

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA®

SERVICETTE

"To serve rather than to be served"



AIC USA®

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The **SERVICETTE** is a publication of the Association of the Ladies of Charity as a record of their activities in the USA

Editor-in-Chief Mary Ann Dantuono
Editor Kathleen Sieracki
Layout & Design Warren Lowe
Executive Director Tama Dutton

Direct all correspondence and inquiries to:
Servicette, LCUSA Service Center
850 Main St.
Kansas City MO 64105
Email: office@ladiesofcharity.us

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.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual members are supportive of the mission and purpose of LCUSA and participate in the ministry of the Ladies of Charity by prayer and/or service and pay dues prescribed by the board of directors.



SERVICETTE NEWS DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles and photos for the next issue of the **SERVICETTE**:

Friday, October 14, 2016

Articles and photos can be sent by e-mail to: kathleen.sieracki@gmail.com
Articles and photos should be sent separately and not within the text document.

Please contact us for info.

Seventeen New LCUSA Leaders

Sixteen women from across the country have declared their willingness to be servant leaders on the Ladies of Charity USA Board of Directors for the period Jan. 1, 2017-Dec. 31, 2018. The elections and installation will take place during the national assembly Sept. 30-Oct. 1.



Suzanne Johnson of Los Angeles will be installed as the next president of LCUSA, following the path set by her mother Doris Hoag who held the office in 1994-1998. Suzanne joined the LCUSA board in 2011 and has served as western regional vice president, treasurer and chair of the Finance and Development Committee. She has been president-elect for the last two years and has been serving on the 400th anniversary committee, planning for 2017. Professionally, Suzanne is both an accountant and an attorney specializing in immigration issues. A native of Kansas City, Suzanne travels there frequently to help care for her father and to visit her daughter and grandchildren. Suzanne and her husband Roger also enjoy traveling abroad. She is looking forward to her role as president and reflects, "I am constantly reminded of St. Vincent's last words, 'I could have done more,' and wonder what more can I do? Moving forward, I hope to continue the initiatives begun most ably by our current president, Mary Ann Dantuono. In addition, I hope to assist local associations to move beyond their current services-to work with those we serve to determine their needs in an effort to break the bonds of poverty. I ask for your prayers and support as I begin this new journey."

Debbie Chadwick of Nashville, Tenn., is the candidate for president-elect. She has served LCUSA in a variety of offices including southern regional director, chair of the Finance Committee, treasurer and secretary. She has been a member of the Nashville association since 1987 and was its president in 2005-2006 and co-chair of the national assembly in 2010. Debbie is president and CEO of the Rochelle Center, overseeing programming for 131 individuals living with disabilities while managing 97 staff members. She is responsible for a budget of over 3 million dollars. Debbie has a wide range of other professional experience including event managing, development and retail. In addition to the Ladies of Charity, Debbie's other community activities range from soccer (coach and member of a state-wide association) to service on diocesan initiatives. She and her husband Charles have four sons and five grandchildren. Looking to the future of LCUSA, Debbie states, "Membership is the life blood of any organization. My vision is to expand the membership of Ladies of Charity as well as Junior Ladies of Charity throughout the United States and thus multiply

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The Year of Mercy

Bishop David A. Zubik
Episcopal Chairman

Mercy. As the Holy Father wrote in “Misericordiae Vultus” when he announced the Jubilee Year of Mercy: “Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith.”

It was Tuesday evening in Holy Week, 2009. I had been Bishop of Pittsburgh a few months shy of two years. About 250 of us had gathered at our cathedral. I had asked anyone to come to the cathedral that evening who had been harmed in any way by the Church. I invited them to come and pray with me, to allow me

to apologize, to say “I am sorry.”

At the conclusion of the night’s service, I asked those in attendance to join with me in the Lord’s Prayer and then offered a final blessing: “May the God of peace fill your hearts with every blessing, and may God sustain you with the gifts of hope, consolation and the promise of eternal life.”

It was so moving for me, and I hope for all who were there.

In this Year of Mercy, the Church wants you to encounter God’s infinite forgiveness in your life. As Pope Francis so beautifully phrased it in “Evangelii Gaudium,” think of the Church as “a field hospital” where treatment is given to the world’s wounded, and that treatment is God’s infinite mercy, God’s infinite forgiveness.

There are two great times in our lives, two great experiences where we feel God so close. The first time is when we recognize God’s forgiveness, God’s mercy. It is when we know that the words of abso-

lution are true. God has forgiven our sins. God has touched our hearts when we opened ourselves to his mercy. We are never the same once we have allowed ourselves to experience his mercy.

The second great experience in our lives is when we allow ourselves to forgive. Think about it. Think of the freedom, think of the joy, think of the peace when we let the pain go.

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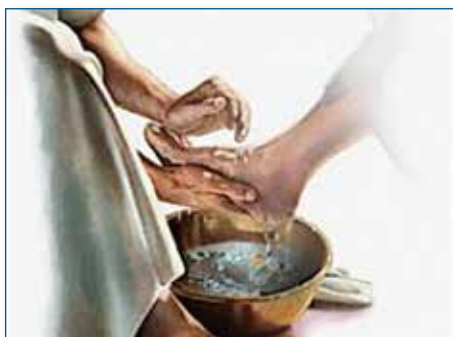
President’s Message

Mary Ann Dantuono
LCUSA President

In this edition of the Servicette, we see a glimpse of the new leadership for the Ladies of Charity USA. I say a glimpse because all their prayer and experience will serve LCUSA as they offer their commitment to people who are suffering. We thank these “servants of the poor” for their sacrifice. It is not easy to say “yes,” but ultimately we are all called to be leaders in some way and our “yes” is very important to the 400+ history of this wonderful organization.

For a number of years, I worked on a team that did seminars for leadership of Church based organizations. I was quite

surprised to learn that some of the best management professionals were beginning to write about the leadership style of Jesus. One example that I found really good was Ken Blanchard’s “Lead Like Jesus.” In this literature, the design is to be, rather than to do. It is most important that one knows oneself so they can be attentive to the people around them, a good listener, inspirer, and reconciler, to be a “Servant Leader,” like Jesus.



Recently, I have been reading “The Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac” (Sullivan, trans.). She has been called a Servant Leader by some authors and

there is much we can learn from her. It is interesting as I follow the life of St. Louise through her reflections and letters how she becomes very sure of herself. It is said that she was very insecure, scrupulous, and needy in her younger life. As she matured and became a leader both for the Ladies of Charity and the Daughters of Charity she was much more confident. She found herself in her service for others. I am not an expert on St. Louise, but she expressed several qualities in her leadership that are consistent with servant leadership style and may also serve us as leaders.

First, prayer was first and foremost in Louise’s life. She had deep spiritual roots when she met St. Vincent and their relationship deepened the length and breadth of those roots. Much of each day was spent in prayer and reflection. Second, Louise had both vision and an attention to detail. Rare in one person, but she imagined what could be and

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New LCUSA Leaders

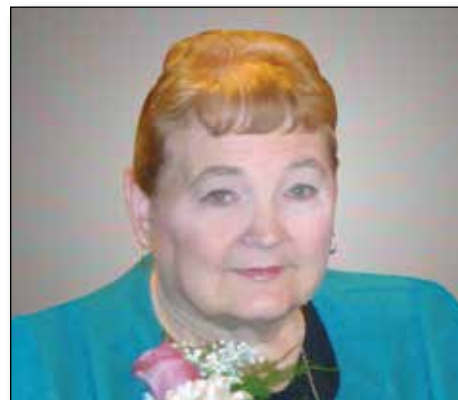
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the good works to support the poor and marginalized. By sharing the Vincentian charism through good works, members provide a beautiful example of God's love for all his children that is more visible to the community at large."

Peggy Keene of Pittsburgh is the candidate for secretary. She recently retired after 36 years as office manager for a medical practice. She has served Ladies of Charity as a member and officer at her parish; member and officer for the diocesan association, including as newsletter editor; and on the national level as mid-atlantic regional director for four years. She chairs LCUSA's Spirituality Committee which is piloting a training program for Lay Vincentian

Spiritual Moderators this year; and the Assembly Committee, building on her experience as assembly co-chair in Pittsburgh in 2009. A widow, Peggy has four children and four grandchildren. She enjoys music, theater, travel and sports (after all, she's from Pittsburgh). Peggy's vision for LCUSA is that "we continue to follow in the steps of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and that we continue with all that we have been doing for the past 400 years to help the poor, elderly and spiritually needy. I pray that those of us who are doing this work now can be inspirations for the younger women whose lives we touch so that they may also hear God's calling to become members of their own local Ladies of Charity association. I hope that we may all be able to accomplish the dreams and

wishes we have in our hearts to bring more assistance to all of society in our own small neighborhoods and throughout the world. May we always be able to accept changes that are for the good of the organization and use the talents that God has blessed us with to make the LCUSA ger and better than it has ever been."



Peggy Keene of Pittsburgh

REGIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

NORTHEASTERN REGION



Kathy Kavanaugh
Diocese of Albany



Irene Siedlarczyk
Binghamton



Holly Walter
Diocese of Buffalo

MID-ATLANTIC REGION



Karen Radu
Diocese of Pittsburgh



Deborah Self
Archdiocese of Washington



Theresa Ward
Archdiocese of S. F.



Chris Young
Bountiful, Utah

WESTERN REGION



Victoria Shoaf, Ph.D., CPA

According to the LCUSA by-laws, a candidate for secretary or treasurer may be a current or past board member, or a member active in her association. In this spirit, **Victoria Shoaf**, Ph.D., CPA, of the Ladies of Charity of St. John's University, is the candidate for treasurer. Victoria is a certified public accountant who earned a doctorate in business from

“LOC offers a unique opportunity to Catholic women who want to enrich their spiritual lives and be of service to others...”

the City University of New York. She has been the Dean of the Peter J. Tobin College of Business at St. John's, and after a sabbatical, will return as Professor in the Department of Taxation and Accounting. She shares her home with one of her daughters and two grandchildren. Another daughter lives nearby in New Jersey. Victoria says she “was extremely honored to have been asked to join the St. John's Chapter several years ago. I believe that LOC offers a unique opportunity to Catholic women who want to enrich their spiritual lives and be of service to others as part of a community of

like-minded women...I'm glad to have a particular skill, being an accountant, that isn't shared (or even liked) by everyone, so I feel I have something useful to offer. The chance to serve on the LCUSA board in this capacity seemed to appear at just the right moment for me.”

With the exception of the office of president, nominations maybe made from the floor during the business meeting, provided the consent of the person is obtained.

Each of the five geographic regions of LCUSA may have three directors on the national board. During the regional meetings at the assembly, delegates will elect the directors and then elect a regional vice-president. Other nominations may be made from the floor during the regional meetings, providing the consent of the person is obtained.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION



Donna Montague
Metropolitan Kansas City



Jane Haas
Quincy, Ill.



Mary Nell Williams
Indianapolis

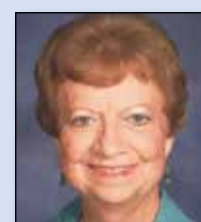
SOUTHERN REGION



Mary Cay Murray
Lake Travis, Texas



Winona Nelson
St. Jude/Montgomery, Ala.



Lucky Van De Gejuchte
Nashville, Tenn.

Local Associations Receive Kathleen Hager Grants



Ladies of Charity of Binghamton, N.Y.

awarded \$670 to continue and to add another Sunday to their commitment.

In the Northeastern Region, the association in Binghamton, N.Y., has an Infant and Children's Program. In 2015, in their own thrift store and partnering with several other community outlets, they distributed 350 Infant New Beginning Bags containing many essentials for newborns. The children's portion of the program is operated in cooperation with several area schools. The Ladies provide totes filled with personal care supplies, underwear, warm clothing and items for special occasions. School nurses distribute the material to appropriate children. A Hager Grant of \$925 will help continue the program. Ladies of Charity at St. John's University assist the SSND Educational Center in literacy work with women learning English as a second language. Members also organize a Christmas party for the students. Their efforts will be supported by a grant of \$905.

St. Jude/Montgomery Ala., in the Southern Region, received \$895 to fund construction of raised box planter gardens at a complex for low-income senior citizens. The Ladies will educate the residents in nutrition, gardening skills and food preservation and work along with them on planting and maintenance.

LCUSA is pleased to help support the efforts of local associations as they work with people living in poverty and on the margins of society.



Ladies of Charity of Good Shepherd Church in Braddock, Pa.

The LCUSA Board of Directors awarded Kathleen Hager Grants totaling \$6,060 at its spring meeting in April.

The Mid-Atlantic Region had seven successful applicants. The Ladies of Charity of St. Hugh of Grenoble Parish in Greenbelt, Md., helped 144 families avoid eviction in 2015. They received \$910 to continue the program and enhance it as volunteer counselors will be trained in money management skills which they will pass on to applicants. The Ladies of Resurrection Church in Pittsburgh were awarded \$230 to help provide backpacks of personal care items for children entering foster care. Also in Pittsburgh, the association at St. Paul Cathedral received \$465 to continue preparing lunches for Bethlehem Haven's Homeless Shelter. Elderly and homebound adults receive Christmas gift bags from the Ladies of Charity at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Natrona Heights, Pa. A grant of \$170 will help them continue the program. Food Bank clients will benefit from cooking classes organized by St. Aloysius/Most Holy Name LOC in Pittsburgh. After the class and a shared dinner, the recipients will go home with a shopping bag pre-packed with items to reproduce the meal. \$325 from LCUSA will help fund the program. The Ladies of Nativity Church, also in Pittsburgh, have partnered with a local hospital to provide "Bundles for Babies," containing a bib, book and bookmark for young mothers of newborn children. They hope to increase the number of books with the \$210 grant from LCUSA. In Braddock, Pa., the Ladies of Good Shepherd Church organize holiday parties at a nursing home, give books to young children and Bibles to parents of newborns. A grant of \$355 will help them continue. In Cincinnati, the Ladies of Charity of St. Gertrude's Parish have been providing meals on five Sundays each year at an area soup kitchen. They were

Margaret Hanson

The director of the Institute for High Performance Business, Robert J. Thomas, theorizes that leaders engage in a transformative experience that prompts a person to ask what is important. Ladies of Charity are by their nature imbued with a faith based motivating force leading them to implement the mission to “provide Vincentian leadership to women acting together against all forms of poverty.”

An important need in our organization and in others, is to be more aware, not only of servant leadership, but of leadership as a responsibility of those committed to a mission. One of the most pressing issues facing not only the national organization of Ladies of Charity, but also the local associations is the recruitment and development of future leaders. We recognize the urgency of finding and forming outstanding leaders if we are to continue our mission and to follow our vision.

At a recent dinner celebrating significant events in our local associa-

tion, several women, heads of various committees, presented their reports to the assembled group. What was immediately evident in their presentation was the outstanding servant leadership qualities they possess. The group rallied to their sense of humor. They demonstrated empathy with the persons they serve, accepting them without qualification as the people they are. They provided inspiration and openness and recognized the contributions of the group members.

In effect, these active and involved Ladies of Charity were manifesting characteristics essential to servant leadership which grow out of the gospel injunction expressed by John 13:1-15 to serve others as Jesus did when he washed the feet of the disciples. Rather than using authority as power, the servant leader is an advocate in the service of those who are led.

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, for many years President of Notre Dame University, says “the very essence of leadership is that you have a vision you articulate.” What

is it that keeps creative women from responding to a call they probably feel in their heart, yet are hesitating to put themselves forward?

Should we examine our conscience? An excuse is used to mitigate or justify a reluctance to offer our service, or exempt ourselves from following the promptings of the Holy Spirit to undertake an obligation or be impelled by a sense of duty. The call to discipleship includes a call to leadership. Leadership does not require a magnetic personality, nor does one need to be the most gifted person; rather positions of leadership provide opportunities to learn and develop insights beyond the realm of our own reflection.

While virtue is its own reward, positions of leadership, in spite of toil and trouble, provide rewards beyond understanding. Are you sure, looking ahead and toward the future, you cannot be of service in a leadership capacity? Just checking! The Ladies of Charity, local, national and international organizations need you.

The Year of Mercy

Continued from Page 3

“(Mercy) is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace,” the Holy Father taught us in announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy. “Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.”

The Year of Mercy has been a wonderful time in the life of the Church. It has been a time to reflect, a time to pray and a time to move forward. It has been a time to “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

Mercy and forgiveness—they indeed sum up the mystery of the Christian faith.



Ladies of Charity, Women of Mercy

Some Reflections on Servant Leadership*

“And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”

Isaiah 58:10

We love because God first loved us. This scripture applies to the workplace and to everyday living. But scripture can only speak, never act. Perhaps you are the only word of God someone will read today. *Copyright 2016 John Gaudreau. All rights reserved.*

In 1984, Genevieve Klingele of Quincy, Ill., president of the association there for 30 years, wrote: “I joined in 1935...I remember taking my mother to many homes to visit as she had no car...Our membership did not grow very fast at that time...however we carried on and reorganized, had a membership drive and new members joined. We now have a membership of 536. We get calls for food every week... We always help.”

Mary Nell Williams of Indianapolis: “Many of my experiences to date have been as a member of my local association’s board and the LCUSA board. I can sincerely tell you that I have been inspired by the faithfulness and prayerfulness of every member. To work alongside and be supported by very like-spirited women and men in all the branches of the Vincentian Family...has been nourishing and essential for who I am and who I will be as I continue my journey.”

Anna LaFuente of Austin, Texas: “The Holy Spirit gives me strength. He is my strength. I feel that mentally and emotionally, the light just enables me to face everyday issues. Even when helping others I try to direct them spiritually in a very indirect way. They wonder why I am so strong, and why I don’t get upset more. I know it’s the Holy Spirit working in me.”



Mary Ann Morovitz

Mary Ann Morovitz of St. Louis, a past-president of LCUSA: “Early in 1998, Fr. Wilbur Bruns...invited me to apply for membership on the LCUSA national board. I was very humbled by his request and did not feel qualified to serve...Fr. Bruns emphatically stated, ‘If I didn’t think you were qualified I would not have asked you.’ The rest is history.”

A member from Pittsburgh describes Annette Scheid, who recently celebrated reaching age 100: She “held many positions on the Diocesan Board of the Ladies of Charity...However it

was during her years as the Diocesan Board Chair in which Annette gave continued stability and passed along her knowledge of the rich history of the Ladies of Charity.”



Carol Dalglish

Carol Dalglish of Nashville: “How excited I was to find a group of women who were spiritually grounded and very public in helping the poor...and uneducated gain a sense of self-respect...” Members “of Ladies of Charity will have opportunities to deepen and broaden their personal and spiritual relationship in a community of women who live and work to make a difference in the world.”

Joan Kachel, a founding member of Ladies of Charity in Morgan Hill, Calif.: “The first meeting was held in my home, and Sr. Charlotte Marie [Clark] went into detail about the mission of Ladies of Charity. Everyone there was blessed. I expressed my desire that our works of charity be joyful. This is because joyful to me means that our Lord is present and it is peaceful.”



Joan Kachel



Marie Elaina Mullin on the left in the second row with members of the Ladies of Charity of Southwest Florida.

Marie Elaina Mullin of Southwest Florida: “No question that the Holy Spirit has given the Ladies and me an increase in strength to do this and a desire to do this. The Ladies move me quite a bit too. It’s just amazing how the Holy Spirit is in our meeting room once a month, and to see how these women are so generous, it’s just incredible.”

Bernadine Douglas, president of the Ladies of Charity of Immaculate Conception Parish in Baltimore for the past nine years, reflects, "It lifts my heart up to do something for those who are less fortunate. Our group is always doing something together, and people wonder if we are having a party, hearing all the joy and laughter at our meetings."

Theresa Ward of San Francisco: "To me the Vincentian formation is a journey...all of us at different places in that process. Each step makes us stronger to continue the journey, to pioneer the mission when the needs present and to hopefully inspire others in the mission-hence, leadership."

Gayle Johnson of Kansas City, MO., also a past-president of LCUSA, "believes being part of the Ladies of Charity and walking and working in the spirit of Vincent and Louise has transformed her. After she joined the Ladies of Charity and

learned more about the lives of Vincent and Louise, she began to see the individuals she worked with in a different light. 'They were our equals, our brothers and sisters, and serving them was serving Christ on earth.' She began to ask "What more can I do for the poor?"

Mary Ann Dantuono of Long Island, N.Y., current president of LCUSA, believes "there is an acute need for women to spend time for their spiritual selves." She "wants to share with 'like' women, touching on the development of qualities like compassion and mercy and sees these qualities in each Lady of Charity she meets. 'My prayer is that my commitment to be and be with the Ladies of Charity will deepen each year.'"

*Many of these reflections are excerpted from the upcoming Memory Book, to be published by LCUSA in 2017, the 400th anniversary year of the Ladies of Charity.

AIC MOMENTS

Gayle Johnson

Four hundred years ago Vincent de Paul, serving as a parish priest in Châtillon-les-Dombes, France, issued a call to his parishioners to aid an impoverished family. From the overwhelming response St. Vincent realized that meeting the spiritual and material needs of those in poverty required organization

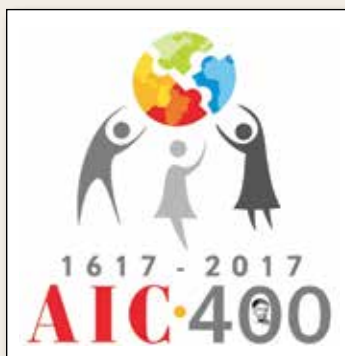
and dedication. To meet these needs he recruited approximately a dozen women of the parish and founded the Confraternity of Charities. Their mission of formation was to serve the marginalized with simplicity, humility and charity. Today the Confraternity of Charities is known as the International Association of Charities of St. Vincent de Paul (AIC) and continues to evangelize and serve with these same virtues.

To celebrate this momentous occasion, the international association, AIC, is holding an assembly in Châtillon, March 12 through March 15, 2017.

Each country is allowed a designated number of delegates to the assembly. AIC-USA, the Ladies of Charity in the United States, may have up to 15 delegates. Reservations are on a first come basis. I will contact you with the amount of the deposit. It is based on the number of people in a room. A waiting list will be maintained. More information will be sent to those who express an interest in attending. If you are interested in being part of the delegation, please contact Gayle Johnson at gaylejohn@kc.rr.com as soon as possible for the most up-to-date information.

Preliminary Information:

- ▶ Dates of Assembly: March 12–15, 2017. Arrival on March 11 and departure on March 16.
- ▶ Attendees leave their residence in the morning and cannot return until the end of the day.
- ▶ Plane tickets are bought individually. Meet at a central U.S. location (e.g., Newark) and fly together from there.
- ▶ Destination will be Lyon, France. Buses will be there to move people to their destination. Many will be staying in Ars, France, which is about 17 kilometers from Châtillon.



- ▶ An alternative itinerary may be available that would allow arrival in Paris on March 7; attendance at a Visitation Mass of celebration in Notre Dame Cathedral

- on March 8, and visiting Vincentian sites until boarding a train to attend the assembly with arrival on March 11.
- ▶ Approximate Cost: \$2000–3000 depending on itinerary and exchange rate.
- ▶ Registration, room and board ...500 euros (approx.)
- ▶ Plane ticket...varies, may reach \$1500
- ▶ Train fare...88 euros (varies)
- ▶ Days in Paris...three to four, \$500–\$1000

Please feel welcome to join the delegation from the United States!!

NEW LEADER OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY

Condensed from Famvin.org



Fr. Tomaz Mavric, CM, was elected the twenty-fifth superior general of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity on July 15. His term is for six years.

He was born in Argentina in 1959, the son of parents who had emigrated from Slovenia. This fact of his background is similar to that of Pope Francis, whose parents left Italy for Argentina, known as the Latin country of immigrants. Educated by the Vincentians in primary and secondary schools in Argentina, Fr. Tomaz joined the Congregation of the Mission in Slovenia and was ordained in 1983. He requested

to be a missionary in Madagascar, but instead served in Canada, Slovenia, Slovakia, Russia, Ireland and Ukraine. He has most recently been the visitor for the Vice-Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, encompassing Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

Fr. Tomaz reported there are 10 branches of the Vincentian Family within the Vice-Province. In Dec., 2014, he participated in the eleventh assembly of AIC-Ukraine. According to the report from AIC members, “To our great joy, Provincial Fr. Tomaz Mavric, CM, was present among us all along the meeting, participating in discussions. It was a great sign of cooperation and

spiritual care of the Missionary Fathers (CM) present in our organization as well as a tremendous support provided by them.” A part of the discussion included “suggestions concerning the form of festivities dedicated to AIC’s 400th anniversary in 2017.”

Fr. Tomaz has said, “The Vincentian Family is a gift from God. It is here to keep nurturing us, to keep us growing, and to keep deepening our mission together in the service of the poor.”

LCUSA congratulates Fr. Tomaz on his election and pledges prayers and cooperation in the growth of the Vincentian Family.



Fr. Tomaz (on the right in the back row) attended a meeting of AIC Ukraine in 2014.

President's Message

Continued from Page 3

struggled to write and teach the “rule” that could make it happen. In organizational leadership today, we would translate that to the CEO and Compliance Officer combined. Third, St. Louise was as compassionate in her care of the poor as she was with her sisters. She always sought that both would flourish in the reciprocal relationship that we call “service.” Finally, she was a collaborator; she recognized that with teamwork, much more could be accomplished to alleviate the suffering of people who were sick or poor.



I am looking forward to learning more about St. Louise as I continue to view her life through these letters and reflections, but I share these qualities with the hope that they will inspire all our leaders and potential leadership in the local associations to model their leadership style on that of St. Louise. I hope we will come to the spiritual maturity in our lives to exclaim as did Louise, “No desires-no resolutions. The grace of my God will accomplish whatever He pleases in me.” This is the leadership our organization both seeks to cultivate and needs for the next 400 years.

Advocacy Connections

To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide



Irene Frechette (Lady of Charity)
SVDP Representative to the
Ladies of Charity Board of Directors

The title listed above is straight
from a position paper on the
United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) web site.

When Rita Robinson, Chairperson of the Ladies of Charity Board of Directors Advocacy Committee, asked me to write an article for this issue of the *Servicette*, I thought “you’ve got to be kidding!” What in the world do I know about the Church’s position on Physician-Assisted Suicide? In fact, what do I think about Physician-Assisted Suicide?

The very first paragraph of the document struck home – “To live in a manner worthy of our human dignity, and to spend our final days on this earth in peace and comfort, surrounded by loved ones – that is the hope of each of us. In particular, Christian hope sees these final days as a time to prepare for our eternal destiny.”

I cannot possibly begin to articulate the plethora of information that can be found on the USCCB website, but I can

share some of the questions put forth by the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities page, “Assisted Suicide: What is at stake?”, that I found to be enormously enlightening:

- ▶ Why shouldn’t assisted suicide be legalized?
- ▶ What about competent, terminally ill people who say they really want assisted suicide?
- ▶ How does cost enter into this issue?
- ▶ Why are people with disabilities worried about assisted suicide?
- ▶ What is the view of the medical profession?
- ▶ What does the Catholic Church teach?
- ▶ What about related issues, such as withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment?
- ▶ How is the practice of giving dying patients pain medication different from assisted suicide?
- ▶ What is the lesson of the Netherlands on assisted suicide?

In 2012, Cardinal Sean O’Malley remarked after the defeated Massachusetts ballot initiative on Physician Assisted Suicide that “I called my staff together and we came up with ideas of what to do going forward. We also brought in pain management experts and all our nursing homes became pain-management certified. Those are the kinds of things that we need to do..... throughout the nation. Just as in the struggle against abortion, it is not enough simply to condemn abortion, but we need to help to take care of the women whose lives are in turmoil because of a pregnancy. In the same way, we need to reach out to those facing difficulties at the end of life.”

The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia has publications available online, including “A Catholic

Guide to End-of Life Decisions.” I will take license here to share a few sentences that I found to be of interest to me personally:

- ▶ To make sound moral decisions, patients must receive all relevant information about their condition, including the proposed treatment and its benefits, possible risks, side-effects and costs.
- ▶ When death is imminent, one may refuse forms of treatment that would only result in a precarious and burdensome prolongation of life. There is a presumption in favor of continuing to provide food and water to the patient, but there is a stage in the dying process when even these may no longer be obligatory because they provide no benefit.
- ▶ Assigning Durable Power of Attorney is preferable to an Advance Directive because it leaves decisions in the hands of someone whom the patient has personally chosen.
- ▶ Although it is certainly preferable to die in a conscious state of prayer, no one should feel obliged to forgo medications and pain relief even though they may bring about disorientation or produce unconsciousness.
- ▶ The Church does not oblige the Catholic to forgo medical treatment for pain even when such treatment may deprive the patient of full consciousness or indirectly shorten life...
The Church asks only that appropriate conditions exist before such medication be taken.

So I must go back to the beginning of this article and ask myself — What do I think about Physician-Assisted Suicide? My answer is that I want to live in a manner worthy of human dignity, and to spend my final days on this earth in peace and comfort, surrounded by loved ones – and to do it in concert with the

Continued — see Advocacy Connections, p. 15

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering 2016 Called to Live Mercy in Our Common Home

Rita L. Robinson



This gathering was like no other attended in the recent past. Washington D.C. was hit with a wintry blast, a blizzard that impacted the entire eastern part of the country. Needless to say many who planned to attend this annual event were not able to do so.

However, in the true fashion of Catholic stubbornness and perseverance, the assembly marched forward. I was one of the valiant persons who dared to venture out and attend. Of course, my husband had to drive me into D.C. early Saturday morning and then race back home before the onset of the rapidly approaching blizzard. Irene Frechette graciously shared her room with me. Her companionship helped make this assembly memorable.

Although attendance was less than half the normal number, the meeting nevertheless was quite impactful. The small number of attendees made it possible to easily network as well as well as get to know one another on a more personal level. Many adaptations were made throughout the program. Msgr. Ray East did an outstanding job as master of ceremonies. His flexibility and cre-

ativity in dealing with a vastly changed gathering was evident.

The keynote presentation “The Minister of Charity: A Heart Conquered by an Encounter with the Love of Christ” by The Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez, Auxiliary Bishop, Rockville Center. He framed his talk by asking, “Why are we here?” He stated that we have all had an encounter with Jesus Christ and that we need to share the culture of encounter with others. Everyday we encounter God in ourselves and in the people we serve. Bishop Perez went on to say that the Church has a preferential concern for the poor. Pope Benedict said that it is a part of the mission of the Church, and it is not just because we are nice people. It is rooted in our identity as church.

Dr. Jonathan Reyes, executive director, Department of the Justice, Peace and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) welcomed the gathering and introduced the speaker, Sr. Kathleen McManus, OP, Ph.D., who addressed the group via teleconference. She spoke of her journey to Peru and of the global suffering of women. She used

Luke’s image of “The Bent over Woman Standing up Straight” as symbolic of Latin American women who exhibit patience and suffering in this current culture. today manifest our own bent-over-ness?” She noted that embedded in patriarchal assumptions is a century of conditioning and women’s complicity; who chooses what gets attention? She ended by saying that there is power in women’s resistance as well as signs of resurrection.

The Salt and Light Plenary Conversation consisted of a diverse group of four young women coming together to tell their story. They talked of the power of institutional symbols and voiced their opinion that the Church needs to encourage articulate women to be heard on behalf of women who are suffering throughout the world. They spoke of inclusivity and the need to address some very practical issues, such as child care leave, shift workers, space/time and educational issues as they impact women.



A heavy snowfall impacted CSMG.



Msgr. Ray East and Rita Robinson

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development Plenary Presentation was done by Kathryn J. Edin, Ph.D., Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University. She is a co-author of the recently published book “\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America.” She spoke of the many reasons and causes of poverty in our society. Welfare is virtually dead. People are selling their plasma two times a month for cash income and some are trading sex for money, in order to survive in this economy. Policies and responses to human needs, including expanding work opportunities; making affordable housing available; ensuring that children are raised in homes of their own; and providing a safety net for those in need of cash should be implemented.

I attended two workshops. The presenter at the first workshop was Joseph Purello, Social Concerns and Advocacy Director, Catholic Charities of Charlotte. He addressed the topic “The Church Responding to Disaster in Our Common Home.” He discussed best practices and practical suggestions for distribution of emergency funds. The second workshop, “Discussing America’s Racial Construct,” was led by Deacon Arthur Miller, Archdiocese of Hartford. He offered simple and direct ways to

understand the profound and generational impact that racial constructs have on individuals, specifically through socialized advantages and disadvantages.

In a virtual presentation, Dr. Megan Clark, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, St. John’s University, spoke on the topic “Encounters at the Margins of Our Common Home.” She reiterated that Pope Francis encourages us to go out and care for others, to establish solidarity with our neighbors, not indifference and selfishness. We can and should not live in a bubble. The heart of social justice teaching is that we are human together

and that we are bound by our humanity. Mercy is defined as entering into the chaos of others. To love God and neighbor is not an abstract belief. We need to see the face of Jesus in all the people we work with.

Policy Workshops included discussion of “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility,” the bishops’ statement on political engagement of Catholics in the United States; and “Addressing the False Mercy of Assisted Suicide,” analysis of the arguments, strategies and research related to the new push for legalizing assisted suicide across the nation. Four states, Oregon, Montana, California and Washington have statutes that allow assisted suicide.

Although the majority of the visits to Congress were cancelled due to the inclement weather,

The following issues were presented and discussed as training in advocacy: Strengthening Poverty-Reducing International Assistance and the Green Climate Fund; Criminal Justice Reform; and Refugees and Immigrants.

In 2017, there will not be a Catholic Social Ministry Gathering due to the National Convocation of Catholic Leaders in July 2017. CSMG will return in 2018.



Rita Robinson (L) and Irene Frechette

DIALOGUE ENRICHES COMMUNITY GOALS

Lucy Ann Saunders, CCJAC Member & Former LCUSA President

The Charles County Service & Advocacy Network (CCSAN) in southern Maryland held its spring meeting on April 21. This networking effort provides opportunities to discuss challenges facing Charles County's social needs providers and ministries. The CCSAN is an ecumenical group initiated by the Archdiocese of Washington Charles County Justice & Advocacy Council. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Ladies of Charity serve on both the council and CCSAN. Dialogue among two of the Charles County Commissioners, six non-profit organizations and attendees lent itself to connect services within the community.

- ▶ *Mentor Network's In-Home Family Centered Services Program* focuses on youth and families where children are at risk of abuse, neglect or delinquency. Charles County has nine foster homes. Mentors work with families in their homes. Client ages range from 5 to 60 years of age.
- ▶ *Alzheimer's Association* discussed forming volunteer groups to provide respite care for a few hours allowing caregivers time for themselves. Networking at the meeting resulted with the Health Department Director offering evening meeting space for their gatherings free of charge. Long term expenses of this illness are approximately \$60,000 - \$80,000 per year.
- ▶ *Our Place Soup Kitchen* serves meals twice a week for the homeless, sharing meals and fellowship at the dinner table. The setting and atmosphere are designed to serve guests as if they are in a restaurant. Average cost per night is \$215. About nine percent of

CC residents live each day without adequate food. Fundraising for the soup kitchen takes place at the local mall with volunteers wrapping Christmas presents during December. Both of the commissioners who were present had volunteered at the soup kitchen.

- ▶ *Legal Aid Services* has a program providing for those over 60 years of age. Their work helps clients with evictions notices, rent subsidies and other civil matters. These legal services are freely given in the spirit of fairness to those less fortunate.
- ▶ *Interfaith Community Connection (ICC)* coordinates services for the disadvantaged. Clients are met face-to-face; their problems are never discussed over the phone. ICC originally began services in 1997 with seven churches involved.
- ▶ *Health Partners* provides health care and dental services for the uninsured. They also have a children's clothes closet, shared with Children's Aid Society. Health Partners networked with other groups, including Catholic Charities, to offer a mobile dental service at a local church in May. Volunteer dentists and dental hygienists participated.

The comments and evaluations of the gathering were positive. The interaction shared by the participants again proved that dialogue enriched each organization's commitment to lending a helping hand to those less fortunate. Congratulations to the CCSAN Steering Committee for its work and commitment to serve!

Servicette Moving into the Future

For many years, the Servicette was a newsletter published quarterly and available by subscription. Effective in 2012, it became a free benefit to all members of LCUSA. With the development of new media sources, the way we all receive news has changed. Through websites, email, Facebook and other constantly evolving technologies, news can be communicated very quickly.

In light of the new environment, the LCUSA Board of Directors has decided to transition the Servicette from a quarterly newsletter to a magazine published

three times a year. Each issue will have a theme (for this issue, it is servant leadership), the subject of several pieces from different points of view. The emphasis will move from who, what when and where, to why. For example, if an association sponsors a food pantry, why do members want to work there? How does the program connect to the mission of Ladies of Charity? Do workers have an opportunity to meet and talk with recipients? What do these contacts teach them? How does the work make them feel?

Some short write-ups will be used as web postings, announced via email blasts. Other longer articles, especially those related to the theme, will be used in the Servicette. Some features will continue to appear regularly, including the article by the LCUSA episcopal liaison; letter from the LCUSA president; AIC Moments; Advocacy Connections; JLOC Update; and an article on Vincentian history.

For the next issue of the Servicette, 10/14/16 is the deadline, with a goal of

Continued on Pg. 19

Students Partner with Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, St. Louis

Letter from a Student

Dear Donor,

We would like to thank you so much for your kind donation to help St. Vincent de Paul buy men's underwear. At our school, St. Gerard Majella, a group of middle school students get the privilege to come and volunteer at St. Vincent's every Tuesday. We are able to work down at the clothing window and be face-to-face with the people we are helping. Just about every man that comes to the window asks for a pair of new underwear. When someone comes to the window and asks for an article of clothing that we have run out of, it breaks your heart to have to tell them no. Wow, with this huge donation to help buy underwear, the people that work and volunteer at St. Vincent's will be able to supply these men with new, clean underwear.

St. Vincent's has really helped us learn what it means to serve others. We are so blessed to be able to participate in helping the less fortunate. This experience has helped us become more aware to not take the simple things in life, such as clean underwear, for granted.

Thank you so much for your donation.

— 8th Grade Students at St. Gerard

Advocacy Connections Continued from page 11

teachings of the Catholic Church!

There are four states where Physician-Assisted Suicide is legal and several others where it is moving through the legislature. If you wish to learn more about the subject in your respective states, you can contact your state Catholic Conference of Bishops or go to <http://www.nasccd.org/> to find the contact information for your state.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Both the persons named below and the donors will be remembered at a special Mass said by LCUSA's national spiritual advisor, Fr. Richard Gielow, CM. Use the enclosed envelope to submit your own intentions.

† MEMORIALS †

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Bequeathed by</i>
Marge Birsic	Alberta Heimbuecher
Charles J. Bressoud	Jeanne Henson
Linda Jo Cunningham	Theresa Ward
Mary Curry	Kathleen Sieracki
Robert D'Ausilio	Theresa Ward
Bob Flack	Marge Flack
Joseph G. Forlenza	Suzette Forte
Joan Jackson	Suzanne Johnson
Martin J. Kennedy	Suzanne Johnson Joan Stanard
George Kimbro	Theresa Ward
Norleen Maxwell	Morgan Hill LOC
Carol Ann McCorkle	AGF Management Limited Friends at BP/Castrol- Customer Operations Ellen Klein Daniel Kramer Kathleen McCreadie Diana Sodano Donna Young
Anne Phillips	Maryann Mah
Mary Lou Phillips	Michelle & Doug Shinebarger
Rose Real	Morgan Hill LOC
Norbert Schumer	Joan Stanard
Winifred Segreue	The Texas Twosomes

† IN HONOR OF †

Robert Garritano	Mary Colao
Larry Lanari	Margaret Fiala
Monica Mize	Margaret Fila



Dates to Remember

September 30-October 1, 2016
LCUSA National Assembly Queens, N.Y.

December 8, 2016
Start of the Jubilee Year for the 400th Anniversary

Juniors Put Grants to Good Use

Three Junior Ladies of Charity groups applied for and received grants from LCUSA in to help fund 2016 projects. \$140 will help purchase gift bags which Juniors at St. Angela



JLOC of St. Catherine of Sweden in Pittsburgh at an Easter Egg Hunt.

Merici Parish in Pittsburgh will fill for women and children at a homeless shelter. Their 2015 activities included Easter gifts to homebound parishioners and nursing home residents; volunteering at the food bank and a food pantry; and helping serve lunch at the Intersection Shelter, where they also distributed Christmas gift bags, the project they hope to expand this year with the LCUSA grant.



JLOC join other parishioners serving breakfast.

The Juniors at St. Louise de Marillac, also in Pittsburgh, were awarded \$135 to purchase new clothing items to supplement the used garments they collect to benefit the Grassroots St. Louise organization serving homeless people in downtown Pittsburgh.



JLOC in Buffalo assembling a fleece blanket.

Also aiming to serve homeless people, the Junior Ladies of Charity at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in the Diocese of Buffalo will use their grant of \$140 to purchase fleece for handmade tie blankets. A number of different sizes to accommodate adults, children and infants will be created.



A grant from LCUSA helped finance this project.

St. Catherine of Sweden Parish in Pittsburgh received a \$50 grant in 2015. They used it for several projects including Christmas and Easter gift bags for the East End Cooperative Ministry shelter, where they participate with other parishioners in serving breakfast every Saturday morning. The Juniors planned an Easter Egg Hunt at the parish with an admission "fee" of baby products which they donated to the Genesis Center. The girls also hosted a game night at a senior citizens' community.

The outreach of all the Junior groups to the people we serve is very inspiring.



Left and below: The Hearts F.E.L.T. (Hearts Feeding Empty Little Tummies)

Program was formed when the Ladies of Charity at St. Anthony of Padua was asked to provide high-risk school children at a local elementary school with extra food for the weekend. There was no hesitation to put a plan together and act. Chairlady Kathy Milor has a daughter who teaches first grade at the school being served, and three grandchildren who are students there. She knew she could not let fellow classmates and students go hungry when her own family is so blessed. She says, "Being a Lady of Charity commands us to follow the teachings of Jesus and allows us to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters." The Ladies sent home backpacks full of food for eleven children each week. Volunteers gathered every Tuesday evening to fill the backpacks, which were delivered to the school on Thursday. The empty backpacks are picked up on Monday and the cycle begins anew for the following week. The program began in mid-September of the 2015/2016 school year and continued until the last week of school in June. The Ladies have continued to sponsor five children during summer vacation.



The food is purchased from the Maryland Food Bank or donated by neighboring Catholic schools and the PTA of the school being served. The children enjoy the selection and quantity of food and their parents are very grateful for the support

given to them through the Hearts F.E.L.T. Program. The Ladies of Charity are so grateful for the dedicated volunteers who give of their time and donate food to this much needed program. May God bless them all!



Above and below: Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City has provided tutoring services for the past five years primarily in English to seniors and, this year, freshmen at Cristo Rey High School of Kansas City, Mo. In July of 2015 tutors helped test the reading readiness and writing skills of incoming freshman so their needs could be met by the freshman English program. During the course of each year the tutors helped students weekly. The tutoring sources have included classes from British Literature to basic reading skills in freshman English in the 2015-2016 school year. During this past year four Ladies of Charity came once a week to the school to each work with a student for one hour in their English class. Working with the students has been both fun and rewarding for those who have participated in this project.



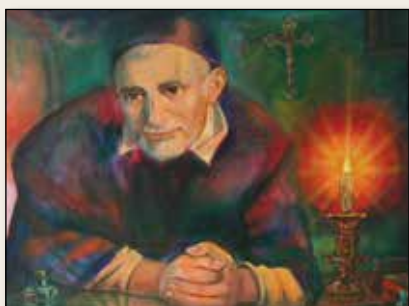
Cristo Rey of Kansas City is a Sisters of Charity institution, part of the Vincentian Family. The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth established the school in 2007. The Ladies of Charity has been actively involved with the school doing jobs such as helping create a clothes closet, helping cater the first fundraiser "Dancing with the Stars,"

painting classrooms and halls, cleaning blackboards and desks, cleaning restrooms during the first summer break, doing office work, helping with mailings as well as tutoring students in English and math. The Ladies also served as Vincentian friends in the first year or two of the school, meeting students and corresponding with them on an individual basis as they began their high school careers. The Ladies have also provided graduating seniors with \$15 gift cards to Target to help purchase supplies for their college experience. Both the Ladies of Charity and the students at Cristo Rey have been enriched by the experience.



Above: The Ladies of Charity of Evansville, Ind., were featured in two area publications following an April event. Armon Siadat of Evansville Living magazine (May/June 2016) and Tim Lilley, editor, The Message, Southwestern Indiana's Catholic Community Newspaper (4/22/16) both wrote about the history of the association and the development of the Vincentian Family, current membership and activities, and future plans. The association will celebrate its 100th anniversary in February. Current projects include service to the St. Vincent Center for Children & Families, providing bibs, money and meals to families in need. The Ladies also create and donate hospitality bags for the Albion Fellows Bacon Center, a domestic violence shelter for women and children. During a Mass on April 17 at the Daughters of Charity Seton Residence on the Mater Dei Campus in Evansville, Fr. Stephen Gallegos, CM, installed five new Ladies and recommissioned 17 others. Two additional new members could not be present. "It is a big temptation today in our world to overlook simplicity because our lives are very complicated," Fr. Gallegos said during his homily. "If we put everything in the simple act of loving the poor-removing all the other ideas- (doing so) represents us carrying our crosses."

Connie Gries, president of the association and Sr. Jane Burger, DC, Vincentian spiritual moderator, assisted in the ceremonies. The Mass and dinner following also celebrated the group's new status as a 501(c)(3) entity and new by-laws.



Right: The Ladies of Charity in Little Rock assembled and donated a money tree to the Center for Women in Transition, serving women being released from prison. The center provides necessary items as the women begin their new journey. The Ladies created the money tree to be used as a fundraiser for the center. At their May meeting, the members assembled 52 diaper bags which they distributed to three community agencies offering support to pregnant women and mothers of newborns.



Ladies of Charity in Utah

Why I Am a Lady of Charity

Jenny McDonald, Salt Lake City

I'll never forget the Sunday Mass when Sr. Charlotte Marie Clark, DC, came to speak with our parish about the Ladies of Charity. I'd been in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for only a couple of years. I was involved with the Sunday school program in the parish, and with my son's and daughter's scout troops. Sr. Charlotte Marie told us of an organization called the Ladies of Charity at St. Olaf Parish in Bountiful, north of Salt Lake City. They were working to bring food to families and individuals living in poor circumstances here in my own area. I immediately wanted to be involved with this wonderful organization, and joined the following Sunday to find out how I could help.

We had some truly humble beginnings packing up food in the open carport of the Daughters of Charity convent across the yard from Saint Olaf Parish. Working with the Ogden and Utah Food Banks, we received non-perishable items to share among the families we served. Home deliveries were made to people as far north as Ogden and south to the end of the Salt Lake Valley.

When I began, I had the honor of delivering with Sr. Charlotte Marie to the people on her route. She knew how to get things done and how to organize this nice group of ladies. On the delivery together, she told me that "we can't judge a situation of a household by the look of the house." The second home was a very pretty house in a more affluent neighborhood. She said that "you just never know what life has burdened people with: poor health and medical bills, divorce, loss of a job, the devastating loss of a loved one, mental health issues; we are help in a box of food, a kind word and a prayer for those who might otherwise be overlooked."

Aside from looking for anything extra

to give to the people, which I suspect she purchased with her own money, Sr. Charlotte Marie wanted to make people happy and feel valued. When questioned by members about choices those on our delivery routes would make regarding money, she would always defend them, saying, for example, that the man (a factory worker) buying a treat for his children at the convenience store on payday is probably a source of great pride to him and may be a pleasant memory for the children. The woman who works in a restaurant may need to look her best,



Jenny McDonald (R) and Rita Galster partner to deliver food.

so spending money on a weave for her hair must be terrific for her self-esteem and may help her make better tips. Of the elderly woman who has cable, Sr. Charlotte Marie said, "Firstly, you don't know who is paying for that bill, but it is probably the only thing she has. It's entertainment; it's company."

In 2006, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Salt Lake City formed its own association, becoming the second Ladies of Charity group in Utah, and took over all of the home deliveries in Salt Lake County. That is when I met Rita Galster. During the first meeting she attended, I was looking for a new partner to drive with me to deliver food. At 5' 1", and 80+ years old, she has now driven approximately 6,000 miles with me to bring our bit of help in the shape of food and some cheer. In roughly 5,000 volunteer hours, we have seen so much hardship and so

much joy among the people we serve. We've been a great team as I play with the kids and Rita, who is not shy about asking, finds out what's going on with the family. Perhaps it is her career training as a nurse, but Rita puts people at ease and leaves them uplifted and smiling. Rita is adorable, kind, and moves with the grace of God and humor. I have to laugh, but the people we have gotten to know are disappointed if it's just me – everybody just loves Rita!

For myself, Rita has become one of my best friends. Outside of church, I'm grateful to have this standing date each month to drive all those miles and talk non-stop. I also get to see her for the many Ladies of Charity activities throughout the year. The Ladies of Charity absorbed the parish women's group and we became one. We have an amazing group of hard working women, and I am truly blessed to have developed friendships among our group as we tackle the needs of our parish and the community around us.

The friendships have been wonderful, but in this busy world it has meant everything to serve God as a Lady of Charity. It is the framework to live the Christian life I want to live, serving the poor in my community. It warms my heart that each of us has been encouraged to pause on Monday morning to say our prayer together. With members nationwide, I feel more powerful to affect some change in the lives of those around us living in such tough conditions. The charity, humility, and simplicity prayer fortifies us: "My God, I humbly beg you to make me an instrument of Your love: give me the grace of performing my actions to help my neighbor with charity, humility, and simplicity. It is my hope, Lord, that fidelity in the practice of these virtues may obtain the reward which you have promised to those who serve you in the person of the poor." Amen.

Remembering Gary Stark, Man of Charity

Christine Young, Bountiful

St. Olaf Church in Bountiful was filled to capacity with family, friends and co-workers in their blue Tesoro uni-



Gary Stark was a true friend to the Vincentian Family.

forms, who filled two long pews in the chapel to mourn the passing of Gary Stark.

Donald "Gary" Stark was born Jan. 8, 1957; he died Jan. 22, 2016 of a heart attack. In 1978, he married his sweetheart, Sandy Oveson, a past LOC presi-

dent; in 2005 Gary became a Man of Charity assisting his wife in what needed to be done.

His work career at Tesoro began in 1980. Over the 35 years, the company changed, but the love Gary had for his job and his incredible work ethic never wavered; his work ethic carried over into his community service.

Gary was amazing, always willing to lend a helping hand, always someone you could count on. Not only would he show up to help, but he would happily fix a problem like running to the store for turkeys, supplies or U-Haul for boxes; he always had a plan. His flat-bed trailer hitched on the back of his pick-up truck could haul more household items and furniture and more boxes of food for those in need than any moving van.

"Gary had a passion for the Ladies of Charity," said Sandy. "He was a chef for our Ladies of Charity BBQ fundraisers, he assisted me when the center opened a pantry one Saturday a month for families in need, and he and our son helped

move the center from its old location to the new location and erected shelving. He worked hard to get Tesoro to donate \$2,500 to the Ladies of Charity Christmas program, which snowballed into an anonymous Tesoro gentleman giving as well."

He also helped the Daughters of Charity at Give Me a Chance in Ogden, including finding contractors for them. The center assists low-income women by teaching them marketable skills to enable them to become self-sufficient. Gary helped in the construction of the Our Lady of Guadalupe garden; "He was a hard worker and always had good ideas," said Bobbi Earl, a past St. Olaf LOC president.

"I told him we needed some muscle people to help, and he was always willing," said Sandy. "Gary was a very humble and courteous man who devoted his life to his family, helping others and helping different charitable organizations without asking for recognition in return."

Servicette Moving into the Future

Continued from Page 14

delivery by mid-December. For 2017, deadlines will be Feb. 1, with delivery in April; June 1, with delivery in August; and October 1, with delivery in December.

Photos, particularly of Ladies of Charity working on their projects, are very important to draw the reader's attention and illustrate the material.

For the website, pictures can be more easily manipulated and the quality of the picture is not as important. However, for a photo to appear clearly in the Servicette (or other print media such as brochures), certain parameters are required. Always use the largest image setting on your phone or camera. Use flash indoors on either device. Photos with resolution of 350 dpi or more are needed.



If photographs include frontal images of anyone other than Ladies of Charity, signed permission to use the pictures is required. The includes pictures of recipients and children, including Junior Ladies of Charity. An

example of a release in on the LCUSA web site, aic.ladiesofcharity.us, Resources/LCUSA Forms; Forms for Local Associations/ Media Release Form. Completed releases must be sent to the LCUSA National Office so that a comprehensive file may be maintained.

Please follow these simple guidelines and send us your stories and pictures. It's important to have all regions of LCUA well represented. Feel free to contact us with any questions. We want to hear from you.



“To serve rather than to be served”

Queen Anne of Austria: Vincent’s Admirer, Benefactress

Carol Schumer, D.C.

“*M*onsieur Vincent has more credit with the queen than I,”¹ wrote Cardinal Jules Mazarin, Anne of Austria’s counselor, her strength and her chief minister. This comment shows the prominence of Vincent de Paul and how Queen Anne valued and trusted Vincent’s judgements and opinions. Born in September, 1601, to Phillip III of Spain and Margaret of Austria, Queen of Spain, Anne was betrothed to Louis XIII of France in 1612. They were wed at 14 years of age and forced to consummate their marriage to eliminate a future annulment. Louis’s mother, Queen Marie de’ Medici, then relegated Anne to the background. Anne remained housed in the Louvre, out of mainstream French culture for two years, until a coup removed Louis XII from the throne. Formal events were staged to bring the young couple together and Anne adapted French attire. The populace was enthralled by Anne’s beauty. Her chestnut hair accentuated her fair skin and blue eyes. She was known for her beautiful hands which she protected with stylish gloves.²

In 1619, they began living together as man and wife. Initially, Anne had a number of miscarriages which disillusioned the king and their relationship suffered. Finally, in 1638, when Anne was 36, Louis Dieudonné (i.e., “Gift of God”) was born, insuring an heir. A second son, Philippe, followed quickly. However, their parents’ relationship remained contentious due to multiple conflicts. Thus, Anne returned

to the Louvre with her two infants.

At the age of four, the elder child was crowned King Louis XIV. When Louis XIII died in 1643, and against his wishes, Anne was named regent. Unexpectedly, she entrusted the running of the country to Cardinal Mazarin. Anne kept regency until Louis came of age in 1651. Even then, she maintained consid-

erable power and influence until Mazarin’s death in 1661.

Having developed a deep faith, thanks to her mother, Anne was pious and regularly frequented convents, churches and religious sites. According to Bernard Pujo, she probably had her first direct encounter with Vincent in 1638 during a mission at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, located in a Paris suburb.³ Their relationship was nurtured by shared anti-Jansenist views and cemented when Anne named Vincent to the Council of Conscience, much to his chagrin. He served for almost ten years.⁴ Thus, besides being his benefactress for charitable works via funds and jewels, Anne significantly enhanced Vincent’s involvement with the influential people of his era, giving him personal access to those with power and wealth for the sake of those in need. During the 1640s, Vincent drafted regulations for the Ladies of Charity at Court, making the Queen president. For unknown reasons, this association never materialized.⁵

In 1663, Anne’s health failed. She learned she had breast cancer. Declining rapidly in late 1665, she died in Paris on January 20, 1666. Queen Anne is remembered for her political strategies, personal strength as regent⁶ and her generosity.



Reflection Question: Like Anne, how can I use my situation to help others?

Bibliography:

¹ Pujo, Bernard Vincent de Paul, *The Trailblazer* (University of Notre Dame Press: 1998), page 151

² <https://www.goodreads.com/characters/32993-anne-of-austria>

³ Pujo, *ibid*, page 123

⁴ *Ibid*, page 149

⁵ Coste, Pierre Vincent de Paul, *Documents* (2013) volume 13b, pages 441-42

⁶ <https://www.biography.com/people/anne-of-austria-9185816#miserable-marriage>

