

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA® SERVICETTE

“To serve rather than to be served”



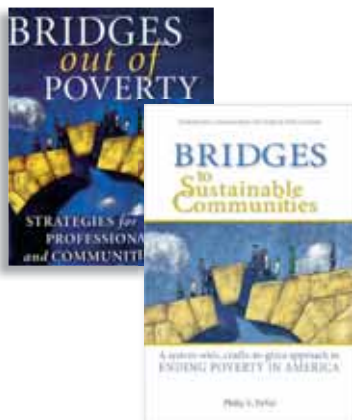
AIC USA

VOL. FIFTY TWO, No. 2
Spring 2012

SYSTEMIC CHANGE LISTEN, LEARN & LOVE

Mary Ann Dantuono

At the first North American Systemic Change Meeting in 2010 in Belleville, Ind., we examined the concepts found in *Seeds of Hope* written by the members of the Vincentian Systemic Change Commission. We talked about the various strategies—mission, person, task orientated as well as collaboration and political action strategies to achieve change in communities.



In October of 2011, as you may have read in the last issue of the *Servicette*, the Vincentian Family convening in Indianapolis focused on “Bridges Out of Poverty” a anti-poverty program developed by Ruby K. Payne and Philip E. DeVol. There are two books that explain some of the ideas that were discussed in Indiana. The first book is *Bridges out of*

Continued — see Systemic Change, p. 8

2012 LCUSA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

Toni K. Gaines, Archdiocese of Washington



Kevin McCoy

The Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity, celebrating its 50th anniversary, welcomes LCUSA to the nation’s capital. Excited to host the 12th Annual LCUSA National Assembly, the ladies have been working feverishly to make the assembly informative, memorable and enjoyable.

Embracing the theme *Giving in Faith and Love*, the assembly will commence Friday, September 14th and conclude with a Mass and banquet on Saturday, September 15th. A dynamic group of speakers will be featured as well as workshops that are geared to the theme.

Fr. G. Gregory Gay, III, C.M., will be the keynote speaker. A Baltimore native, Fr. Gay has been re-elected Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission known as the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers and the Daughters of Charity. He will serve a second six year term through 2016. He had previ-

ously spent 25 years working as a missionary in Panama, traveling on horseback, and for several years was a teacher and executive director of the justice and peace council at Vincentian-run Niagara University in New York State.



Msgr. Ray East is Pastor of St. Theresa of Avila Parish in the Anacostia Park section of Washington, DC. He has served as director of the Office of Black Catholics and Vicar for Evangelization. Monsignor East is a member of the boards of Jobs Partnership Greater Washington and Food and Friends. He also serves on the board of St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. He has worked in the areas of liturgy, youth ministry, initiation, and evangelization.

Sr. Carol Keehan, D.C., is the ninth president and chief executive officer of

Continued — see Assembly p. 13



AIC Report
LOC at UN
Page 5



Catholic Social
Justice
Gathering
Page 7



Morgan Hills
Installation
Page 8



5:30 AM



Bishop David A. Zubik
Episcopal Chairman

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

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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.

 **Dates to Remember**

September 14–15, 2012

LCUSA National Assembly
Archdiocese of Washington, DC
Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, Md.

September 27, 2012

Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

March 13–19, 2013

AIC Delegate Assembly
Bangkok, Thailand

September 18–22, 2013

LCUSA National Assembly
San Jose, Calif.

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

National Service Center Hours
Mon–Thur., 7 AM–4 PM Central time

On Monday, January 16, 2006, at 5:03 a.m., in Room 942 of Saint Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, Wisconsin, my dear mother crossed over the bridge from this life to eternal life. She died with my holding her—a precious blessing indeed.

Six weeks after my mother’s death I found a tangible tribute of what happened in that hospital room. While in Rome I found a pectoral cross in one of my favorite religious stores. A pectoral cross is worn by a bishop—always. A pectoral cross is a “heart cross,” meant to be worn over or near a bishop’s heart. The pectoral cross that I found in Rome contained a medallion in the crossbars of the cross. It imaged the Pietà—our dear Blessed Mother cradling her dear Son—Jesus—lifeless, having just been taken down from the cross.

While I had reflected many times on that sad image of Our Lady and Our Savior, this time I was hit with a heart-felt image captured at 5:03 a.m. As my mother gently breathed her last, at that very minute I was able to cradle her.

What an honor it was to cradle her! After all:

- She “cradled” me in her womb from conception until my birth;
- She “cradled” me as I first saw the

- light of day on my birth day;
- She “cradled” me through hunger and discomfort when I was an infant;
- She “cradled” me as I earned the nicks and bruises of a young lad growing up at play;
- She “cradled” me through my successes and failures as I began the rigors of elementary school;
- She “cradled” me with encouragement as I went on my first date as a high-school student;
- She “cradled” me as I took the important step of entering the seminary;
- She “cradled” me through all my doubts and questions as I moved through formation as a seminarian;
- She “cradled” me—the first to do so—the day I was ordained a priest;
- And finally, she “cradled” me just eight hours before she died as I thanked her for all that she had done for me and as I encouraged her to let go and fall into the arms of God.

Yes, 5:03 a.m. will always have a special and tender meaning for me, not only because of the last embrace between a son and his mother. It also awakened in me a deeper appreciation of what happened between another Son and his mom on the hill of Calvary.

After all—isn’t that what it’s all about? That, when we breathe throughout our lives and at our last, we go it not alone, but especially with the tender embrace of our dear Savior and his Blessed Mother.

That was a lesson my mom taught me all throughout my life. I was only too happy to return the favor again and at last on January 16, 2006, at 5:03 a.m. ✠

SERVICETTE
NEWS DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles and photos for inclusion in the Summer issue of the *SERVICETTE*:
Monday, July 2, 2012

Articles and photos can be sent by e-mail to: kandsieracki@aol.com
Articles and photos should be sent separately and not within the text document. Please contact us for info.

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.





President's Message

Lucy Ann Saunders
LCUSA President

As we welcome spring, let us also welcome the opportunity to celebrate our gifts of faith and charity, precious gifts given to be shared among our brothers and sisters in Christ. As members of the Vincentian family, sharing of those gifts is not new to us. That is what we are all about. That is what "you" are all about. As I think about the service that the Ladies of Charity render throughout the United States daily, I am reminded that without your good works and deeds so many people would be left behind. Give yourselves that special pat on the back knowing that lives are changed because of "you."

When you receive this issue of the *Servicette*, LCUSA's board will have held its spring meeting at Mater Dei, Evansville, Ind. Each year the board gathers for a three day meeting to plan the upcoming events and evaluate LCUSA's Strategic Goals. These goals, established so LCUSA can meet the challenges of tomorrow, are:

Nurture the Spiritual Growth of Membership: Assist aging sisters who may not be able to continue spiritual growth with lay members by creating a mentoring process for the lay spiritual moderator. Recruit sister moderators to mentor Ladies of Charity who are willing to volunteer in this capacity. Continue to use media for opportunities to help with spiritual growth. Spiritual reflections can be found in the *Servicette* and on LCUSA's website. This committee strives to keep Vincentian formation a major part of our lives.

Enhance the Visibility of LCUSA through the *Servicette* and the website (<http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us>). By publishing articles and news from the local associations that spotlight local hands-on

projects and ministries serving those less fortunate, visibility is being enhanced. Membership continues to show the true characteristics of a Lady of Charity by sharing ideas and actively participating in the Vincentian way of life.

Evaluate Current Organizational Structure has brought forth changes in the bylaws that now provide eligibility for active local members to be nominated as candidates for the office of secretary or treasurer in addition to regional directors. Voting rights were aligned

... without your good works and deeds so many people would be left behind.

according to the number of members in a local association. Committee members are now working on policies and procedures that will be separate from the bylaws. Individual membership has been a result of this committee's work.

Promote Growth of Membership. This is probably one of the most difficult goals. As we all have seen, today's society is so involved with everyday life, time is limited for those who might like to serve. One suggestion has been to recruit women of retirement age. At this stage

of one's life, people are looking for an outlet now that they have time to give of themselves. Keep this in mind as you look for new members. Maybe you too have ways to attract new members. If so, please let us hear from you.

Fiscal Responsibility and Development are key issues that the Finance Committee is most aware of in their commitment to financially stabilize LCUSA. We must be willing to pay for the structure that makes services possible. Volunteer services are invaluable but paying the rent, utilities and wages requires a cash flow. LCUSA continues to work on a financial plan to cover the basic operational and administrative costs associated with providing service and staff to you our membership.

Engage the National Board and Membership in Advocacy. The Advocacy Committee has been very active in the field of advocating on Human Trafficking and training members to be the voice for the voiceless. This committee is very much involved in collaborating with other non-profit organizations to speak up for those being taken advantage of unfairly, while engaging members in legislative action within the context of the mission of the Ladies of Charity and Systemic Change. Education is a major part of this goal.

As the board strives to continue working and achieving these goals, your prayers and support are necessary. Thank you for believing in the Ladies of Charity and putting that belief into action. †



From front left and going clockwise: Maureen Driskill, Mary Ann Morovitz, Kathleen Sieracki, Suzanne Johnson, Francine Hovanec, Mary Cay Murray, Lucky Van De Gejuchte, Sr. Judy Dusellier, DC, Margaret Hanson, Lydia Noche, Sr. Fran Ryan, DC, Lucy Saunders.

Charity, Courage and Calix - *and a Vincentian call to action* By Sandy DeCoursey, LCARK President

The season of Lent offers an opportunity for reflection on where God is calling us to respond. The Ladies of Charity of Arkansas (LCARK) was formed because our founding member and president, Kristy Eanes chose to listen and act upon the urgings of the Holy Spirit. In seeking to become more involved in the Vincentian charism, she learned of the Ladies of Charity and wasted no time in launching a new branch. In April, 2008, newly installed Bishop Anthony B. Taylor signed the charter establishing the first Ladies of Charity Association in Arkansas. Since then, LCARK has been going strong adding new projects and programs to carry out our mission to serve the poor.

Most recently, Kristy was inspired by St. Vincent de Paul's desire to care for those who struggled with a "poverty of spirit". This is sometimes manifested in the disease called alcoholism. Close to St. Vincent de Paul's heart were not only abandoned children, the homeless, beggars and prisoners, but also the mentally distressed. Sometimes, behind an alcoholic's addiction is a depression or anxiety that is the root cause. Out of love and concern for families and friends affected, Kristy was led to take on the courageous task of bringing a unit of Calix Society International, a Catholic alcoholism recovery support group, to the Diocese of Little Rock. With permission from Bishop Taylor, help from Catholic Charities of Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Ministry and a local priest in recovery who serves as spiritual director, an orientation meeting was held in January which was promoted through state-wide bulletin announcements. Kristy's hope of having at least 5 attendees was greatly exceeded by the response of close to 30 people who came from around the greater Little Rock area in hopes of getting involved. There have been several inquiries seeking to bring a local unit back to their parishes in other cities.

Clearly, this ministry struck a chord with the Catholic community. Calix Society of Central Arkansas is a new unit of The Calix Society International organization started in 1947 by a group of Catholic men struggling with alcoholism and a priest who served as their spiritual guide. Calix provided a forum for participants to draw strength from their Catholic faith and in Jesus Christ. Calix (pronounced "kaylicks") is the Latin word for "Chalice". The motto is "Substituting the cup that stupefies with the one that sanctifies". The ultimate goal of Calix is to lead members back to the rich sacramental life of the Catholic church especially through the Eucharist. Calix is not intended to be a replacement for A.A., Al-Anon or other 12 step programs. Meetings are open to people of all faiths in recovery and their loved ones (family and friends) who seek support.

While Ladies of Charity cannot be directly involved in Calix unless they know someone in recovery, our association has agreed to provide spiritual and financial support. LCARK will help with the administrative expenses of starting a new unit (printing materials, mailings, etc.) and will assist with hospitality for the meetings by providing healthy refreshments. Penny catechisms are also made available for those who might want to become reacquainted with their Catholic faith. Perhaps most importantly, the ladies will be praying for the successful and sustained recovery and healing for all those who participate in Calix. We give thanks for Kristy and challenge all ladies to remain open to how they may serve Christ's poor and suffering souls.

For more information about Calix Society, please visit the international website: www.calixsociety.org †

Memorials and Honorariums

Both the persons named below and the donors will be remembered at a special Mass said by our National Spiritual Advisor, the Rev. Richard Gielow, C.M. Please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter to submit your own intention.

† MEMORIALS †

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Bequeathed by</i>
Aaron Hazuka	Gayle Johnson
Karen Naro	Elaine Colangelo
Joseph Casarsa	Kathleen Sieracki
Rhonda Pritts	Ladies of Charity of Arkansas
Mark DeAngelis	Ladies of Charity of Albany, N.Y.
Rita Fine	Ladies of Charity of Albany, N.Y.
Sr. Constance Casey, SNJM	LCUSA
Wm. J. (Jeff) Brown	Ladies of Charity of Lake Travis, Texas
Sally Egan	Ladies of Charity of Lake Travis, Texas

† IN HONOR OF †

Sr. Christine Diensberg, OSF	Kathleen Sieracki
Dorothy Brigman	Kathleen Sieracki
Louise Ewers	LCUSA

Ladies of Charity at the United Nations— Impacting Global Issues

Natalie Boone
St. John's University

The Association of International Charities (AIC) has been participating at the international level for many years. The purpose of this article is to inform the Ladies of Charity AIC-USA of the AIC's place and the work that is being done by our members through the United Nations organizations. Since the United Nations (UN) was created in 1945, there has been a role for organizations of civil society, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to work with the UN Secretariat, programs and agencies in various ways.

Increasingly, the UN has been working to strengthen cooperation with NGOs across its entire system and in all areas of its work. As a result, UN entities are identifying new methods to promote increased and more strategic participation of NGOs. The necessity of strengthening UN - NGOs relations has been underlined in various documents, in particular in the Millennium Declaration in September 2000 which promised greater opportunities for NGOs to contribute. The commitment of Member States to provide greater opportunity to NGOs was reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. The newly formed commission, UN Women, has identified NGOs as important resources for providing solutions and implementation directly in the areas where needed. Ban Ki-moon, current UN Secretary General, recently reinforced his commitment to work with NGOs.

From the beginning, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been the main entry point into the UN system for NGOs. ECOSOC remains the only main UN body with a formal framework for NGO participation. In

1946, 41 NGOs were granted consultative status by the council; by 1992 more than 700 NGOs had attained consultative status, and the number has been increasing steadily to more than 3,400 organizations today.

Not all NGOs have ECOSOC status. This designation offers more privilege to interact with Member Nations. While ECOSOC has the opportunity to avail

Collaboration is a Vincentian virtue

itself of valuable and expert advice from NGOs, the NGOs in turn also have the opportunity to express their views and influence the work of the Council. NGOs have specialized competence, hands-on experience and flexibility that is valued greatly by the UN. By having consultative status, an NGO could:

- ▶ Provide expert analysis on issues directly from its experience in the field
- ▶ Help monitor and implement international agreements
- ▶ Help raise public awareness of relevant issues
- ▶ Play a major role in advancing United Nations' goals and objectives
- ▶ Contribute essential information at organization events.

ECOSOC provides NGOs the opportunity to be heard by a global audience. An NGO with consultative status can:

- ▶ Enter United Nations premises
- ▶ Attend international conferences and events
- ▶ Make written and oral statements at these events
- ▶ Organize side events (topic-specific expert panels or functions)
- ▶ Take advantage of opportunities to network and lobby

Since 2003 AIC has been an NGO with ECOSOC consultative status. International representation is comprised of AIC members in the US and Europe who volunteer to cover meetings and serve on committees. There are three French representatives covering UNESCO headquarters in Paris; each is in charge of two or three commissions,

including education, eradication of poverty and sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue and human rights.

In addition, AIC- Europe members work on other international commissions, including the European Council in Strasbourg, EAPN (European anti-poverty network) and Crescendo, an international network focused on the elderly. When the opportunity arises, representatives present AIC's projects within these commissions.

In New York, Jennifer Tazzi-Giovanetti and I are the most recent AIC-USA members covering commissions, hearings and events at UN headquarters. All reports are made to Paris-based Alette de Maredsous, who oversees all of the representations within AIC.

Other recent international participation includes former AIC International President, Anne Sturm, who co-chaired a group of German experts for the preparation of the 64th Department of Public Information/ NGO Conference on Sustainable Development, held this September in Bonn with 1500 participants. A major contributor to this conference was Rose daLima Ramanankan National President, AIC Madagascar. She spoke of the conditions of women in her country and specifically of the "Tsiry" project that promotes education and training for women and children. These opportunities were possible due to AIC's NGO status.

An NGO can achieve maximum effectiveness by partnering with other like-minded NGO's. To this end the AIC-USA representatives in New York are looking to partner with the other established Vincentian Family NGO's: Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity and Sisters of Charity. These Vincentian organizations are already doing work on Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication, Human Trafficking, and Education. †



Natalie Boone

Welcome, Individual Members

Kathy Coco and Joan Stanard
Membership Committee

It is heartwarming to read the *Servicette* and see pictures of new members—young and older—being inducted into Ladies of Charity. In 2011, 257 new members were welcomed across the country. There are also 335 junior members.

In addition to members in associations, LCUSA now has individual members serving in different parts of the country. These women are brave folks who are serving their communities without the support of an association because none exists in their area. They are supportive of the mission and purpose of LCUSA and participate by prayer and service.

Lily Mollencott is an individual member. She is handicapped herself but volunteers in her community and uses public transportation to reach St. Mary's Medical Center in Langhorne, Pa., where she has contributed 650 volunteer hours over three years. At home, although disabled on her left side, she uses her weaker hand to hold a hat loom and creates hats and scarves. She also ties fleece blankets for patients at the medical center. Lily was referred to the Ladies of Charity by the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Md.

LCUSA welcomes all individual members and thanks Lily for reaching out to the Ladies of Charity. More information is available through the National Service Center and on our website. †

Lillian Nichter—Lady of Charity for 70 years

Sally Kingsley, Buffalo

Lillian was a member of one of the families who founded Blessed Sacrament Church in the Town of Tonawanda, N.Y., in 1929, and has belonged to many of the church's clubs and organizations. You will see her at daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, praying the chaplet to St. Faustina Kowalska and the Divine Mercy, reciting the rosary, or at a novena. She is truly a woman of prayer.

One of Lillian's favorite groups is the Blue Cross Mission Ministry. Lillian requests old sheets from many sources and friends, launders them and turns them into squares or strips and her team rolls them into bandages which are later sent to missions in Nicaragua. A member of the Altar Rosary Society since its inception, Lillian has served in many capacities and until 2010 was Sacristan. Taking this position beyond the altar, Lil' would organize cleaning teams twice a year, for Christmas and Easter.

Ladies of Charity is one of the longest running volunteer assignments for Lillian, 70 years. Always with a cheerful smile and a twinkle in her eye, she loved working in the front of the thrift



Lillian Nichter honored by Catholic Charities leaders on her 103rd birthday. Seated, Lillian Nichter; standing from left, Eileen Nowak, Department Director, Parish Outreach & Advocacy; Dennis Walczyk, CEO; Sr. Mary McCarrick, OSF, Diocesan Director.

store as cashier. Her days at the Lots of Clothes Store in Buffalo, are the third, fourth and fifth Tuesdays and the fifth Friday of the month. She recently gave up the cashier position but still likes to be in the store meeting our customers and clients and they enjoy her cheerful presence as well.

Always busy, this "Wonder Woman" continues to garden, and is a wonderful cook and baker. Her John Paul II rosebush, a gift from her son, holds a very special place in her garden and if you visit her she is delighted to show it to you. The other side of the garden holds a patch of crisp rhubarb. Of course Lillian is only too happy to cut some of the stalks for you while you compare recipes using rhubarb. One of Lillian's famous pies is Strawberry /Rhubarb, in an unbelievably delicious, flaky pie crust.

Lillian Nichter, 103 years young, is a Lady of Charity true to her God, family and friends and a Volunteer Extraordinaire. †

CALLING ALL NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Lucky Van De Gejuchte, Communications Chair

Since communication is so important within our national organization, I am asking that a copy of all local association newsletters be sent to me on a regular basis. I would love to see what each association is doing. Also, articles for the *Servicette* are always welcomed.

We recently had a letter from a member of the Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Milwaukee saying how an article in the *Servicette* led her to help someone else with a project in another association in Pennsylvania. Sharing newsletters and articles is a way we can spread our charity and further improve communications among all of our associations.

You may contact me by email: lvspringer@hotmail.com or my home address is 1930 Highway 109 North, Lebanon, TN, 37090.

ADVOCACY CONNECTIONS

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Kathleen Sieracki



The 2012 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG), organized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), was held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 12-15. Ladies of Charity USA is one of 14 Catholic organizations partnering with USCCB in this annual event. Rita Robinson, a Lady of Charity from the Archdiocese of Washington and I represented LCUSA among 450 registrants from across the country. Several Daughters of Charity were also present, including Sr. Julie Cutter who serves on the LCUSA board of directors.



Music ministers participating in multi-cultural liturgies at CSMG.

Faithful Citizenship: Protecting Human Life and Dignity, Promoting the Common Good was the title of the conference. The opening presentation by John Carr, executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, USCCB, addressed the bishops' document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which aims to stimulate greater insight into public policy issues in light of Catholic social teaching.

Dr. Carolyn Woo, president of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was the plenary speaker on international issues. CRS is present in over 100 countries, working with the people they serve to identify what is needed by listening, not command-

ing. In humility, they believe solutions must be developed "on the ground." The plenary session on domestic issues featured Dr. Arturo Chavez, president of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio. He spoke about the challenges and aspirations of the Latino community in



Rita Robinson (LEFT) and Kathleen Sieracki at CSMG

the United States and some of the difficulties encountered in working to reconcile Catholic principles with cultural attitudes.

In conjunction with other Christian leaders, USCCB is urging that a *Circle of Protection* be established around the programs and resources essential to safeguard the lives and dignity of the poor and vulnerable in our nation and around the world. Everyone in attendance received training on priority issues in preparation for visits to representatives and senators on Capitol Hill. On Tuesday, February 14th, CSMG participants lobbied Congress on behalf of extending the period of eligibility for unemployment benefits and for preservation of the Child Tax Credit. A bi-partisan agreement on these two goals was announced the next day.

Two other issues presented during the congressional visits are still unresolved. Legislators were asked to work on the release of humanitarian funding for Palestinians and were also asked to co-sponsor and support bills pending in both the House and the Senate which will protect religious liberty and conscience rights in light of the recent unprecedented and very narrow definition of what constitutes a religious organization. Participants stressed that our hospitals and charities serve people not because those in need are Catholic, but because we are Catholic.

Attendance at this conference brought a strong reminder that ours is a universal church. Participants came from many age groups and ethnic backgrounds. The liturgies were multi-cultural and several languages and native costumes were represented. Bishops Jaime Soto of Sacramento and Richard E. Pates of Des Moines presided at the opening and closing Masses.

The summary message of the CSMG was a call to Congress and the administration to give moral priority to programs and policies that protect the life and dignity of those who are poor and vulnerable and to protect religious liberty, conscience and the freedom of Catholic ministries to serve "the least of these" (Matt. 25). †



Morgan Hill Ladies of Charity Installation

As 2011 came to a close, the Ladies of Charity of Morgan Hill, Calif., held their first formal installation of 21 new members, adding to the original six members who had been installed at the Seton Provincial House in Los Altos in 2009. Diocese of San Jose's Bishop Patrick McGrath officiated at the Mass at St. Catherine of Alexandria in Morgan Hill, along with LOC Spiritual Advisor, the Reverend Mark Arnzen, who gave an inspiring homily.

The Ladies were honored to have the local Knights of Columbus Color

Guard salutation as they processed in and out of the church with the bishop. Prior to Mass, Sister Charlotte Marie Clark, D.C., founder and sister mod-



erator, gave a history of the Ladies of Charity. During the installation, Bishop McGrath mentioned the important role of the Ladies of Charity and he continued with words of encouragement and a reminder to uphold the Vincentian tradition of service to the poor. The ladies and their guests were honored at a luncheon following Mass.

President Joan Kachel shared with great joy, "As Ladies of Charity, we look forward to the future, our pledge to serve as our founder did with humility, simplicity, and charity."

With the help of the other associations in the Western Region, Morgan Hill LOC is excited about hosting the 2013 Assembly in San Jose. †

SYSTEMIC CHANGE *Cont'd from p. 1*

Poverty and the second is *Bridges to Sustainable Communities*. Both books are thought provoking and practical guides that challenge us to think in new and different ways. This approach does not tell us what to do but it does help us discover new ways to talk about poverty, prosperity and community sustainability.

One idea that has captured my imagination is the notion of "mental models." Mental models are defined as "internal pictures of how the world works, or how families function, what poverty is and how communities can solve problems". So often our own lives dictate what we think about others and their lives. The authors caution us to study poverty by not only reviewing the research but also by engaging and dialoging with people who are living in poverty. They are the experts. Persons living in poverty will most likely have a frame of reference different from the person who is trying to help them who may not have lived in similar circumstances. Knowledge of the mindset and hidden rules of each group leads to an understanding of the other, the self and importantly the resources of the individual and community. Building on those resources is, according to Philip DeVol, the way "out of poverty and is also the way to build sustainable communities."

St. Vincent de Paul understood this notion of "mental models." In part, the Vincentian approach requires us to learn the

mental model of the people we seek to serve. It is never enough for a Vincentian to give some help—whether that is money, food, clothing or a service, without getting to know the person who is the recipient of the charity. The notion of "mental models" impels us to listen first and to understand the person or people we wish to serve and their needs as well as solutions as defined by them. We may find our ministry inadequate or stretched to respond to these described needs so we will seek collaborators in order to respond as we described in the articles on Collaboration (*Servicette*, Fall 2011). A very good example of this can be found in the article in this issue from the Ladies of Charity of Arkansas. As the Ladies of Charity sought to respond to the needs of persons with alcohol addictions, they worked with the bishop, Catholic Charities and a local priest. Through these collaborators the Arkansas chapter of Calix International was started and is responding. The Ladies of Charity are serving to support this effort with funding and hospitality.

We will continue to examine the concepts of the systemic change approach and seek your help in finding models of this approach that are working in your community. As you develop systemic change collaborations, please share your efforts through a *Servicette* article. †

Vincentian Spirit Flowing in Baltimore Parishes

Ann Taylor
Treasurer, Immaculate Conception

Two parishes in Baltimore, Md., share a pastor, Father Sylvester Peterka, C.M., best known as Father Sy. They also share his Vincentian spirit. In December, Ladies of Charity, Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) members and SVDP youth from St. Cecilia and Immaculate Conception parishes came together for Sunday's joyous and spirit-filled liturgy. Invited guests were Daughters of Charity Ellen Lacatria and Mary Louise Zollars and LCUSA president Lucy Saunders. On behalf of LCUSA, Lucy presented a certificate to Priscilla Lansey, former treasurer of LOC Immaculate Conception, in recog-



Priscilla Lansey receiving certificate from LCUSA president Lucy Saunders.

nition of her accomplishments. At age 93, Priscilla is one of the longest serving members of the Immaculate Conception Ladies of Charity.

The year 2011 also marked the 100th

birthdays of Louise Turks, President Emeritus of LOC at St. Cecelia's, and Mary Tates of Immaculate Conception. Father Sy celebrated Masses in their honor one week apart and each centenarian was given a party. Special recognition was given to both ladies and a Certificate of Recognition was given to their families. The certificates read "Thank you for your support and the priceless gift of time and talent given to the Ladies of Charity in your many years of service to others." After reaching this milestone, Louise Turks died on September 28th.

The faithful examples set by these women are inspiring another generation of Vincentian Youth, who attended in yellow sashes. Indeed this was a special event for all those in attendance witnessing the miracle of age, service and dedication. †

Reading Enrichment Project— LADIES OF CHARITY, SARATOGA VICARIATE

Yolanda Paolicelli, President

When Ladies of Charity in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., decided to participate in a reading enrichment project, I immediately contacted the principal of our only Catholic elementary school in the city. She gave her overwhelming approval and immediately posted a notice for all teachers to select books that they would like to have in their classroom libraries.

I then contacted Barnes & Noble booksellers and applied for their Institutional Purchasing Program, which gives a 20 percent discount on all purchases. The next step was to apply for the Diane Downey Grant, awarded annually by LCUSA to associations that actively participate in a reading enrichment program.

When the chosen books were available we called the school and made an appointment with the teacher to come in to read to the children. The children were so happy to have a guest come in to read to them and were ecstatic to know

that the book would be left with them so that they could re-read it themselves. Depending on the length of the book we would read the entire book or just a few chapters. Some volunteers made cutouts pertaining to the theme of the book and handed them out to the children to color and keep.

This has turned out to be a win-win situation for all involved. The principal is so pleased that she always thanks Ladies of Charity in her monthly newsletter which is distributed to the entire parish. The teachers are building up their classroom libraries and the children are exposed to many more books.

The Saratoga Vicariate is very thankful to LCUSA for their generous contribution of \$300 given for this hands-on reading program. Literacy is an important part of today's Systemic Change approach. †



LCUSA/AIC MADAGASCAR TWINNING COMMITTEE NEWS

Molly Siedlarczyk, Chair
Madagascar Twinning Committee

LET'S BE A BLESSING!

Association presidents received a letter soliciting funds for the annual LCUSA AIC Madagascar fundraising project. The winter issue of the *Servicette* contained a report from Rose daLima, national president of AIC Madagascar describing the many ways that LCUSA has helped that region of the world.

On behalf of the LCUSA Madagascar Twinning Committee, I encourage you to donate personally and to ask your associations to share their blessings with the mothers and children of Madagascar. Donations are to be mailed to LCUSA, 100 North Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63103, with an indication that the check is for AIC Madagascar. Many, many thanks to those who have already responded and to those who will do so soon. †

Thrift Store Re-Modeled Using Grant from LCUSA

The Ladies of Charity of Harker Heights, Texas, opened a thrift store in 1996. Later, building owner, manager and LOC member Joyce Dillman generously sold the facility to the Ladies of Charity. The space had six separate rooms, so the members always hoped to remodel, removing the walls and making it look more like a store, open and bright.

Last year, with the help of a \$1,000 grant from LCUSA and generous donation of time and materials from others, the building was remodeled. The improvements were started in the fall of 2010. Over 600 volunteer hours were donated by the ladies and some of their husbands. The work is now finished. The front of the store was repainted and the interior walls were removed, opening up the area. The walls and ceilings were painted, new ceiling and floor tiles were placed where needed and shelving was added in the garage for storage. Clothing racks were made by a local welding business and the ladies have rearranged displays to make a better traffic flow through the store. The area for sorting, folding and hanging clothing has been enlarged. A large checkout area with counter has been added. The store was closed for two weeks and then reopened for business.

Now elderly and handicapped clients can safely navigate inside the store and use strategically placed chairs to sit and rest as needed. Customers have made many wonderful comments. They say it looks like a regular department store. They like how open and bright it is. Some people have entered the store, gone outside to look at the sign to see if it is still the Ladies of Charity Thrift Store, and then come into the store again smiling. Business has greatly increased and members can better serve their community with pride. †



Remodeling in progress, walls are down and shelves being installed.



Left: members Donna Kowaleski and Joanne Gelsthorpe in new work room, ready to sort donations; right: members Elke Sharbaugh, Precious Taguinod and Lucy Stefek begin restocking shelves.



Manager and member Joyce Dillman and President Sylvia Schnapp prepare to re-open the store behind the new check-out counter, replacing an old metal desk.

Hager Grants at Work in Pittsburgh

Peggy Keene

Ladies of Charity of Risen Lord Parish was one of the Pittsburgh parishes awarded money from the Kathleen Hager Grant in September. The grant was presented at the national assembly to Pittsburgh President Donna Churray to deliver to the sharing groups back in Pittsburgh. Risen Lord was awarded the grant to help benefit its food bank. The money is intended to purchase gift vouchers for the clients of the food bank in the hope of making their burdens a little easier.

Also sharing in the Hager Grant is the Ladies of Charity of St. Joseph in Verona. Members of St. Joseph's LOC make boxed lunches for the women of Miryam's House. Miryam's House provides women with comprehensive mental health, residential and community support. The St. Joseph women have been making these lunches for 12 years. To date more than 5,700 lunches have been provided. The Hager Grant money will be used to ensure that this project will be able to continue and grow. St.

Joseph Ladies of Charity extend thanks to LCUSA for being chosen as a Hager Grant recipient.

St. Joseph Ladies of Charity in Natrona was established in 1995 and has 16 active members. In addition to the many religious and charitable works that the ladies do for their shut-ins and needy members of the parish, they also provide support during the time of a loved one's passing.

In 2009, the ladies started a project as part of their charitable works. When a parishioner dies, the ladies provided a bereavement basket to the family. The basket is filled with a large variety of food items from snacks to spaghetti sauce and pasta. The reason for the pasta and sauce is so that the remaining family members may share a meal together.

The ladies feel that sharing a family meal after the death of a loved one is significant, but it can be difficult for the remaining family members. The ladies shop for the food items, fill and arrange each basket, and then personally



Members assemble bereavement baskets at St. Joseph's Parish in Natrona.

deliver it to the family when notified of a parishioner's death. It is the ultimate goal of the St. Joseph Ladies of Charity that through this project they may bring comfort to the families of the deceased members of their parish. They want their parishioners to know that they are not alone and are supported with love by their parish.

The ladies also provide support for the family throughout that first year after the death of their loved one. The St. Joseph Ladies of Charity are very thankful for receiving the Kathleen Hager Grant to continue funding their bereavement basket project. †



Above: Bernice Bolsinger, Dory Griffin, Mary Ann Turkovich and Agnes Sterbanac of Risen Lord Parish. Below: Delores DeVito, Rita Scenio and Helen Lane help prepare boxed lunches at St. Joseph's Parish in Verona.



Join LCUSA for a Cup of Coffee!

The Ladies of Charity now have their own blend of coffee courtesy of **The Roasterie**.

For every package sold LCUSA receives a donation of 10% of the purchase value.

Simply go the site www.TheRoasterie.com and click on Coffee and click again on "Causes." The blends are listed alphabetically.



Thank you for your support!

12th Annual LCUSA National Assembly Registration Form

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *GIVING IN FAITH AND LOVE* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LADIES of CHARITY 12th NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2012

HYATT REGENCY

BETHESDA, MD 20814

(Please Print)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Region _____ E-Mail _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

May we use this information for our roster? Yes _____ No _____ Just the name _____

Arrival Date and Time _____ Departure Date and Time _____

Please check all that apply:

LCUSA Board Member _____	Sister Moderator _____	Jr. Lady of Charity _____
Association President _____	Sister of Charity _____	Guest _____
Past LCUSA President _____	Daughter of Charity _____	Other _____
Spiritual Advisor _____	Lady of Charity _____	

		Amount Enclosed
Registration - Two Days, <u>September 14 -15</u>	\$150.00	_____
Registration Includes:		
Continental Breakfast each morning		
Luncheon – Friday, September 14		
Speakers Meetings –Friday and Saturday		
Banquet and Entertainment – Saturday, September 15		
Late Registration – After August 14, 2012 Deadline	\$170.00	_____
No refund after August 1, 2012. A fee of \$25.00 will be applied to all cancellations.		

Day Registration - Friday, September 14	\$ 75.00	_____
Breakfast, Speakers Meetings and Luncheon		
Day Registration - Saturday, September 15	100.00	_____
Breakfast, Speakers Meeting, Banquet and Entertainment		
Saturday Evening Banquet and Entertainment (Guest)	80.00	_____
Guest _____	TOTAL	\$ _____

I am unable to attend the National Assembly. Please accept my tax deductible donation of \$_____ to help defray the costs of the Assembly.

Registration may be paid by check payable to **LCUSA** and mailed to: **LCUSA Service Center, 100 North Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63103** or online through **PayPal** at LCUSA’s website aic.ladiesofcharity.us. Registration Chair Terry Poyner may be contacted at (301)775-4518.

Please specify any special dietary needs: _____

For most of us, LCUSA's national assemblies, including the tours, are a few days each September to visit another city, meet new and old friends, learn from speakers and workshops and share in liturgy and prayers. However, behind the scenes, 18 to 24 months of meticulous planning have preceded the assembly. Rita Robinson and Deborah Self are co-chairs of the organizing committees



working diligently to prepare the 2012 assembly.

Rita Robinson, Ph.D., is retired from a wide-ranging career in education. She served as a

teacher, counselor, pupil personnel officer, vice-principal, principal and administrator. Currently Rita is co-owner of a business specializing in creative solutions for enhancing communications, an adjunct professor at Bowie State University, and an independent contractor of the Anti-Defamation League. She is the author of *Daughters and Dads-the Ties That Bind*, published recently. A Lady of Charity since 1997, Rita is the president-elect for the Archdiocese of Washington association. She and her husband of 51 years have four children and five grandchildren.

Deborah Self became a Lady of Charity in 1998, and has served as an officer for her parish association through much of the past 14 years. During these years, the group's membership has qua-

drupled from five members to over 20. Debbie is a registered nurse in the rehabilitation unit of Laurel Hospital. As a union member, she has experience in lobbying public officials. Debbie and her husband have two grown children. Their daughter was recently married in March. She has attended many LCUSA assemblies and that experience serves her well in this current planning process.



Rita and Debbie are ready to welcome you to the 2012 LCUSA national assembly. †

ASSEMBLY

Cont'd from p. 1

the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Sr. Carol has worked in administrative and governance positions at hospitals sponsored by the Daughters of Charity for more than 35 years. Most recently, she was the board chair of Ascension Health's Sacred Heart Health System, Pensacola, Fla.

Several other distinguished Daughters of Charity are among the workshop presenters. Sr. Frances Ryan, D.C., professor emerita at DePaul University, will



discuss lay women as spiritual moderators. CEO of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, Md., Sr. Mary Bader, D.C., will discuss the services provided there, including transitional housing, parenting and life-skills training. Also a Daughter of Charity, Sr. Mary Ellen Lacy is a lobbyist for NETWORK, a national Catholic social justice group. She will lead a workshop on advocacy. Other workshops will focus on homelessness, human trafficking, and Systemic Change.

HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

Accommodations, workshops, meetings and all business sessions will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, Md., just steps from the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Bethesda Metro Station on the "Red Line" which is convenient to traveling to downtown Washington, DC. Shopping is within walking distance of the hotel. The new Bethesda Circulator (shuttle bus) is the best way around downtown. It's convenient, dependable, and free.



MASS & BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

The Saturday evening Mass will be at Our Lady of Lourdes in Bethesda. Installation of the officers and new board members will take place during the Mass officiated by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington. The evening will conclude with cocktails and a banquet featuring surprise entertainment.

The optional tours to be offered in conjunction with the assembly are described in detail elsewhere in this issue.

The Ladies of Charity of the Archdiocese of Washington look forward to seeing you in September as you arrive to participate in the 12th annual LCUSA National Assembly. †



HOTEL INFORMATION & DIRECTIONS



**Ladies of Charity of the United States
September 12–16, 2012**

**Hyatt Regency Bethesda
7400 Wisconsin Ave. • Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301.657.1234 Fax: 301.657.6453**

Phone Reservations: 888.421.1442 www.bethesda.hyatt.com

Room Rates: \$160.00 per room for single or double occupancy, \$185 for triple occupancy and \$210 for quadruple occupancy. All room rates are subject to 13% tax. Rooms have one (1) King or two (2) Double Beds and costs may be shared by two occupants. All standard in-room amenities included. Lock boxes available at the front desk. For your enjoyment, the hotel offers an indoor pool, two (2) restaurants, coffee bar, gift shop, concierge service and a fully self-service business center. In-room internet is available at a cost of \$9.95 per day for 5MB and \$12.95 per day for 10MB. Reservations at the group rate must be booked by the cut-off date of **Monday, 8/13/12**. After the cut-off date, the hotel will continue to accept reservations based upon availability. When making or confirming reservations, please refer to **Ladies of Charity**.

Check In/Check Out: Check In: 4:00pm. Check Out: 12:00pm

Parking: \$12/Self, \$14/Valet per day

Self Park: \$6 for One Hour, \$10 for Two Hours, Maximum of \$12 per Day

Valet Parking: \$8 for One Hour, \$12 for Two Hours, Maximum of \$14 per Day

Transportation to/from Airport - Shuttle service is available through Super Shuttle 1-800-258-3826, \$80 round trip from BWI Baltimore Airport or \$62 round trip from Reagan National.

Transportation To/From Hotel:

From Baltimore and Points North:

Take 95 South (Washington)

Take 495 West (Bethesda)

Take exit 34 (Rockville / Bethesda / Washington)

Drive on Wisconsin Ave. for about 2.5 Miles. The Hyatt is on the right.

From Arlington and Points West:

Take 495 North (Baltimore / Bethesda)

Follow 495 North to Exit 34 South (Wisconsin Ave. / Bethesda)

Drive on Wisconsin Ave. for about 2.5 Miles. The Hyatt is on the right.

From Alexandria and Points South:

Take 95 North (Washington DC)

Take 495 North (Baltimore/Bethesda)

Follow 495 North to Exit 34 South (Wisconsin Ave./Bethesda)

Drive on Wisconsin Ave. for About 2.5 Miles. The Hyatt is on the right.



12th Annual LCUSA National Assembly Tours Description & Registration Form

Deadline: August 7, 2012

Tour #1: Dinner and Night Tour, Wed., September 12, 6:30pm-midnight. Cost: \$65.00

The motor coach will begin boarding at 6:00 pm and depart at 6:30. The guided night tour will visit many significant sights including the MLK Memorial, the White House and the Lincoln Memorial. Included in the tour is dinner at the Old Ebbitt Grill. Dinner will be a three course meal with a choice of five entrees, unlimited soft drinks, iced tea and coffee, served at 8:30.

Tour #2: Emmitsburg Tour, Thursday, September 13, 9am-5pm. Cost: \$35.00

The motor coach will begin boarding at 8:30 am and depart at 9:00. The guided tour of Emmitsburg will include a visit to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Participants will view a video presentation depicting Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton’s life and accomplishments and also see the original 1750s farmhouse and the colonial style “White House” (built in 1809) that served as her home. Some walking will be required. Buffet lunch will be provided around 1:30 pm at the Carriage House Inn, an historic eatery that has served visitors since 1857.

Tour #3: Dinner Dance Cruise, Friday, September 14, 6:30pm-midnight. Cost: \$90.00

The motor coach will begin boarding at 6:00pm and depart at 6:30. The ship will begin boarding at 7:30 pm and sail at 8:00. This cruise on **The Spirit of Washington** includes a buffet dinner, dancing, music and dazzling city sights and harbor lights.

**All tours are handicap accessible.
Assembly Tour Registration. Please type or PRINT clearly.**

NAME: _____		
ADDRESS: _____		
CITY: _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
PHONE: _____	EMAIL: _____	
ASSOCIATION: _____		
TOUR(S) ATTENDING: ___ Tour#1 – Sept. 12 ___ Tour#2 – Sept. 13 ___ Tour#3 – Sept. 14		
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____		

Make Checks Payable to:
LCUSA 2012 Assembly Tours, and mail to Ladies of Charity, Attn: Beverly Motley, P.O. Box 31277, Capitol Heights, MD 20731-0277. Gratuities included. No refunds after August 7, 2012. If fewer than 50 people register for a tour, it will be canceled.

Ladies of Charity USA
100 North Jefferson Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63103
Address Service Requested



AIC USA

<http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us>

“To serve rather than to be served”

Mademoiselle Isabelle du Fay, Example of Service

Carol Schumer, D.C.

“... good Mlle. du Fay had one thigh two or three times larger than the other. She used to call her thigh her ‘blessed thigh’ ...”¹ This is how St. Vincent de Paul described Isabelle du Fay to his brothers in the Congregation of the Mission following her death. Vincent was still talking about her ten years later, this time to the Daughters of Charity, as he admires Isabelle’s humility.

“A person is humble when she loves her own abjection. If there were among you ... someone who limped, who might love her infirmity, she would love her abjection. I knew one who had a crippled thigh that she used to call her dear thigh ... That was her humiliation. That’s why she never married.”²

According to the footnote, Vincent is referring to “Isabelle du Fay, a Lady of Charity of eminent piety, entirely devoted to Saint Vincent, whom she assisted with her wealth.”³

Who was Isabelle du Fay? What we know is she was a cousin to Louise de Marillac through marriage, i.e., Isabelle’s uncle married Louise’s aunt.



She possesses that humility which makes her accept, surmount and love her deformity. Her deep, lasting friendship



with Louise is implied as is her trust in Vincent as confidante and spiritual guide. Yet, even with her physical limitations, she willingly traveled with Louise on several occasions to visit the women of the Confraternities. Like Louise, Isabelle was freed by Vincent of her self-consciousness and assumed leadership, most uncharacteristic of women in the 17th century.⁴ There is eloquent proof of Vincent’s esteem for Isabelle. He speaks of her again in 1657, holding her up as model to his C.M. confreres.

“I knew a good young woman, who had one thigh twice the size of the other; because of that she was unable to go, like others, into society, to the ball, etc., so she withdrew ... to never marry. ... she used to say, ‘O my blessed leg... that has procured for me so great a benefit!’”⁵

Clearly, Mademoiselle du Fay grew to embrace and even appreciate her physically challenged body, while using her abilities and God-given gifts in the service to others.

What can we learn from Isabelle du Fay?

Every human being, each of us has limitations – physical, emotional, mental, spiritual handicaps.

What are my personal challenges, my “handicaps”?

Do I accept and embrace these imperfections as means for growth, as ways to minister? †

1 Coste, Pierre *Conferences of Vincent de Paul*, volume 11, C 99 “Repetition of Prayer” October 21, 1643, p. 119

2 Coste, volume 9, C 52 “The Spirit of the Company,” February 24, 1653, pp. 474-75

3 Coste, op .cit. p.475

4 Brown, Beatrice unpublished article “St. Vincent ... and Mlle. Isabelle du Fay,” 1983, pp. 3-6

5 Coste, volume 9, C 178 “Repetition of Prayer,” November 1, 1657, p. 383