also participated in the Systemic Change Commission of the Vincentian Family's convening of North America (US, Canada, Virgin Islands) that took place in November of 2010 in Belleville, IL. This meeting sought to introduce and/or deepen the understanding of the process of systemic change as a way of promoting on-going development of persons living in poverty and to equip leadership and trainers with the necessary tools (knowledge, convictions, and skills). It also began a process to develop regional strategies for continued training in systemic change and to provide opportunities for inter-Family exchange of experience and plans for future collaboration.

In many ways the meeting was a great success. As we shared our stories, we advanced in knowledge and deepened relationships with the various branches of the Vincentian family. From that convening many local meetings and trainings have taken place across North America.

On October 20-23, 2011, in Indianapolis, IN, the family will gather to continue this work. At "Vincentian Family Together Building Bridges Out of Poverty" both the leader-

ship and members of the various branches can come together to pursue the opportunity to learn about the Ruby Payne and Philip De Vol methodology to end poverty in America. The theme promises great opportunities for our service to persons living in poverty. In addition to the goal of helping us to understand generational poverty, this meeting will also explore strategies for transforming local communities and continue to promote collaboration in the Vincentian Family.

We are challenged as members of the family to engage in a systemic change approach. What does that mean to us as the Ladies of Charity? We have been focusing on traveling the "Path of Caritas" with two feet: the foot of Charitable Works and the foot of Social Justice, an advocacy approach. As Vincent stated "Charity embraces Justice." The Systemic Change approach also requires collaboration.

Collaboration is a 21st century model of organizational leadership. It stresses teamwork rather than competition. It begins with an assumption that each individual and organization has talents and skills to offer to the mission but no one individual or organization has it all. In this complex world we need to partner with others to effectively serve persons and communities living in poverty. In the current environment when needs are increasing and resources are diminishing, it offers us a direction of hope.

Collaboration encourages us to:

- ▶ develop relationships to engage in the work of charity and justice;
- ▶ learn the strengths and weaknesses of our partners including persons living in poverty;
- ▶ plan and develop projects together;
- ▶ pool our resources or work together to secure resources as partners for joint ventures and projects;
- ▶ consider that who we work with is as important as what we do;
- ▶ be open to new organizational structures where clearly defined and interrelated roles are possible and probable; and
- ▶ reflect together on our efforts so we can continually refocus ourselves on the 21st century mission of the followers of Vincent.

Collaboration was the style of both St. Vincent and St. Louise. They saw need and created opportunities for others to assist. Our own founding as the Confraternities of Charity is an example of how to engage and organize collaborators in the work of service for persons who suffer poverty, illness or oppression. As followers of Vincent and Louise, we must seek collaboration with the branches of the family and other groups who share our values to achieve the goals of alleviating the conditions of people living in poverty, of eradicating poverty, and changing the systems that perpetuate poverty in the 21st century. We will succeed if we believe sincerely as did Vincent and Louise, that more is accomplished jointly than can be accomplished individually. †

SIGN-UP FOR CAPWIZ

Join the Legislative Network of the Vincentian Family
Sign up as a Lady of Charity

<http://www.capwiz.com/svdpusa/mlm/signup/>

Ladies of Charity of Mobile, Alabama Celebrate Their 100TH Anniversary!

Vernice Spotswood ~ Archdiocese of Mobile



Left: Angelia Lewis, president of Mobile LOC with Lucy Saunders, LCUSA President

The Mobile Ladies of Charity is 100 years old this year and invited everyone to join the celebration. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop, on Sunday, June 12th at 2:30 pm at Corpus Christi Church. A reception in the atrium followed the Mass. Lucy Ann Saunders, LCUSA President, and Mary Cay Murray, LCUSA Regional Vice-President for the southern region, were present.

In the early 1900s, Bishop Edward Allen, fifth Bishop of the Mobile Diocese, was faced with an urgent problem—the need for help with the care of the poor, the sick and the needy in the area. To alleviate the problem he convened a meeting of the Catholic women in the city on April 19, 1911, Holy Thursday. The ladies responded with great excitement to his request and formed a local confraternity of Ladies of Charity, under the rules laid down in 1617 by the founders St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. The ladies moved swiftly and drafted a constitution and by-laws. Officers were elected and committees appointed, and an application was made to the international office in France. It was approved and the charter, in French, is still a possession of the archdiocese.

Using the rules of St. Vincent, the ladies learned by doing. They visited

<http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us>

the sick in hospitals and in their homes. They sought out the poor and unfortunate, giving personal consolation and encouragement. To raise money for their work the ladies did a little bit of everything—cakes and candy were sold, as well as homemade linens and quilts. A benefit entertainment called “The Passing Show” was held at the old Lyrics Theater. For over 30 years the Ladies of Charity joined the *Mobile Register* to have a Christmas Tree Program for the underprivileged children of Mobile. The Shamrock Sales started during the first 5 years. The Grocery Appeal began in 1930. The various fundraisers, together with dues and donations are the Ladies of Charity sources of income, but the true work never stops, nor do the faith, goodness and zeal of the members. The ladies visit the rest homes throughout



Lucy Saunders with Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile

the year; Santa leaves a small gift and a homemade stocking at Christmas; the sewing committee makes numerous articles each month; the layette committee sews warm blankets and baby clothes; and monthly contributions are made to the National Service Center. The spiritual work includes prayers for members and family at each meeting. An annual Mass for living and deceased members is held along with benediction and recitation of the rosary.

As the Ladies of Charity celebrate the past and look forward to the future, their pledge is to serve, as their founder did, with humility, simplicity and charity. †



LOC of Mobile members celebrate 100th Anniversary



Dates to Remember

■ **October 20–23**

Vincian Family Gathering
Indianapolis, IN

■ **January 2012**

AIC Executive Board & Vincian Family Gathering
Rome, Italy

■ **February 12–15, 2012**

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering
Washington, DC

■ **April 18–23, 2012**

Spring Board Meeting, Mater Dei
Evansville, IN

Send info for the calendar to: LCSTLOUIS@AOL.COM

LCUSA PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL DIARY



Lucy Ann Saunders ~ President

Mary Cay Murray, Vice-President for the southern region, and I traveled in June to Mobile and Montgomery, Alabama, and Pensacola, Florida. We were guests of the Daughters of Charity at their home on the campus of Providence Hospital.

On Sunday, June 12th, we enjoyed a beautiful liturgy celebrated by Bishop Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile at Corpus Christi Church, followed by a reception. The ladies of Mobile had history books available for all their guests. Sister Rose had a copy of their charter from France and a 1911 list of charter members displayed with other articles that depicted their 100 years of service.

On Monday, we traveled to Montgomery and met with their association members and Sister Moderator Barbara Ann. The ladies were enthused about starting a junior group and shared information on their many ministries. We were given a tour of their grounds and beautiful church with rafters that were inscribed with the ten commandments, quite a sight to see. The grounds are referred to as the City of St. Jude with a school and apartments for the elderly. Sister Barbara is in charge of their social services and gave a tour of those facilities with offices, food pantry and thrift shop. It was a very enjoyable afternoon spent with the ladies of St. Jude's.



Montgomery LOC: (standing l-r) Ethel Davis, Lucy Saunders, Carolyn Tillage, Sr. Barbara Ann Lengvarsky, SCN, Avile Lee Rogers, Janie James, Mary Cay Murray, Dorothy Robinson and Mary Ware; seated: Wynona Nelson, Essie Smith and Dorothy Brundidge

On Tuesday, we met in the morning with the Mobile ladies to discuss dues and their prospects for new members. The ladies came up with some ideas on how they thought their association could address these areas. Some suggested card parties and membership drives, as their members encompass numerous parishes. Involvement of parish youth was also mentioned. The ladies are already working with the Catholic high school by awarding \$500 scholarships to students. They are consid-



Pensacola LOC, (front row, l-r) Cheryl Pilling, Co-Corresponding Secretary; Linda Dunwoody, Publicity Chair; Linda Wall, Vice-President; Mary Cay Murray; (back row l-r), Pippa Nicholson-Kuenn, former president; Lucy Saunders; Clara Harris, most recent past-president

ering requiring community service as a qualification for the scholarships. Their president, Angelia Lewis, is a young woman very enthused about the future and shared ideas that would get them out of the box of doing things the same as in the past. There is hope there, and Mary Cay will follow up with Sister Rose and Angelia so the momentum can keep going.

Late afternoon on Tuesday, we met with board members of Pensacola LOC. They shared with us the concept of co-chairing officer positions so the incoming officer would have some experience prior to taking office. We asked that they write an article for the *Servicette*, giving ideas to other associations on recruiting officers.

All of our visits were very meaningful and rewarding. The ladies are great examples of what Ladies of Charity are all about. The personal contacts do make a difference. I look forward to having members of the board making personal contact with associations in their regions. I believe by personal contact, LCUSA will become stronger and better understood among our members. Local associations are asked to extend an invitation to their regional board members so they too can get to know you and share ideas to strengthen relationships as Ladies of Charity. †

NEW MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFT PROGRAM

A gift to the Ladies of Charity USA is a very meaningful way to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend, living or deceased. The tribute can be a perfect gift for a birthday, wedding, holiday or special event. When you make a memorial or honorarium gift, you the donor and the person or persons named will be remembered at a special Mass said by our National Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Richard Gielow, CM.



An appropriate card will be sent to whomever the donor designates. The amount of your gift is not disclosed. An acknowledgement will also be sent to you the donor. Please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

DISASTER IN BASTROP, TX

As we followed the national news about the drought and wild fires in Texas this summer, little did we know that a Ladies of Charity association was directly affected. The eighty-six members of the Ladies of Charity of Bastrop were both victims and responders to a devastating fire which began over Labor Day weekend and continued until it was declared 95% contained on September 18th. Many residents were forced to evacuate, and had no way of knowing if their homes were among the over 1500 destroyed. As described by Bastrop LOC President Putzie Martin, people felt “helpless, homeless and hopeless.” The homes of some members were in the most threatened areas, and six women believed their homes had been lost. Some properties were either uninsured

or under-insured. Putting aside their own fears and worries, the ladies went into action, providing vouchers so that people could refill their prescriptions, and assembling clothing and household supplies to be accessible when the residents returned.

Demonstrating their commitment to LCUSA, Putzie Martin and Agnes Raz traveled to the national assembly in Kansas City. While there, they learned that three members had been able to return and had found their homes standing, although the extent of the damage was still to be determined. Other members were still in transition. In recognition of the need and the courage of the Bastrop members, both the Daughters of Charity of St. Louise Province and LCUSA have provided funds to assist in the recovery process. With gratitude for the monetary assistance, the Bastrop women ask all Ladies of Charity to pray for rain. †

AIC REPORT: OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, 2011-2012

Margaret Hanson
AIC Representative



The delegate assembly of the International Association of Charities (AIC), which took place in Madrid, Spain, spring 2011, focused on education as a means to reduce poverty and bring about transformation and growth.

An important point was that both educator and the person being educated benefit from the exchange process. Very often the tendency, while engaging in works of charity, is to think that the receiver is the beneficiary whereas the benefit is actually to the good of each.

LCUSA members need to be involved in education and training to better appreciate differing facets of education. At the end of the delegate assembly, the members of AIC formulated the OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES to direct our activity and make possible individual growth with both the educa-

tor and the person being educated benefiting from the experience.

The Operational Guidelines are brief, allowing for the greatest flexibility in implementation:

Education, a two-way process:

- ▶ to identify and value skills and potential.
- ▶ to encourage interdependence.
- ▶ to promote co-creativity.

Through strengthening AIC training:

- ▶ Spiritual, ethical and Vincentian
- ▶ In techniques, particularly in communication and visibility

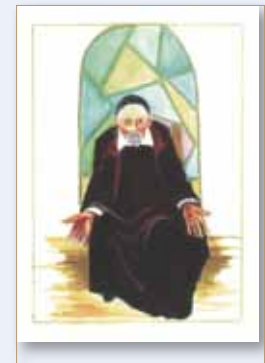
This sketchy outline allows for differences from country to country as well as great flexibility as we work to bring about SYSTEMIC CHANGE. Group discussions in the local associations will flesh out the meaning and implication of words like interdependence, and co-creativity, communication and visibility, as we bring about growth and change in the lives of those who are in need. †

2011 ANNUAL APPEAL

Sue Ann Gilman
Finance Chair

The 2011 Annual Appeal letter will be in your mailbox soon. Take the time to review the importance of your support. The Annual Appeal gives individual members and associations an opportunity to plan for the future of LCUSA as a national organization.

The future will require modern tools of communication together with office staff to assist local associations to expand and improve services in their communities. These same tools are needed to continue the collaborative work with our Vincentian Family organizations and to create vital links with the International Association of Charities (AIC).



On June 20, 1647, St. Vincent cried out very spontaneously at a meeting of the General Council of the Daughters of Charity: “Oh, my God, how necessary it is to have great communication with one another. To share everything. There is nothing more necessary. That is what binds hearts together” (SV XIII, 641). The 2011 Annual Appeal allows LCUSA to continue the sharing and providing of communications to its members through your financial support.

The past years have demonstrated the loyalty and strength of LCUSA’s members. Together let us build a future for another 50 years of service in a world unlike that of yesterday. †



LADIES OF CHARITY & MORMON PARTNERSHIP

Chris Young
Diocese of Salt Lake City

The Saint Olaf Ladies of Charity (LOC) in Bountiful and the Our Lady of Lourdes Ladies of Charity in Salt Lake City distributed 102 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in need as they returned to school. The backpacks were donated to the Ladies of Charity by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) Centerville Humanitarian Service Room.

Continued from p. 1

HEART & SOLE—

The membership event was a success with more people participating than last year. It has turned into a fundraiser as well as a membership drive. The money is still coming in but it looks like the ladies raised about \$4500.

The event is truly spreading the Ladies of Charity mission to the community. Panera Bread as well as grocery stores in the area contributed refreshments. The event would not have been possible without the help of so many wonderful volunteers. Thanks are due to all who supported this WALK!

Each of the backpacks contained three notebooks, pencils, colored pencils, a pencil sharpener, a ruler and scissors. The LOC distributed the backpacks to more than 100 children in the 95 families they serve each month by providing them with a supplemental box of food.

The relationship between the LOC and the Humanitarian Service Room began two years ago when the LDS organization's supervisors, Bennett and Ailsa Peterson, met Daughter of Charity Sister Germaine Sarrazin one day in the Bountiful City Post Office. Sister is the LOC moderator. Bennett approached her thinking that, as a religious sister, "she must serve the poor," he said. "It's been a spiritual experience just being associated with her."

The Humanitarian Service Room doesn't directly serve the poor, but helps those who do.

"I get emotional when I think about how Sr. Germaine has given 52 years of her life to helping the poor," said Bennett. "They provide us with gently used books and homemade educational folder games for children," said Sr. Germaine. "On Mother's Day and at Christmas, they also give us about 80 large personal care baskets for mothers. They have even given us personal care baskets for men, and each year at Christmas they give us boxes of hand-made comforters, quilts, baby blankets, stocking caps, scarves and gloves."

The Petersons were asked by the LDS Church to be active in outreach when they were called to supervise the Centerville Humanitarian Service Room. With the help of volunteers and resources, they assist charitable organiza-

tions. "Since 2009, we have developed the family personal care baskets, which are small laundry baskets filled with hygiene and grooming items that are put together by LDS Relief Society groups," Bennett said. "The pattern for the school backpack was originally a big purse, but the Relief Society women refined the pattern into a backpack, a more cool way to wear it," he said. "We have Relief Society group and Eagle Scouts doing these projects all the time."

The Ladies of Charity Center of Hope is now easy to find with its new blue awning. They were previously hard to find and almost unknown in their location in North Salt Lake. The North Salt Lake mayor and officials met with the Ladies of Charity officers and Sr. Germaine last October after discovering their presence when they saw a Utah Food Bank truck delivering food. "They wanted to know how they could help, and what we needed most was to make our presence known," said Sr. Germaine. "The previous awning read Card Sharks. Then because the Utah Food Bank was the recipient of \$700,000 from Walmart's Fighting Hunger contest on Facebook in February, they granted requests to help food pantries. We requested a commercial refrigerator, and it arrived in June." The Ladies of Charity can now accept and distribute yogurt, butter, cheese, eggs and milk to add to the other food staples such as beans, rice and peanut butter.

The Center of Hope opened as a food pantry in May of 2010, on the second Saturday of each month for four hours for people from North Salt Lake, West Bountiful and Woods Cross. About 15 families receive food from the pantry each month or emergency food boxes for families in need. The St. Olaf LOC supplies about 75 boxes of food to 65 families at an at-risk school. Our Lady of Lourdes LOC delivers 30 boxes to 20 families in their homes, with larger families receiving two boxes of food. Working with LDS has been a very rewarding experience for all of us. †



Editor's Message

Kathleen Sieracki
Servicette Editor

About eighteen months ago, my friends Marilyn Leslie and Sister Mary Grace Higgins, DC, suggested I become a candidate for the LCUSA board of directors. My first reaction was total denial. Nevertheless, after a period of fear and trepidation, consideration and most importantly prayer, I did apply for a director's position and was elected by delegates from the northeastern region.

Shortly after the election, then President-Elect Lucy Saunders asked for volunteers to proof-read submissions for the *Servicette*. We each have our own gifts and talents. One of mine is a keen eye for sentence construction, grammar and punctuation. I offered to help as a copy reader. One thing led to another, and here I am as Editor, working with the Editor-in-Chief Lucy Saunders, and our talented Lay-out & Design Editor Elena Miranda.

It's a challenge for me to succeed previous editors, Father Jack Melito, C.M., and his assistant Betty Tutor, and Janet Karmitzski, who led the most recent re-versioning of the *Servicette*. I hope to continue many of their ideas, including use of vintage photographs, personality

profiles, book reviews and exchange of information and ideas between editors and readers.

The current editorial staff aims to provide a mix of information from the national and international perspective as well as articles from local associations. On the national level, board members want to communicate with you about what they are doing on your behalf, and want to provide the latest information about social justice issues and systemic change projects. You will also find news about other members of the Vincentian family who work with us to advance our common mission.

At the local level, you have stories to tell and pictures to share with fellow Ladies of Charity who are very interested in getting ideas for their local associations. For example, the last issue of the *Servicette* featured an article on Mary's Corner, the latest project of the Ladies of Charity of Albany, NY. Kathy Kavanaugh, then-president, submitted the article following a suggestion from Maureen Driskill, vice-president for the northeastern region. Completing the tag-team effort, I decided to visit Mary's Corner. The enthusiasm, collaboration and sheer joy of the volunteers, including Ellen Boyer, Ellen Bernier, Pam Seward and Alba Giordano, were inspiring.

In this issue, you will find another story about how a *Servicette* article inspired a link between Ladies of Charity in Milwaukee and Pittsburgh. You also have stories to tell and pictures to share

from the history of your associations. Please share some of these with us, and twice a year we'll feature a sampling of vintage photos and the stories that go with them. Beginning in 2012, current members will automatically be able to receive the *Servicette* at no additional cost. This wider readership will give us the opportunity to form even more bonds among our membership.

Please keep your articles and photos coming. We'll use as many as space permits. Sometimes, in order to achieve consistency in the language and format within the *Servicette*, your submission may be edited. However, we will stay true to your story and meaning.

Feel free to contact me any time by email, kandsieracki@aol.com or postal service, 246 Berryman Dr., Amherst, NY 14226, with comments, constructive criticism and ideas. I've already had the pleasure of communicating with several of you during this process, and I'm looking forward to meeting even more Ladies of Charity. Thank you. †

EYEWITNESSES TO HISTORY

Ten years ago, Milwaukee Ladies of Charity Evelyn and Jane Beyer decided to stay on for a few days of sightseeing following the LCUSA 1st Annual Assembly, held in Arlington, VA. On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, they were shocked to see people huddling around televisions in their hotel, watching coverage of the attacks on the World Trade Centers, and were grateful they weren't in New York City. They boarded a shuttle bus heading to Pentagon City, Virginia. Nearly at their destination, they suddenly heard above the van the deafening sound of a low flying plane, then caught sight of the shiny fuselage as it streaked past seconds before exploding into a ball of orange flames and instantaneous thick black smoke as it crashed into the Pentagon. This date will always be remembered not only by Evelyn and Jane but by all of us as Americans. †



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Over the Waterfalls

by Marilyn Martone, Ph.D.

Reviewed by Margaret Kelly, DC,
Moderator of Ladies of Charity,
St. John's University

In *Over the Waterfalls*, theologian Marilyn Martone traces a journey of almost fifteen years, which began with a life-changing Sunday night phone call announcing that her daughter Michelle, a Phi Beta Kappa senior at University of Chicago, had been struck by a car. Michelle was in Cook County Hospital ICU suffering from a severe brain trauma. The book tracks that journey from three carefully integrated perspectives: medical science and health policy; Dr. Martone as mother and woman of faith; and Michelle as “person,” not “patient.”

Through the first perspective, the reader enters the world of acute and sub-acute health care and sees both its wonders and its weaknesses, its successes and its failures. As a professor of health care ethics and as one who has spent months in “waiting” rooms, Dr. Martone is on solid ground as she makes a strong case for patient and family advocacy, holistic care and for greater justice for those with disabilities. She writes with conviction and compassion for those on the margins of society who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to represent and be advocates

for their family members. As an ethicist in the emerging field of neuroscience, Dr. Martone weaves a great deal of science, medicine, and even health policy into the total narrative while never sacrificing the central focus on Michelle and her journey.

The second perspective is Dr. Martone’s maternal, professional and faith response to the situation. As an experienced medical ethicist, she invites the reader to walk with her and pause at the many critical life decision points along the journey. She shares not only the intellectual methods she employed but also the source of her emotional and spiritual stamina as she learned to balance the short and long term goals, the realities of today and the hopes for tomorrow. On every page, one meets a woman of faith deeply convinced that her daughter’s life is a gift but “a gift on loan” from God. She shares with admirable openness the mystery as well as the human, practical implications of this awareness.

The third perspective of the narrative allows the reader to come to meet Michelle “the person” through carefully chosen and placed descriptions of her favorite activities, educational experiences, travel opportunities, favorite foods, friends, plans for the future, achievements and honors as well as a few signature verbal expressions. Subtly, Dr. Martone also strategically incorporates into the narrative or as chapter headings some of Michelle’s favorite quotations, poems or visuals from her bulletin board,

and even sections of her term papers which reveal her penetrating intellect and sense of humor. Michelle is fully three-dimensional and her personality is revealed slowly through interactions with family, relatives, friends, physicians, nurses and other care-givers.

Over the Waterfalls is an “every person’s book” as it explores the basic human realities of life: health, the body/mind/spirit connection, family relationships, social justice, unfulfilled hopes and faith under stress. Dr. Martone’s journey is instructive, inspiring and eminently readable. Few will close the book without tears. Some will find it healing for past experiences. Others may be moved to seek health care justice. Many will underline some “perfect phrases.” Others will memorialize their insights in their journals. ALL will be grateful for the author’s having shared with such clarity her journey, her wisdom, her family and her faith.

NOTE: Dr. Martone is a member of the Ladies of Charity and serves as chairperson of the Spirituality Committee of the Ladies at St. John’s University in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. The book is available at Amazon.com. You may also visit Dr. Martone’s website, www.marilynmartone.com †



Dr. Marilyn Martone

HOUSE CLEANING? DON'T DISCARD THOSE REMNANTS!

Evelyn Beyer—Diocese of Milwaukee

In the *Servicette* Winter 2011 issue, an article by Sister Mary Judith Seman, CSJ, asked for all kinds of sewing remnants for LOC Chona Arriola. Chona makes a variety of dresses for little girls in Africa. I was impressed with this kind of charity and decided to sort through the many items I had collected over

the years when I did a lot of sewing for myself and my daughters. I contacted Chona and she responded, saying she was happy to accept anything. After she received my package of sewing notions, including spools of thread, buttons, ribbons and trim, Chona sent a note saying everything would surely be put to good use. “I can’t wait to sew those trims into the little girls’ dresses.”

You too can assist Chona by gathering sewing items you and your friends may have collected over the years. Even small

pieces of material can be put together to create a dress.

Our charity can be spread much further than our own associations, cities, states and even our country. The Lord told us to spread the gospel to all nations. Charity can also be spread in many ways to help the poor. If you can help in any small way, send your sewing items to Chona through Sr. Mary Judith Seman, Ladies of Charity, 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA 15025. Thank you for your generosity. †

Congratulations, Sheila Gilbert!

The LCUSA congratulates Sheila Gilbert on being elected the 12th President of the National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Sheila was commissioned during the closing liturgy of the Society's national meeting on September 4, and assumed

office on October 1. Following her service as national secretary, she will be the first woman to head the Society in the United States. Sheila has represented the St. Vincent de Paul Society on the LCUSA board for over two years.

Sheila, the Ladies of Charity offer their prayers for the Society's continued progress under your leadership. LCUSA looks forward to working with you and collaborating with the Society on our service to others. †



NO MORE POVERTY

Sister Annette Frey, SC
Diocese of Greensburg

The Ladies of Charity of the Greensburg Diocese in Pennsylvania hosted an all day workshop on August 1st at St. Mary Nativity School Hall in Uniontown, called "No More Poverty." Sheila Gilbert, newly elected St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) President, was welcomed by 85 people from the LOC, SVDP members and volunteers, as well as interested social agencies and the general public of the area. Despite the

warmth of the day, the conversation at the tables was animated and people stayed to the end to hear what we as individuals can do to understand the plight of the poor and help break the cycle of poverty within families.

Sheila challenged us to listen over a long period of time and build the trust necessary to hear what is important to the person or family. Too often we turn people loose after 6-8 weeks when they need so much more. To initiate systemic change we have to understand the system within which they move. Understanding the hidden rules among classes was an eye opener to many of us. The day thrust many of us into the hope that we can be agents of change. We can help develop

within our parishes and organizations groups of three or four who are willing to "be with" a person for a long duration. She said that it takes three generations to move from "survive to thrive." If we help one person, we may be affecting twenty by the third generation when you consider the children down through the years.

As a follow-up, the group was invited to participate in the September 23rd Poverty Simulation Workshop held by the Fayette County Human Service Council. This council is a collaboration of agencies throughout the county whose mission is to improve the quality and delivery of health, human and education services. †

Introducing Sister Julie Cutter, Daughter of Charity

Kathleen Sieracki ~ *Servicette* Editor

Sister Julie Cutter has joined the LCUSA Board of Directors as a Sister Moderator. Sister Julie joins Sister Fran Ryan, Daughter of Charity, who is serving her fifth year as Sister Moderator.

Sister brings a wide range of experience to this position. Since entering religious life as a Daughter of Charity in 1967, Sister Julie has studied education, math and Scripture at Marillac College and Loyola University at Chicago. Her ministries have included teaching, parish leadership development, community organizing and work with refugees, in locations ranging from Iowa to Guatemala. She is an ardent advocate for



social justice. During her work at a parish in the border city of El Paso, Texas, Sister Julie had the unusual experience of working simultaneously with the Ladies of Charity of El Paso and the Ladies of Charity of Juarez, Mexico.

Most recently, Sister Julie served on the Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity West Central Province and has been a lead member of the Vincentian Family Collaboration Committee. Effective October 1, 2011, Sister Julie assumed the position of Executive Director of the Sisters of Charity Federation, with whom she had served as liaison. LCUSA welcomes Sister Julie, and thanks her predecessor Sister Mary Ann Daly, Sister of Charity, for her seven years of service on the board. †

Memorials and Honorariums

The intentions listed below were part of the Prayer of the Faithful in a Mass celebrated September 15th during the national assembly. The Rev. Richard Gielow, CM, Spiritual Advisor for LCUSA, presided at the Mass and led the prayers and everyone in attendance participated. A gift to the Memorial/Honorarium program is a very meaningful way to honor a loved one or friend, living or deceased. The article on page six of this issue explains how you can submit your own intentions.

† MEMORIALS †

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Bequeathed by</i>
Margareta Stark	Ladies of Charity USA
Margareta Stark	Pamela Granja
Margareta Stark	Family of Margareta Stark
Charlotte Fisher	Kathleen Sieracki
Marianne Steinbroner's Mother	Marianne Steinbroner
Hanna Smith	Mary Cay Murray
Jean Mulholland	Gayle Johnson
Jean Mulholland	Connie O'Brien
Patrick Hughes	Kathleen Coco
John (Jack) Barry	Matteo and Kathleen Coco
Jeanette Thatcher's Dad	Ladies of Charity, Morgan Hill
Andy & Betty Anderson's Daughter	Ladies of Charity, Morgan Hill
Edward Regulski	Molly and Albert Siedlarczyk
Charles Snow	Ladies of Charity of Albany, NY

† IN HONOR OF †

Helen Golden	Marianne Steinbroner
Carolyn Tillage	Ladies of Charity USA

In the next Servicette:

- ▶ Introduction to Elena Miranda, Lay-Out & Design Editor of the *Servicette*
- ▶ Ladies of Charity at the United Nations, Impacting Global Issues

TIDINGS OF SPIRITUALITY

Marge Fiala
Diocese of San Jose

St. Vincent DePaul

A man of humble beginnings, St. Vincent became a spiritual master and extraordinary teacher of the faith. As St. Vincent de Paul served the vulnerable of his time, he encouraged long periods of prayer and meditation before social action in order to know God's will. His legacy to us should be his desire for true conversion to God and following the divine will. Taking time to pray and to reflect will lead us to the holiness that St. Vincent de Paul experienced, "Behold, now, how little is needed to become a Saint? Nothing more than to acquire the habit of willing, on every occasion, what God wills."



In what I do, is it my will or God's will?

St. Vincent, pray for me that I will take the time to seek, recognize, accept, and follow God's will.

He was convinced that Christ crucified died for all, and that Jesus wants to save the world. This belief is so instrumental in helping us discover Christ in those we serve.

Do I see Christ in those I serve?

St. Vincent, pray that my eyes will be open to see Christ in those I serve.

The diversity of the Church, the diversity of each one of us, coming together to serve the poor in so many ways resonates the Body of Christ at work in this world. In celebration of St. Vincent de Paul's feast day, let us rejoice in the calling God has given us as a Lady of Charity following the Vincentian way. (Excerpts taken from *Columbia Magazine* 2007 and various St. Vincent de Paul writings) †



Forging a Relationship with the Vincentian Family

Maureen McMillan
LCUSA Executive Administrator

We are all familiar with the term “our Vincentian Family” but it was only two years ago that I came to understand how large and varied the family is, especially here in St. Louis. In 2009, Vincentians the world over began to prepare for the 350th anniversary of the deaths of Sts. Vincent and Louise. Here in St. Louis a committee gathered to plan events to mark the celebration and I was invited to join. When I came to the first meeting I looked around the room and saw not only the names of people and organizations I knew but also several with which I was unfamiliar. Among those at the table were the familiar: Daughters and former Daughters of Charity, affiliates of the Daughters of Charity, representatives of both the local and national St. Vincent de Paul Society, Vincentian priests and Gateway Vincentian Volunteers, but also those I did not know as well – Vincentian Service Corps, Vincentian Marian Youth, and the Association of the Miraculous Medal.

The international Vincentian Family announced in the fall of 2009 that a special project would be launched in Haiti as part of the commemoration. If Vincentians all over the world focused in a concerted way on the dire poverty in that country, meaningful change might

be effected. While we waited for the international project to be revealed, the St. Louis family encouraged its members to consider alternative Christmas giving to another program which provides nutritious food to undernourished Haitian children.

When the international family announced the creation of Zafen, it had three aims: to provide microloans to Haitians, to offer scholarships to school children and to restore the badly deforested countryside by planting trees. Our local committee decided that the collection at the anniversary liturgy would be earmarked for the Haiti Reforestation Project. It was our belief that the money we raised would not only purchase badly needed vegetation but would also plant the seeds of hope for a better future in Haiti.

The commemorative celebration was comprised of two events. On August 21, 2010, more than 150 St. Louis area Vincentians turned out to volunteer at sites in the St. Louis area. On Sunday, August 22, more than 600 people shared the Eucharistic celebration at the Cathedral with Fr. Gregory Gay, C.M., Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, as homilist. This event raised \$6,500 for Zafen to be matched by the international family for Haiti reforestation.

In November of 2010, the Vincentian Family Collaborators held a U.S. – Canada Vincentian Family Systemic

Change Meeting in Belleville, IL. Many of our local family leaders attended this conference and came away charged with training others in the principles and methods of a systemic change approach to combating poverty.

In March 2011 we held a half-day workshop attended by more than 100 St. Louis Vincentians from every branch of our local family. The most powerful portion of the day was a presentation by a staff member of the St. Louis Council of St. Vincent de Paul who detailed his Project Plus Program. He introduced the group to one of his successful clients, Vadicka, who captivated the audience with the story of her struggle and the road to self-sufficiency this program had given her. Attendees left the session with a new vocabulary and a new outlook on their approach to fighting poverty in our community.

These gatherings of the St. Louis Vincentian family have strengthened the bonds of friendship and collaboration and sparked a desire to continue meeting and working together. From that initial workshop has come a new committee which will carry on the work of planning the next gathering. Our vision has expanded beyond the immediate task of orchestrating the events of that year to forging a stronger and more effective relationship for years to come. †

SERVICETTE NEWS DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles and photos for inclusion in the FALL issue of the *SERVICETTE*:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Articles and photos can be sent

by e-mail to: kandrsieracki@aol.com

Please note that photos should not be included in text documents; they should be sent separately and must be resolution for print. Contact the editor for further assistance.

SAVE THE DATE

2012 LCUSA National Assembly
September 12–16

Congratulations Sister Louise Gallabue



THE
Daughters
OF CHARITY



Sister Louise was installed as the Visitatrix of the newly formed Province of St. Louise, during a liturgy on July 31, at the Basilica in Baltimore. She will lead over 500 Daughters of Charity in the new province, which was formed by uniting four of the five United States provinces and Canada.

The province will be headquartered in St. Louis, allowing easy access to transportation to the Daughters of Charity ministry sites throughout twenty-two states, the District of Columbia, Montreal and Quebec, Canada. The consolidation will free up more members of the Community to serve in hands-on ministries, standing in solidarity with persons living in poverty.

Sister Louise, the Ladies of Charity offer our prayers for the continued service of the Daughters of Charity under your leadership. The LCUSA looks forward to working with you and collaborating with the Daughters on our service to others. †

Visit LCUSA Website
for the Annual Advent
Spirituality Series
by Sister Moderators
Sundays Beginning
November 27th

ATTENTION *SERVICETTE* SUBSCRIBERS CHANGE IN PROCEDURES FOR 2012



When paying 2012 dues to LCUSA, local associations will have the opportunity to submit address information for all members. (For details, see the President's Message in this issue.) The information will automatically renew or create a **Servicette** subscription for each member. Individuals who fall within this process do not need to take any further action.

For all others, the \$5.00 fee to renew your subscription for another year is due in January 2012.

Ladies of Charity –St. Vincent De Paul Members

Anne Taylor ~ Immaculate
Conception Church, Baltimore

At Immaculate Conception Church in Baltimore City, the Ladies of Charity and the Saint Vincent de Paul Conference work together. The Ladies of Charity provides funding to support these projects: blanket drive, toiletry collections, Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts. The latest project involves working with Sarah's Hope, a shelter for women and their children. Members prepare a meal every third Saturday in Immaculate Conception's kitchen, and then take the meal to serve the shelter residents.

Last year, a Junior Saint Vincent de Paul Conference was established. Immaculate Conception is the only church in Baltimore City to have such a group. The juniors go to Sarah's Hope during the week to serve dessert to the children and they have collected books and tapes to create a children's library there. The director at Sarah's Hope

asked Sister Mary Louise Zollars, LOC Spiritual Moderator, about organizing activities for the children at the shelter, so the junior members collected arts and crafts supplies and the project began in April. The youth also help distribute blankets and sleeping bags to homeless people on the streets. Ladies of Charity collected toiletries and Sister Mary Louise suggested the youth donate these items to a program called Beans and Bread. The youth were also asked to volunteer their services to another project, Empty Bowl. This is an event to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness in the Baltimore region. The newest project with Sarah's Hope is a mentoring program for Ladies of Charity to follow-up on the mothers when they leave the shelter.

Our Children Are Our Future

The Ladies of Charity of the Immaculate Conception Church in Baltimore City also have a program to provide financial support to the high school graduating members of the parish who plan to attend college. This has been a successful endeavor for the last five years. The grants have helped the students purchase books and parents have greatly appreciated this recognition. †

My First National Assembly

2011 National Assembly
Continued from p. 1

Marge Cashin
St. John's University

Not knowing what to expect as a first time attendee of a national assembly of the Ladies of Charity, I went to the 11th annual event in Kansas City, Missouri, with an open mind and a touch of anxiety. What would I be able to learn and bring back to our very young association that would be helpful and encourage our members to follow the model of St. Vincent and St. Louise?

From the very first morning, it was evident that the days ahead would be enriching and fulfilling in every way. There were some women who gathered to start the day with the Rosary, and then all members of the assembly would have a beautiful breakfast to fill the physical needs, followed by the most inspiring special speakers and breakout meetings to nourish the philanthropic spirit. The sessions were packed full of information, good ideas and stories of women truly making a difference in our society. Through dedicated hard work aimed at alleviating suffering from the world's most disenfranchised people, the Ladies of Charity are acting out the commandment to "love one another" and it is powerful to see the results. One thing that brought home the humanitarian message was to simply change the defi-



Maureen Driskill, left, and Marge Cashin

nition of those we serve to "people living in poverty" rather than "the poor." This makes a distinction of the conditions in which they live and not the quality of their humanity!

If you have not had the opportunity to meet the Vincentian Twins, you are in for a treat when you are introduced to the Brothers Gielow. Fr. Richard and Fr. Robert are both Vincentian priests who deliver the message of service to others through humor and a deep love and respect for those we serve. They challenged each of us to get to know the people we help on a first name basis. In this way, we can get to know the face of Christ in the most needy brothers and sisters in our world. I am grateful for the experience and look forward to our next assembly hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity. †

of Systemic Change;" and Kristy Childs, founder of Veronica's Voice, on the discrimination faced by American women who have been victimized by prostitution. The speakers were very motivating as they focused on a systemic change approach to working with those living in poverty.

Fellowship and the renewing of friendships, along with new ones being formed, will provide for better communication in the future within and among the different regions.



Gayle Johnson (left) and Albe McGurk

At the conclusion of the assembly, fourteen grants were presented totaling \$8,330. The Junior Ladies of Charity were recognized and certificates were presented to the moderators for the Junior Associations.

To Albe McGurk, Gayle Johnson and their entire committees, we thank you and congratulate you on a very successful national assembly. Your kindness and hospitality were appreciated by all who attended. †

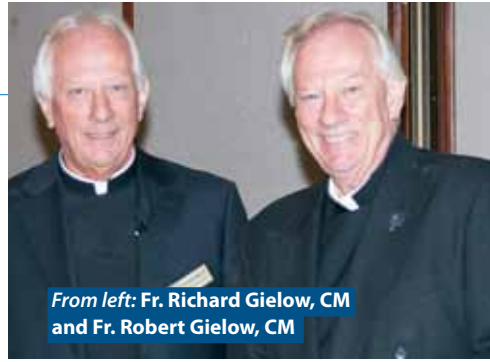


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AIC USA

<http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us>



From left: Fr. Richard Gielow, CM
and Fr. Robert Gielow, CM



AIC Secretary General
Natalie Monteza



Sr. Caroljean Willie, SC



Sr. MaryAnn Daly, SC



Washington 2012 National Assembly Committee



From left: Lucy Saunders with past presidents Ann Peffen, Doris Hoag, Maryann Morovitz, Albe McGurk, Margaret Hanson and (sitting) Charleen Brain



2011 National Assembly Kansas City



All photos by John Caulfield, photographer