

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

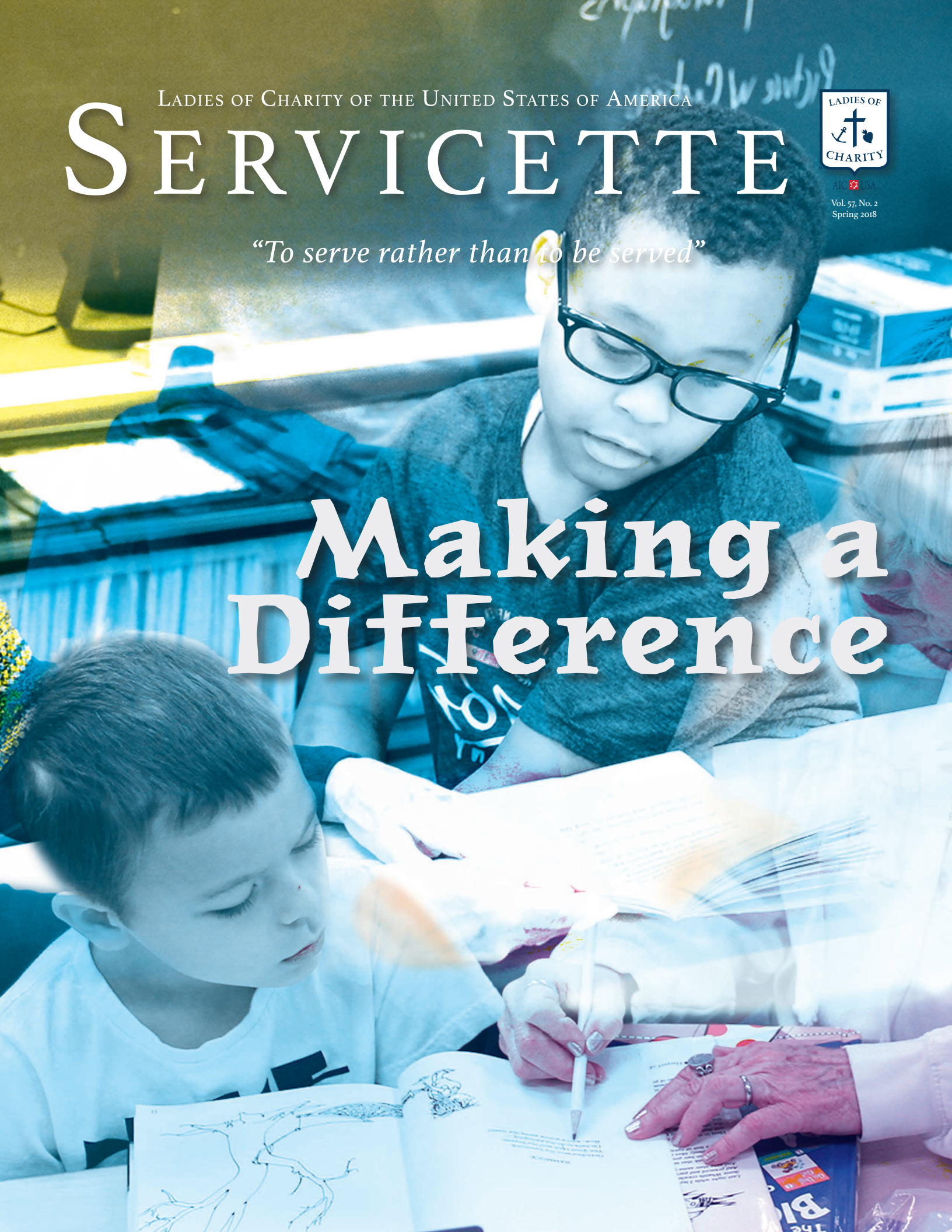
# SERVICETTE



AIC USA  
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*"To serve rather than to be served"*

## Making a Difference





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** Suzanne Johnson  
**Editor** Irene Siedlarczyk  
**Layout & Design** Joseph Garza  
**Executive Director** Ashley Larsen

*Direct all correspondence and inquires to:*

Servicette, LCUSA Service Center  
2816 E. 23rd St.  
Kansas City, MO 64127  
Email: [office@ladiesofcharity.us](mailto: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**: The theme for the next issue of the **Servicette** is "Leadership". Please consider writing an article with this theme. All articles of local and national topics regardless of theme are welcome.

Due date for submission of articles for the next issue is August 15th.

Articles and photos can be sent by email to: [office@ladiesofcharity.us](mailto:office@ladiesofcharity.us)  
Articles and photos should be sent separately and not within the text document.

Please contact us for information.

## Women of Selfless Service



**Bishop David A. Zubik**  
*Episcopal Chairman*

**T**here's a good place in downtown Pittsburgh. It is right next to our diocesan Pastoral Center. It is called the "Red Door" because that's all you see from the sidewalk—a red door. But everybody in Pittsburgh knows all about it. Simple name, simple place, great work.

The "Red Door" began during the Great Depression. Since then, it has provided a free lunch Monday through Saturday. It serves more than 100 persons every day.

Here's what I like about it most. The people at the "Red Door" serve whomever shows up. No forms to fill out. No lectures to be heard. A guy with all his belongings in a shopping cart gets his lunch. A lady who lives under a bridge can step up and get a free meal. And I assure you, whenever they come, they meet Jesus in faces of His helpers.

Last year, our diocesan newspaper—the Pittsburgh Catholic—worked with the "Red Door" to donate through its readers "stuff" to keep them warm. Calling it the "Christ's Hands Project," it operated under standard "Red Door" procedure. The volunteers lovingly gave the much needed clothing away to whomever was in need.

It was the usual story of good people doing good things. A widower showed up with his wife's clothing. "I can't imagine a better way to honor my wife than to have her clothing be worn by someone who needs it most," he explained.

Kids worked their neighborhoods for prayers and contributions. Two women contributed bags of hand-knit hats, scarves and gloves. Another woman hand-knitted winter caps that could be sold in the best of stores.

It was all given away, but I can't tell you how much and to whom. The "Red Door" just doesn't work that way. It gives until it has nothing left to give. Then starts all over the next day.

I tell this story because when I think of the "Red Door," I think of the Ladies of Charity. I think of selfless and modest service. I think of faith lived. I think of a daily "yes" to God.

I also think of the Archangel Gabriel awaiting Mary's answer when told she was to be the Mother of God. Mary said firmly and heroically: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

We too often forget how much Mary represents us. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect and respond to God's will. Her "yes" changed the world.

We know the possibilities we have within us when we say "yes" to God. We see that in the Ladies of Charity and in your selfless service and devotion. Like the people of the "Red Door," you say "yes" to God every day.

Our simple rule to live by: Love your enemies, do good, share freely and ask for nothing in return. And you will be a Daughter of God. A Lady of Charity.

## Connect – Reconnect The Nashville Ladies of Charity

**Yvonne Clemence**

**W**here does the time go? You are working on or you have worked on volunteer projects. You've made many a friend. Yet one day a realization comes upon you. Who are these new faces you see at a membership meeting? If you are new member, who are these ladies who forged the path ahead of you? What about the members we no longer see on a regular basis whether from lack of mobility, health or family concerns or just the everyday hectic life?

How do we keep the personal connections going? For the Nashville Ladies of Charity, one small way is through a new feature in our quarterly newsletter called The Member's Corner. The Corner will feature one randomly selected member and it will highlight her years of service or her volunteer activities with the Ladies of Charity, advise of a fond remembrance or the reason why she became a Lady of Charity. In our inaugural Member's Corner, the featured member provided a quote that sums up the feelings of many volunteers, new and old. "Being a member of the Ladies of Charity has given me the opportunity to make friends from all over the city. It gives me the chance to serve the community and know that I am doing something worthwhile." Indeed. Thank you Gaethea Fleck, Nashville's first featured member. We are looking forward to (re)connecting with our next featured member.



**Suzanne Johnson**  
*LCUSA President*

I am sometimes overwhelmed – overwhelmed by all the poverty in the world – and I wonder, “What can I, just one person, do?” I am not a famous person, one who can rally many people to work towards a goal of eradicating poverty. I feel insignificant in the greater “scheme of things.”

But then I realize that all that is good in the world began with one person, one act of love. Mary’s “Yes” to God brought Jesus into the world. Jesus’ act of obedience to the Father, His death upon the cross, brought salvation to the world.

St. Vincent, St. Louise, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Blessed Rosalie Rendu, Frederick Ozanam, Catherine Harkins, and others, seemingly insignificant by themselves, but once they said “Yes” had great influence not only on the times in which they lived but for generations afterwards, even to this day!

So you may think that what you do doesn’t matter – “Oh, I just work at the thrift shop...I only make sandwiches for the men on Skid Row...I only spend an hour a week reading with that first grader” – but what you do makes a difference to that person you are serving. You are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, educating the uneducated.

Recently, I heard a homily by Fr. Richard Gielow, CM about ministry. As ministers (Ladies of Charity) we are doing Jesus’ work by bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to those we serve. We feed the hungry, so hunger does not distract them from finding Jesus. We tutor the uneducated, so a lack of education does not distract them from finding Jesus. We give shelter to the homeless, so homelessness does not distract them from finding Jesus. Through our ministry to those in poverty, we help others find Jesus. We are bringing Jesus to the world to transform the world.

So, I urge you to continue to serve those in need. Continue to bring Jesus to the world. One person can make a difference and as that person you may never know what a difference you make. Thank you for all you do to serve God’s poor.



# AIC DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Ongoing formation is not only about increasing knowledge, it is a way of being, an integrated, coherent way of life; a spirituality sealed with Jesus Christ, evangelizer of the poor; opening our being to the action of the Holy Spirit, to discover the will of God each day and live life to the full, the purpose for which He created us.

For Ladies of Charity, on-going formation and training is “a never-ending process”. Only through an integrated, focused and determined process will we be attentive to the voice of God in the signs of the times and in everyday events, able to recognize Jesus Christ in those living in poverty, to respond to their needs, listen to them and support them, identifying and valuing their skills and potential, so that working together, we can build projects that will help them escape from poverty and oppressive situations.

- The AIC Diploma program is intended to:
- Strengthen the fundamental concepts of **BEING an AIC volunteer**.
- Develop skills to encourage **organized working** and efficient **coordination** within **local groups**.
- **Develop** skills in **work and services which empower people**, as well as in **fundraising**, social **communication** and strategic **planning**.
- **Improve leadership** and **professionalism** in AIC membership.

All Associations are encouraged to utilize the “Diploma Program” of AIC. The AIC Diploma consists of 8 modules sent out at regular intervals over a period of 10 months. It is appropriate for use by groups who can gather by phone or in-person to complete. Each module is constructed to require personal and group reflection and a brief written report of the group to the Mentor who is assigned by AIC. The cost is \$20.00 per person, which LCUSA will wire to AIC-International.

If your Association or a group within your Association is interested in this opportunity, please contact Mary Ann Dantuono at [madantuono@gmail.com](mailto:madantuono@gmail.com).

# Vignettes from the Catholic Social Justice Ministry Gathering

Chris Young & Margaret Hanson

*Catholic Social Justice Ministry Gathering  
Building Community: A Call to the Common Good  
Washington, D.C., February 3-6, 2018*

**C**SMG is a meeting organized by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development in collaboration with 16 national Catholic leaders from a multitude of agencies and institutions devoted to economic and environmental policy and peace initiatives. For more than 25 years, the CSMG has served a central opportunity for U.S. Catholics to network and advocate for social justice, and form leaders in service to the Church and society. Washington, D.C. is the necessary place to meet with national political leadership, and to gather Church leaders and experts in civil society to examine the relevance of our Catholic social teaching tradition to current domestic and international affairs.

Master of Ceremonies Monsignor Ray East is currently pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Anacostia, Washington, DC. His position with the National Association of Minority Contractors brought him to Washington, DC, where he later experienced a call to the priesthood; he was ordained in 1981 by Cardinal Hickey.

## **THE VOICE OF THE POOR:**

Tom Dwyer, National Voice of the Poor Committee Chair and St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, served as moderator; he spoke with others about systemic change. Rent or electricity bill due, need to find a job? Systemic change is the core ministry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society – Neighborhood of Hope and Charity of Justice. “We are the only organization to visit in the home; we understand their deepest desire and we talk about their ability and their need to flourish. We have the idea of participation and solidarity. It’s not if we have the time, we are called to help our brothers and sisters,” Dwyer said.

Vincentians have the Caring and Hope Module: We are our brother’s and our sister’s keepers. It’s the Rule of St. Vincent de Paul. Not speaking on behalf of the poor, speaking with them. Poverty is racism: Foster a new attitude – it’s more than sending an alert to Congress; work in communities and advocate; contact is our charism.

The ABC’s of Advocacy: Advancing the Advocacy Effort, Building Awareness, Connecting with our faith base, Demanding accountability and Engaging with others. What the soul is to the body, Christians are to the world. Only God can change the world, but we have to do our part.

## **WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER?**

Having shown that migrants have been a reality not only throughout the centuries but also in the eons before Christ, the keynote speaker, Eusebio Elizondo, M.S.P.S. (Missionaries of the Holy Spirit), currently Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle, pointed out that there were four verbs supporting the migrant movement: WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE and INTEGRATE (assimilate).

The bishop inspired those present to be more than social workers, rather to be witnesses of Jesus because love is what the soul is to the body and what Christians are to the world. When the person in front of you doesn’t look like you, you may not be aware that your vision is distorted and that there is a person in front of you. The bishop pointed out that the natural law applies to all humans; the civil law is man-made, and thus can be changed. The divine law urges us to act with love and causes us to respond to the globalization of migration with the globalization of charity.

## **THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY EUCHARIST**

The principal celebrant was Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of Venice, Florida.

Followers liked to be where Jesus was, he made things happen – healings, miracles, calmness and peace, the bishop said. These are the reasons people followed him, but what happens when there is a fire or a shooting during the night, or you are in the country under DACA, or someone has a criminal history and reoffends, and it’s not going to turn out well? That same Jesus comes if our heart is there, the bishop said. But some abandon Christ and the faith.

Sometimes Jesus calls us out of our comfort places, but he is present. “Pope Francis calls it the periphery,” Bishop Dewane said. “We all have them – loneliness, the bottle, pills, the aftermath of a drought, fire, or hurricane, and we ask, where is Jesus?”

“He calls us to go to the deserted places where we may find our clients. He calls us into serving him, but at the end of the day, why did God give us this call for helping those in the periphery?” the bishop asked. “God bless all of you.”

## OUR COMMON HOME

A panel representing the diaspora, and consisting principally of representatives from South American and the Caribbean, spoke on behalf of Mother Earth. They represented community concerns vs. the law of eminent domain, respect for agreements, a voice for farmers and industry, which dislodges people, sustainable agriculture, indigenous leaders and the sovereignty of Native Americans. They called upon those present to be bridge-builders and use the influence of the Church to make a difference. They developed an appreciation of RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, a way of understanding crime and harm in all its forms as a violation of persons and relationships, rather than solely a violation of law.

LUNCHTIME CONVERSATION: David Brooks and Mark Shields, PBS NewsHour

Encouraging us to become actors of our own development, transforming and activating our own communities...concern for people in harm's way. These two national commentators provided an informal reflection on government with suggestions and a positive spin on factors from the past affecting the social fabric, (we all want some sense of belonging); but offered a warning to be careful of what you love because one becomes what one loves. Furthermore, we never know when love can strike.

On the positive side we were reminded that prior to the Kennedy/Muskee era there was no clean water act. And prior to President Nixon there was no clean air act. Education was limited until the public college came into being thru the Land Grant Act which gave rise to MIT and CORNELL. Lucky are we to have such. We were reminded that dialogue alone is not productive. What restores the social fabric is doing something together. Relationship assists in overcoming loneliness, a bane of our society. For peaceful conflict resolution, intelligence, commitment is required. Lincoln advocated unity and forgiveness and something to believe in. To satisfy our spiritual hunger, we have the gospel of Redemption.

## CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Most Rev. George V. Murry, S.J., Chair, Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, and USCCB president, in August 2017 established an ad hoc committee to find solutions against racism. Nearly 40 years ago, it was asserted by our Catholic brothers and sisters that racism divides the human family and violates the fundamental human dignity of those called to be children of the same father. The bishops and lay members of this ad hoc committee will have numerous opportunities to listen to members of the Black, Hispanic, Asian, Jewish, Native American, Muslims, and all people of different races called to one table to find solutions to the endemic of hate that has plagued our nation for far too long, Bishop Murry said.

This year an ecumenical gathering of religious leaders will take place to talk about racism, sessions will be organized around the country to better understand how racism shows up in different locations, and a national conversation will be organized in parishes, schools, in Catholic Charities, health care and social service organizations. These will be in conjunction with a pastoral letter on racism.

"The point will be to help us all act together so that the Church can be in the position of sustaining the effort to eradicate racism," Bishop Murry said. "One can become one with others only if one can speak the truth with one's own sinful past, asking and granting forgiveness and reaching out to one another in a spirit of reconciliation, love and solidarity."

## DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY PLENARY PANEL:

Moving from a Throwaway Culture to a Culture of Encounter

Panel: Sr. Patricia Chappell, Executive Director, Pax Christi USA; Dr. Maryann Cusimano-Love, Professor, The Catholic University of America; Fr. Matthew Malone, S.J., Editor, America Media; Dr. Ray R. Reno, Editor, First Things; Kim Daniels, J.D, Moderator, member of the Vatican's Secretariat for Communications

The panel addressed polarization in our culture and church, and the call to move from a throwaway culture to one of encounter, in which all voices are heard, especially those of the poor and vulnerable persons at home and abroad. The challenge is both national and international, including racism, especially in the wake of events in Charlottesville and the crisis of migration and refugees. We are called to be voices of the vulnerable in a polarized culture; to be witnesses of those in the throw away culture.

"Remember who we are – we are not called into unity, we are unified in our baptism," said Fr. Malone. "The goal in the end is to be holy, not right. We have to be free to be wrong. Before you press send, pray and think twice about what you are going to send."

Dr. Reno followed, "Take measure of the moment we live in. We are at the end of a post-war era – i.e., deregulation and weakening solidarity – you have to have a home to offer hospitality," he said. "Pope Francis argues the Church should be a field hospital; it needs to give a solid element of faith."

"The foundation of our Catholic social justice teaching is that we have an option for the poor in an unjust economic system – we walk with those who have no one to walk with them," said Sr. Patricia. "We help them with issues such as poverty, racism, international issues that often pit people against each other. We have got to listen to each other and find a way to solve issues. We are our brother's keepers. We need to call into question how power is being abused ...We may have a church of chaos, but we need to see whose voices are missing to create a Church of solidarity."

Dr. Maryann Cusimano-Love agreed, adding that marginalized women must be included. "We've seen hate crimes; we are a multinational church and as Pope Francis has said, dialog is needed for social healing. We must pray the Beatitudes for social healing, and as you do, it builds trust, peace and right relationship for restoration across class lines, and just peace for reconciliation and participation. This leads to reconciliation and right relationship, which leads to restoration. We have to do better in peace building and seeing Christ in our brother and sister."

## ON IMMIGRATION:

Sr. Patricia commends the USCCB's stance saying the Dreamers continually make a difference; "I'd like to see the bishops take a strong stance on racism. We need to look at what we have in common with these issues and how people can empower their lives and be inclusive; it is then these people will see themselves in the image and likeness of God," she said.

"We are an immigrant church," added Daniels.

WORKSHOP – I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME – A Catholic Response to Migration Policy – Panel: Ashley Feasley, Director, Office of Migration Policy and Public Affairs, USCCB; Jill Marie Gerschutz-Bell, Senior Policy and Legislative Specialist, Catholic Relief Services; Saeed Rahi, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington.

There are 65 million refugees who have been forcibly displaced; in Uganda there have been 1 million refugees, and a high number of children are refugees. The U.S. leads the world in refugee resettlement. Since President Trump came into leadership, the U.S.



is doing less for migrants, the welcome mat has been pulled up and restrictions have been put in place. It is now taking 18-24 months for refugees to be resettled. People who are resettled tend to be the most vulnerable – female heads of households usually with children.

Family separation is occurring at the U.S. and Mexican border; parents are being detained, which has lifelong effects on children. It is critical for us to assist these families.

Saeed Rahi gave a snapshot of his story and how he fled Afghanistan. He now works for Catholic Charities in resettlement.

SENDING MASS: Principal Celebrant & Homilist, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, and USCCB president

“I have to single out the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Charities, because we just suffered Hurricane Harvey, and had it not been for them, I cannot tell you what a debacle it would have been,” Cardinal DiNardo said in his homily. “Imagine 165,000 homes flooded in one county. Catholic Charities doesn’t have enough case workers for all of that, and many social agencies came to our aid, but it was amazing what they did.”

In *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Holy Father asks for a ‘no’ to the economy of exclusion, the inequality that spawns violence and financial systems that rule rather than serve, Cardinal DiNardo said. The pope mentions ‘no’ to a throwaway culture that abandons human beings that are indeed fragile or seemingly unimportant, whether they be those who have no voice or presence because of poverty. Cultural issues challenge evangelization, but they do not snuff it out. The pope talks of a real crisis, of individualism that distorts personal relationships and the family.

But there also are many ‘yeses,’ especially the joy of missionary spirituality and missionary discipleship “not tempted by pessimism,” Cardinal DiNardo said quoting Pope Francis. The acceptance of the message of salvation immediately involves fraternal love and the dedication to the societal dimensions of the basic message. This solvent grounding in the beauty of the human person is also a pivot for *Evangelii Gaudium*, the missionary discipleship and the gospel that goes out to the world and livens it, and helps us to transform culture to culture.

In other words, the different groups present and the sides and angles we take in our respective ministries, represent the whole body of the Catholic Church, “and at the same time it’s mystical,” the bishop said. He asked those present to remember it’s the human heart that matters. If we are in social and spiritual ministry, we have to have a spiritual taste – a taste for all human beings to be close to people’s lives. We’ve got to have a taste for the mystical and the practical.



Chris Young



Margaret Hanson

## Film Celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism Premieres at the USA Film Festival in Dallas

Mary Anne Harmon

A special invitation was sent to Members of the Vincentian Family in Dallas by the Hijas de la Caridad, (*Daughters of Charity*) of Spain to attend the screening of the film “Red de Libertad” premiering at The USA Film Festival on April 27th in Dallas, Texas.

The Vincentian Fathers and the Daughters of Charity of Spain commissioned the film on the occasion of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian Charism to make known the beauty of our Vincentian Way. The film “Red de Libertad” (*The Freedom Network*), is the true story of Sister Helena Studler, a Daughter of Charity, who created a network of contacts and collaborators that enabled the escape of 2,000 people from Nazi camps and persecution during WWII including future President of France, François Mitterrand. The Vincentian Family in Spain produced this film to portray our Vincentian spirituality put in action during WWII.

The Spanish Actress Assumpta Serna, who portrayed Sister Helen, presented the film and expressed much joy in greeting Sister J.T. Dwyer, Daughter of Charity from San Antonio, who traveled to Dallas to view the film. Sister J. T. and the actress met and shared the many present day works of the Daughters of Charity. The actress also met with Sister J.T. and some Members of the Ladies of Charity of Dallas for the purpose of feedback on the film content.

This is a film for every Vincentian and a true expression of our charism. It has enormous potential for spreading the *Good News of the Gospel!*



Left to Right - Carol Mattern, Sister J.T. Dwyer, Daughter of Charity, Assumpta Serna, Actress, Marianne Phelps, Lady of Charity of Dallas Member and Mary Anne Harmon, Lady of Charity of Dallas Member.

## Binghamton, NY Association Welcomes Five New Members during Morning of Reflection

Irene Siedlarczyk

**T**he Ladies of Charity of Binghamton, NY held a Morning of Reflection on April 21st. The day started with Mass celebrated by Vincentian spiritual moderator Reverend Corey VanKuren. A special induction ceremony for five new members was held after the homily with each new member receiving their Ladies of Charity crucifix. After Mass followed a lovely brunch. Small gifts and membership materials such as the local handbook were given to the new members. The morning concluded with a talk by Kathleen Colligan.

It is wonderful to have new ladies join our organization and we welcome them with open arms.



Inductees and their Sponsors

## LOC of SW Florida Welcome Twelve New Members

**T**he Ladies of Charity of SW Florida chapter welcomed twelve new members on March 9th making our membership upwards of eighty-five generous and caring women who donate their time and talent to many of our LOC ministries.

Fr. Paul DeAngelo, the Ladies of Charity priest at St. John the Evangelist Church, celebrated the Mass and presided over the special ceremony for the induction of these wonderful ladies.



Southwest Florida Ladies of Charity Entire Local Chapter



Induction Ceremony



Eleven of the Twelve Inductees



# Gallup Ladies of Charity join AIC-LCUSA

Chris Young

**B**ishop James Wall of the Diocese of Gallup, N.M., installed 16 women March 24, during a Mass at Sacred Heart Retreat Center chapel, forming the Gallup Ladies of Charity. They are from the Western Region and part of AIC-Ladies of Charity USA. "This is exciting; it completes the Vincentian family in our diocese," Bishop Wall said in his homily during the Mass referring to the Vincentian priests, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and Daughters of Charity already in the diocese.

"What a perfect day to install these women, the day before Holy Week begins and the Paschal Mystery of Our Lord, said Bishop Wall. LCUSA President Suzanne Johnson and Daughter of Charity Spiritual Moderator Sister Elizabeth Racko, assisted the Bishop with the installation.

The installation followed a morning retreat led by Daughter of Charity Sister Mary Frate from Tuba City, Ariz. She previously had been in Gallup. The retreat focused on the theme "Jesus, who do you say that I am?" The women heard St. Louise de Marillac's story, how she was married, had a son, her husband died, and then she became a religious. The women then spent quiet time in meditation.

The Gallup Association will be under the leadership of Fran Palochak, president, and Daughter of Charity Sr. Elizabeth Racko, Vincentian spiritual moderator. "At our monthly meetings I will make sure the ladies are following the lines of charity and humility, and saying things of simplicity," said Sr. Racko. They will use their talents and skills to focus on the poor by helping Catholic Charities with the drop-in breakfast, and one will serve as a street nurse, among other charitable work. The ladies come from all different walks of life and different levels of society and education; some are widows, single, Native American Navajo, White, and Hispanic.

"It really was God who called me to be a Lady of Charity because before if I saw a homeless person walking on the sidewalk, I would cross the street," said Palochak. "I was afraid of homeless people. Then I met a sister who said they needed volunteers at the drop-in breakfast, and I said 'yes' and started volunteering now that I am retired."

The mission of the drop-in breakfast is to feed anyone who comes, Palochak said. "Breakfast could be anything - eggs, spaghetti; we allow them to pray in their own language, and we ask them to be respectful and courteous and not to swear. We have volunteers coming from all over, and the clients are mostly homeless or under employed; they appreciate someone being kind to them and offering them support."

Palochak is an elected council woman. "I am their voice, and they are surprised that I am serving them," she said. "We have a detox center and I tell them to go there if they are cold at night. They say they don't want to go there, or they are mean to us. I have to report that to my city manager because if someone dies out in the streets because we are mean to them, that is on us."

As a politician, Palochak said "the homeless have to be treated like human beings and we have to fix these problems if we expect them to come out of poverty." As a Lady of Charity she advocates for those who reach the bottom, gives them a soft hand up and is trying to get a social worker to come to the drop-in breakfast. "God called me to do the work and be their voice, they have to have someone to talk to them and through that I can be their voice. As Ladies of Charity, when we hear of a need, we can help."



Ladies of the Newest Association along with LCUSA President Suzanne Johnson

Gayla Kofler is the street nurse who found her first patient at the drop-in breakfast. She is the Director of Pediatrics at Rehoboth McKinley Christian Healthcare Services. Her street ministry takes place on the corner of 2nd Street and Nizhoni, where she has served every Saturday for a year. "I serve with a random group of people who have been serving scrambled eggs, soups and chili for three years, she said. "It's called Bill's Corner because he runs it, and he used to live on the street."

Her first client was in need of foot care for his wounds, but more than that, he was in need of privacy. So Kofler purchased a couple of camping shower tents. In one she placed a folding chair for the clients, and in the other, she put her supplies. Kofler sits outside the tent. Her clients don't want to feel vulnerable, she said. "After they saw the tent, a line formed. I treat fist wounds, staples, or other concerns."

If Kofler is concerned about a wound she can turn them over to the doctors who also volunteer and can refer them to the hospital if necessary. "I don't even give out aspirins," she said. "Some of the clients will sit in the tent and ask if we will pray with them. The doctors are also willing to pray with the clients, and the clients often pray with each other in line. Sometimes the prayers are just holding hands."

Kofler's prayers were answered when she met Sr. Elizabeth this past March, she said. "I went back to serve at the drop-in breakfast and I was delayed about 5 minutes. As a result, I met Sr. Elizabeth, who invited me to be a Lady of Charity. Also, one of the Daughters of Charity associated with a school had donated a 16-gallon bag full of new socks that the kindergarten kids had collected. When you say you are willing, the resources just show up, and I know this is where I'm supposed to be; I hand them out to the clients."

The association began when Daughter of Charity Sister Marie Rachelle Cruz decided to start a Ladies of Charity Chapter in Gallup. "We traveled to Utah to learn how they run their chapter and they took us to their Center of Hope Food Pantry; they have been so generous and so supportive," said Sr. Marie, who had previous experience with the Ladies of Charity in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, California.

They were told how the Association was run and given a tour of the pantry. "I told them being a member was a good way to meet Christian friends, to volunteer and to do like-minded Christian activities," said St. Olaf Lady of Charity Rane Hollinger.

Back in Gallup they started recruiting members through the church bulletin "but mostly in our works in identifying who would have the spirit of a lady of charity - simplicity, humility, charity - exemplifying as they worked. The meetings began in August, October, and November; they had a retreat in December. On May 9, 2017, she contacted Bishop Wall and Theresa Ward, an AIC-LCUSA Western Region vice president. They filled out the application and it all came to fruition.

"We are so grateful that they are so motivated and they have this heart for the poor," said Sr. Marie.



# Today Show Shines Light on the Buffalo Ladies of Charity



**B**uffalo Ladies of Charity volunteer Daisy Estelle Anderson, age 96, received a surprise visit April 20th from NBC Today Show Host Al Roker. Estelle was recognized by the Today Show and the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program for her volunteer work improving the lives of those in need in the community.

State Farm Insurance Representatives, who sponsor the program, showered the Ladies of Charity with items to make it easier to continue their ministry in the Buffalo Community; including sewing machines, material, thread, diapers, blankets and clothing.

Estelle, who was the 2017 Catholic Charities Volunteer of Year, directs the Buffalo association's layette program. When Estelle first encountered the layette program over 30 years ago, she found nothing but a few items in a donation box. An avid sewer and quilter, she agreed to deploy her skills for the program. Under her guidance, the program blossomed into much



more than a simple donation box. Today, in-need mothers and their infants are supplied with essential crib linens, clothing and diapers.

At age 96, Estelle still volunteers 30 hours a month, assembling layettes and coordinating the donations received from baby showers held by both parish Ladies of Charity groups and others throughout the community. She began another effort eight years ago in which she and others sew tote bags for home bound adults and also grocery bags for patrons of eight Catholic Charities food pantries.

Estelle also gives educational lectures on quilting, discussing the connection between quilt symbols and the Underground Railroad. When asked what drives her to continue to volunteer and serve some of the most vulnerable people in Buffalo, Estelle says it is simply how she was raised, adding that she has always looked to the example set by her mother, who believed everyone has a responsibility to give back to their communities and to make it a better place.



Photo (1): Estelle Anderson and NBC Today Show Host Al Roker



Buffalo Ladies of Charity, State Farm Insurance Representatives and NBC Today's Show Staff

# Bonding Over Books

Lucy Saunders

**W**ednesdays are booked for select students in first and second grades at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, Newburg, MD. It's the day they meet with their volunteer Reading Partners to brush up on reading and vocabulary skills. Reading Partners was started by former Charles County Maryland Superintendent of Schools James Richmond in the mid 1990's in all public elementary schools for students in kindergarten through fifth grade according to a news release. Several of the Holy Ghost Ladies of Charity Archdiocese of Washington, together with Christ Episcopal Church & other community residents, volunteer as reading partners with students weekly.

The partners are paired up with the same person for half the year, then the students are reevaluated. During the second half of the year, a new group of students will be paired with each Reading Partner. With the help of their partners, students are excelling through their reading levels. One student has jumped six reading levels thanks to the extra time spent reading with their partner. Others have advanced two or three levels with every young reader moving in the right direction at their own pace.

This program helps students gain confidence in their reading, provides wonderful role models for reading and gives students a one-on-one time with someone who cares about them," said Kim Hudler, lead reading specialist with Charles County Public Schools.

"It's good because I get my reading levels up", said second grader David Holt, who is paired with Peggy Campbell, Ladies of Charity President. "I am reading a chapter book". Peggy who has been volunteering about 10 years said, "This program keeps us motivated to see the progress in the kids".

The four women featured in the pictures with their Reading Partners are Holy Ghost Ladies of Charity. Definitely, an encouraging partnering program of collaboration among local churches and neighbors who believe in the power of 'Bonding Over Books'.

*\*Adapted from Charles County Public Schools Newspaper Article*





# May Crowning with the Daughters of Charity in Albany



**T**he Ladies of Charity, Albany, NY held a delightful May Crowning on May 19th at the Daughters of Charity DePaul House Chapel. We began with Mass, helped the children with crowning the Mary statues and enjoyed a breakfast reception in the Seton Conference Center at the DePaul House, all shared with the Sisters. We thank Mary Clinton for the arrangements as part of her "Saturday with the Sisters" programming in which LOC join the Sisters in a monthly engagement.

Crowning of Mary

Saturday with the Sisters



## Mass of Remembrance, Enrollment of New Member and Volunteer Luncheon – May 10, 2018

**T**he Buffalo Association of the Ladies of Charity Celebrated Mass on Ascension Thursday in Remembrance of their Deceased Members. Father "Jud" Weiksna, OFM, Pastor of SS. Columba-Brigid Parish in Buffalo, New York was our celebrant. Several of our members took part in the Mass: Holly Walters, our Spiritual Moderator served as Cantor, Nancy Ortolano and Susan Ward were lectors, Mary Anne Meegan and Kathy Dolan were gift bearers and Mary Carroll, Linda Hall and Carol Prowse were Eucharist Ministers. Father Jud spoke of how fitting it was to remember our deceased members on the feast of the Ascension and to also welcome new members in an enrollment ceremony following Mass; bridging heaven and earth.

Nine of our 35 new members were enrolled by Father Weiksna, and Chris Eberl, VP of Membership who stood-in for our President, Kathy Sieracki for the Enrollment Ceremony. Our diocesan enrollment is now at 410 members.

The afternoon was completed with a volunteer luncheon sponsored by Catholic Charities. Eileen Nowak, Parish Outreach and Advocacy Director welcomed everyone and extended her sincere thanks to all of the volunteers. A Thanksgiving dinner was shared and several prizes were raffled. Eileen and her staff including Patra Magnus, Delma Funderburk, Joe Rizzo and Carolyn Kwiatkowski were wonderful hosts!

A general meeting was also held with program reports from several of the board members. Kathy Roseti, VP Programs chaired the meeting for Kathy Sieracki and extended a sincere thank you to all who support the various events and fundraising activities through their attendance at our events, volunteer hours and monetary contributions. The effort of each one of us allows Ladies of Charity to continue the ministry of serving those living in poverty.



New Buffalo Members (9 of 35) and Father "Jud" Weiksna, OFM

# Hope Begins With A Sandwich

Suzanne Johnson



1,248,000. For a special group of Ladies of Charity from Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Parish, Downey, CA, this number represents not only the incredible amount of sandwiches they have prepared for residents of Cardinal Manning Center, Los Angeles, CA, and the homeless on the street surrounding it, but also the satisfaction of knowing a single meal – or sandwich – can be the first step toward changing a life for good.

Sally Johnson, a Lady of Charity, and 16-year veteran of the sandwich making group, is grateful to serve the homeless and hungry people who turn to St. Vincent de Paul for food, programs and opportunities to overcome their challenges and rebuild stable lives. “Even if we’re only able to reach one person out of 100, that’s a lot, and it’s very gratifying,” she says.

Sally is a core member of the group at OLPH, which 30 years ago began preparing food in large pans and serving the homeless in front of the Cardinal Manning Center. But soon, the operation grew so big that it congested the narrow street, and they needed to come up with an alternative.

“Since then, we’ve been making sandwiches,” Sally says. 800 sandwiches per week, to be exact.

The process is organized, efficient and incorporates several generous partners. A local vendor provides the sandwich meat at a very low cost and bakeries donate leftover bread and pastries. Members of the group pick up the products which are then made into sandwiches: 400 on Saturday for distribution on Monday, and 400 on Tuesday for distribution on Wednesday.

“The most amazing thing about this undertaking is that we are completely self-supported,” says Sally. An annual Christmas fundraiser hosted and attended by loyal benefactors provides every dollar needed to operate the program for the year.

These ladies are truly making a difference in bringing hope to those they serve.

*(Reprinted with permission of Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Los Angeles, CA)*

Seated: Sally Johnson, Lady of Charity, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Standing: L – R Two members of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Los Angeles, Georgianna Higson, Lady of Charity, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

# Pittsburgh Association Welcomes 113 New Members

Judy Weismann



The Association of the Ladies of Charity for the Diocese Pittsburgh held its Investiture Mass at St. Paul Cathedral and Banquet at Rodef Shalom Ballroom on Sunday, April 29, 2018. It was presided by Bishop William Winter.

113 women were invested at the Mass as new Ladies of Charity. The Banquet attended by 400 members honored 26 women celebrating 25 years of service with the Ladies of Charity and they were given Service Award Medals in recognition of that service.

Special recognition was given to two of our “Pioneer” Ladies - who have passed away - but did the groundwork to foster the 1,500 members in the Pittsburgh diocese. Service Award medals were given to the family members of Mrs. Annette Scheid and Mrs. Grace Eckhardt.



## Memorials



### In Memory of:

Emily Leisner  
Rose Marie Avery  
  
Gertrude, John  
& Bob Bizyak  
Danny Phifer  
Thomas V. Smith  
Dennis Carroll

### Bequeathed by:

Elizabeth Wasielewski  
Pamela Kirby  
Michael Hanlon  
  
Vilma Bellissimo  
Lou Heilman  
Mr. & Mrs. John Smith  
Kathleen Sieracki



# Posthumous Service Medal

Judy Weismann

## Grace Eckhardt



Grace Eckhardt

From her role in the founding of the Ladies of Charity in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1959 until her death in November 1993, Grace Eckhardt continually sought to promote the ideals and works of the Ladies of Charity. Born on February 22, 1913, charity struck a chord with her while attending Elizabeth Seton High School where she was taught by the Sisters of Charity. A homemaker and mother of 3 children, Lois, Fred and Marilyn, she was also a devoted and tireless volunteer with a sense of determination that enabled her to build the Ladies of Charity of Pittsburgh's membership to great numbers and, for so many years, was the heart of the Ladies of Charity.

Grace served the Ladies of Charity locally as both the Diocesan President and as the Diocesan Board Chairperson, and she was the Founder and Chairperson of the Ladies of Charity Emergency Trust Fund for the Elderly. On the national level, she served as President and later served as Vice President for the Association of International Charities (AIC).

At Grace's funeral, then Pittsburgh Bishop Donald Wuerl (now Cardinal Wuerl) said: "the Church in Pittsburgh is closer and more connected because of Grace Eckhardt. She was always absolutely clear on the ultimate goal – to seek out the needy, giving to God through her service to the poor and elderly. Grace was able to see Jesus in every person." These words are a fitting tribute and example of Grace's legacy in the Ladies of Charity.

Grace's children accepted the Service Award Medal as a token of appreciation for their Mother Grace and all her good works for the Ladies of Charity.

## Annette Scheid



Annette Scheid

The Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Pittsburgh are grateful to have had the experience of Annette Scheid's many years of guidance and leadership.

Annette, like the Ladies of Charity, has a long history of personal service. A mother of 4 children, she was also a school teacher for the Etna and Deer Lakes School Districts and a recipient of the Diocesan Manifesting the Kingdom Award. She has spent a considerable amount of her life helping others including driving cancer patients to their treatment, volunteering at her local hospital and working at her parish festival. In addition to her volunteer activities with the All Saints Parish Ladies of Charity, Annette has a valued history as Co-Chair of Pittsburgh's Ladies of Charity Emergency Fund for the Elderly. Annette poured her energy into it and because of her efforts, this fund, which aids many elderly residents of the area, continues to flourish.

Annette held many positions on the Diocesan Board of the Ladies of Charity including serving as President. However, it is her years of mentoring as the Diocesan Board Chair (following the death of Grace Eckhardt) in which Annette gave continued stability and passed along her knowledge of the rich history of the Ladies of Charity. She instilled in the Board the importance of keeping the roots and traditions of the Ladies of Charity in the forefront so that we may continue the work of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Annette illustrated by example the virtues of humility, simplicity and charity. In June 2016 Annette celebrated her 100th birthday. We lost her on November 7th of that year – but were happy to have 3 of her children, Kathy, Nancy and Mary Alice, here to accept the Service Award Medal in her memory.

Ladies of Charity:

Remember the Past,  
Embrace the Future  
“Do not believe that things  
will always be  
as they are now.”

*St. Louise de Marillac*

38th National Assembly, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
September 20 – 22, 2018

Dear Ladies,

*“It is very useful for all holy communities to meet together from time to time in some appropriate place to treat their spiritual advancement and...to treat the matters that concern the good of the poor and the maintenance of said confraternity.”*

(St. Vincent de Paul, Rule of the Confraternity of Charity of Chatillon, November 1617)

It is our pleasure and privilege to invite you to attend our upcoming National Assembly. This year, in addition to tours on Thursday, you will also have the opportunity to attend a three-hour session on Bridges out of Poverty: Getting Ahead in A Just Getting by World. Those of you who were in Kansas City last year had a brief introduction to this program. We are happy to present this program to you FREE OF CHARGE. The assembly will officially begin on Friday with Mass and an opening presentation by LCUSA Spiritual Advisor, Father Richard Gielow, C.M. (“Where Does the Road Ahead Lead You?”) As usual, you will hear other inspiring speakers, attend workshops, and most importantly, meet, mix and mingle with other Ladies of Charity from around the United States. The experience has always been a memorable one for me and I hope it will be for you.

The Assembly will not be the same without you! Please register early (available online) and consider supporting the National Assembly with a program ad, underwriting donation, and gift card auction donation.

**We are looking forward to meeting with you in September.**

**In the spirit of St. Vincent and St. Louise,**

**President LCUSA**

**2018 National Assembly Co-Chairpersons**

Suzanne Johnson  
*Suzanne Johnson*

Peggy Keene  
*Peggy Keene*

Karen Radu  
*Karen Radu*

Judy Weismann  
*Judy Weismann*

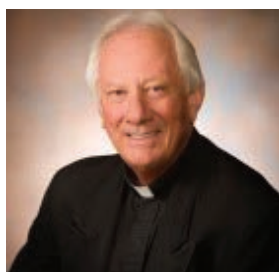


# 2018 LCUSA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PITTSBURGH PA—SEPT 21 –SEPT 22

## Ladies of Charity Remember the Past; Embrace the Future

*“Do not believe that things will always be as they are now” St Louise de Marillac*

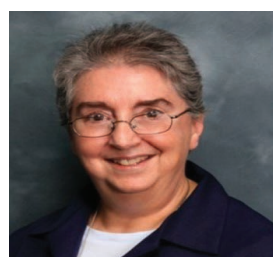


Rev. Richard Gielow, C.M.

### **KEYNOTE & CLOSING SPEAKER**

#### **“Where Does The Road Ahead Lead You”**

Father Dick Gielow, like his brother Bob, is a Vincentian Priest born in LaSalle, Illinois. He has served as Director of Vocations, Principal and Rector of a High School Seminary. He has degrees in Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Education. He is listed in “who’s, who in America” as a well-known preacher and retreat director. Among his other jobs he is a National Spiritual Advisor for two organizations and is currently the director of the Vincentian Parish Mission Center.



Sister Elyse Staab, DC

#### **“Finding God in the Experience”**

Sister Elyse Staab is a Daughter of Charity currently serving in Macon, GA. She holds a BA in education; a Masters in Social Work and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction. Sister Elyse has ministered in roles of social service, formation, and leadership. Currently she serves as Vincentian Family Coordinator for the province of St. Louise. In this role she collaborates with various branches of the Vincentian Family, providing workshops, retreats and other areas of spiritual formation.



Ms Kat O'Loughlin

#### **“ A seat at the Table; Engaging Young Adults**

Kat O'Loughlin currently serves as the Associate Director for Mission and Ministry at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx, NY. She is responsible for engaging students in 10,000+ hours of intentional community service per year, as well as directing the Seton Service and Leadership program. She has volunteered with Vincentian Lay Missionaries in Jimma, Ethiopia and currently is on the Board of Directors of Bethlehem Farm, a Catholic community of lay volunteers in West Virginia.



Very Rev. Joseph M. Mele

#### **“The More Things Change; The More Things Stay The Same”**

Father Mele currently serves as the Episcopal Vicar for Leadership Development and Evangelization, head of the Secretariat for leadership Development and Evangelization, and director of the Department of Clergy and Parish Leadership Development for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Father earned a Master of Divinity from St. Francis Seminary, Loretto, in 1973. In addition, he holds a Master of Arts and a Doctorate in Communications and Rhetoric from Duquesne University. Father Mele also undertook graduate studies in liturgy at the University of Notre Dame. In 1998, in recognition of scholarly pursuits in Oxford, England, and in acknowledgement of the fulfillment of the educational enterprise authorized by the Regent of Studies and Tutorial Faculty under the aegis of an Oxford Foundation Fellowship, Father Mele was appointed in perpetuity an Oxford Foundation Fellow. In 2013, Father Mele received an honorary doctorate from St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pa. He is the author of a book entitled *The Sacred Conversation; The Art of Catholic Preaching and the New Evangelization*.



Sister Paule Freeburg, DC

### **“Rosalie Rendu: Heroine of our Past, Model for our Future”**

Sister is a Daughter of Charity of the Seton Province and is currently the Western Region Spiritual Advisor to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She holds a Masters in Theology with an emphasis in Scripture and has a extensive background in religious education for both children and adults. She is also a member of the Spirituality Committee of LCUSA. A long-time collaborator with composer Christopher Walker, Sister Paule has written song and prayer texts for many well known collections of children’s music. Sister is an avid fan of our Vincentian Heritage and Charism.

## **WORKSHOP PRESENTORS & PRESENTATIONS**

### **“Embracing the Future Through Recovery**



Rosa Davis

Rosa Davis is the Executive Director of POWER—an organization whose mission is to help women reclaim their lives from the disease of addiction and reduce in the incidence of addiction in the future generations. Under her leadership POWER has grown from a single program agency founded in 1990 to an organization that today offers a range of comprehensive gender responsive, trauma-informed addictions treatment and recovery support services to women with substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders and their families. Rosa earned both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh and she has more than 30 years of diverse experience in health and human services. Rosa is a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh XVII and is a member of the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work Executive Council, CLEAR Steering Committee, and Allegheny County’s Block Grant Advisory Board. Rosa is the recipient of several awards and honors including Duquesne University School of Nursing’s *Eileen Zungolo Spirit of Service*, YWCA’s *Tribute to Women’s Leadership*, Oakland Catholic’s *Leading Ladies*, Girl Scouts-Trillium Council’s *Woman of Distinction*, Message Carriers’ *Tree of Life*, and Soroptimist International’s *Women Helping Women*.

### **“The Ministry of Presence”**



Sister Catherine

Sister Catherine Higgins is currently serving as Minister of Member Well Being for the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden and Director of Ignatian programming at St. Joseph Spirituality Center. Sister’s professional history includes many years in school administration, over twenty years as a Hospice Social Worker and chaplain and most recently Sister Catherine has been providing Spiritual Direction to clergy, religious and lay persons for many years as well as directing retreats and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Alongside Sister’s professional ministries, she continues to be a caregiver. “It is important to me to be aware of the poor, the vulnerable, especially those in our midst, and to respond with generosity,” says Sister Catherine.



Sister Sandy Pelusi, RSM

### **“Using Music To Relax & Refresh”**

Sister Sandy Pelusi is a Sister of Mercy; she is presently a Chaplain at UPMC-Mercy Hospital where she has worked as both a Chaplain and Music Therapist since 1976. She also is a Music Therapist for the Sisters of Humility of Mary in Villa Maria, Pa. Sister Sandy has a Bachelors in Music from Carlow University, and a Masters in Counseling Ed. from Duquesne University. She is a Fellow of the Association for Music and Imagery. Sister is also the Spiritual Moderator for the St. Maurice Ladies of Charity, Pittsburgh Pa.



Christopher Roach

### **“Hope for People Experiencing Homelessness”**

Christopher Roach, Street Outreach Team Leader for Pittsburgh Mercy Operation Safety Net and has been providing street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness in the region for over 6 years. In addition he serves as vice-chair of Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board and co-chairs the Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee. Chris is a graduate of Duquesne University’s School of Education, husband and father of five children, resident of Pittsburgh’s Hill District Community, avid community gardener and member of St. Benedict the Moor Parish.



## 2018 LCUSA National Assembly Optional Tours

### Two Options for Thursday, September 20, 2018

#### SAINT VINCENT BASILICA AND FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL

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The day will begin with a trip to Latrobe, Pennsylvania where you will attend mass **at Saint Vincent Basilica**. After mass, the participants will depart for a lunch at the **Oakhurst Tea Room**. The Oakhurst Tea Room is in Somerset and provides buffet style eating options.

Finally, we will venture onward to the **Flight 93 Memorial** to be reminded of the ultimate sacrifice of very brave individuals to save so many others on 9/11.

This tour will require moderate walking ability; however it is handicap accessible. There are wheelchairs available at the ground site. The cost of the tour, including lunch, is \$70.00. Boarding will begin at 8:00 am and depart at 8:30 am. It is expected to return by 5:00 pm.

#### MOUNT WASHINGTON, SAINT ANTHONY CHAPEL AND STRIP DISTRICT

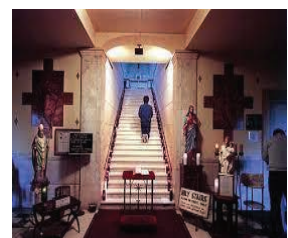
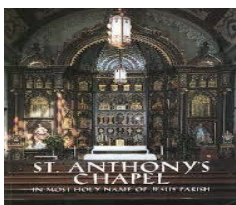
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Depart hotel for **Mount Washington** which offers spectacular views of the city's skyline, the confluence of Pittsburgh's historic rivers and many natural and man-made attributes. Pittsburgh's skyline has been voted the second most beautiful vista and the best urban vista in America. **Mass at St. Mary of the Mount Parish**. Lunch will be provided at **Vue 412**.

**St. Anthony's Chapel** in Troy Hill. Founded in 1883, this collection of relics that now ranges 4,200 and some of the highlights include a thorn from the Crown of Thorns, a splinter from the True Cross and a piece of stone from the Holy Sepulcher.

**St. Patrick's Worship site and Strip District**. The Church is home to one of only several replicas in the world of the Holy Stairway in Rome that were moved from Jerusalem and rumored to have been the same steps that Jesus walked during the Passion. The Strip District area is known for great food, eclectic shopping and wonderful people watching experiences.

This tour will require moderate walking ability; however it is handicap accessible. The cost of the tour, including lunch, is \$55.00. Boarding will begin at 9:00 am and depart at 9:30 am. It is expected to return by 5:00 pm.





**BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY**  
**Getting Ahead**  
**In**  
**A Just Getting By World**

Poverty is defined as the degree to which people do without resources and it is experienced differently area by area.

Learn how to influence organizations, institutions & individuals in your area.

Learn the causes of poverty and how to attract people from the community to address & find solutions.

Bridges out of Poverty constructs offer a common language that helps to engage all classes within the community to work together towards a common goal.

Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World is a program built on Bridges out of Poverty constructs that brings under-resourced individuals together in a safe environment to better understand their current living conditions, community resources (or lack of) and to develop their own plan for a “Future Story”.

*This program is being offered free of charge*

*1:00 PM Thursday , September 20, 2018*

*Sheraton Hotel at Station Square, Pittsburgh PA*

*Check yes on the Bridges Out of Poverty segment on the worksheet located on the back of the Assembly Registration Form to register for this event.*





## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FORM

*Ladies of Charity Remember the Past; Embrace the Future*  
"Do not believe that things will always be as they are now" St. Louise de Marillac

**September 20th, 21st, & 22, 2018**  
**Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square**  
**300 W Station Square Dr**  
**Pittsburgh PA 15219**

Please make checks payable to LCUSA and mail this form to

LCUSA National Service Center  
c/o Ashley Larson  
2816 East 23rd St.  
Kansas City, MO 64127

**Please print or complete online. Send e-mail to [office@ladiesofcharity.us](mailto:office@ladiesofcharity.us)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-Zip \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your contact information in the assembly roster? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Name only

Your LCUSA Region \_\_\_\_\_ Mid-Atlantic \_\_\_\_\_ North Central \_\_\_\_\_ Northeastern \_\_\_\_\_ Southern \_\_\_\_\_ Western

**Please check below all that applies to your current status:**

**CITY ASSOCIATION STATUS:** \_\_\_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_ Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_\_ Vincentian Spiritual Advisor/Moderator  
\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Member \_\_\_\_\_ Lady of Charity Junior Lady of Charity Moderator

**NATIONAL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_ Current Board Member \_\_\_\_\_ Past Board Member \_\_\_\_\_ Past National President

**Religious:** \_\_\_\_\_ Priest \_\_\_\_\_ Daughter of Charity \_\_\_\_\_ Sister of Charity \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**Other:** Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**For Pittsburgh LOC Only:** Parish President / Co President \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Parish \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Information:**

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs:**

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



# Welcome Ladies of Charity National Assembly

September 20 - 22, 2018

## Hotel Reservations

Make your hotel reservation by calling 1-800-325-3535 and asking for Ladies of Charity room block or [use the web site](#).

Room rates \$139.00/night. Reservations 3 days prior to assembly opening date and 3 days after assembly closing date are based on availability.

## Parking Rates

Daily Self-Park:

Sheraton	7-24 hours \$23.00
Garage	12-24 hours \$23.00
West Stadium Plaza	5-24 hours \$13.00



## Super Shuttle

Information from Pittsburgh International Airport to Sheraton at Station Square:

- ◆ Cost: One way - \$24.00      Round trip - \$44.00
- ◆ [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com) - or 1-800-BLUEVAN (1-800-258-3826)
- ◆ Use Discount Code QERYT
- ◆ Pittsburgh Groups contact Traci at 412-322-8507 if you want to arrange shuttle service from your parish locations

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Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel | 300 W. Station Square Drive | Pittsburgh, PA 15219 | 412-261-2000



**SILENT AUCTION/BASKET RAFFLE INFORMATION**  
**Ladies of Charity of the United States of America**  
38<sup>th</sup> National Assembly  
Ladies of Charity Remember The Past, Embrace The Future  
*"Things will not always be as they are now" St. Louise de Marillac*

**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**  
**Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square,**  
**300 West Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15219**

Dear Ladies of Charity,

The 2018 Silent Auction/Raffle Committee is looking forward to welcoming you to Pittsburgh, PA. Pittsburgh is continually recognized as a must-see destination and was voted as one of the "Best Places to Travel in 2017". We greatly appreciate your help to defray the cost of the assembly through your donations to the silent auction /basket raffle.

We know how challenging it can be to fit large items in a suitcase for the trip home, but we are also aware that there will be many attendees that live in and around Pittsburgh and will be driving to the assembly. That said, we are not limiting our request to any specific item. Please consider donating gift cards from your favorite national stores and brands as well as personal items such as jewelry, purses, scarves, etc. or smaller household items. You may also feel free to send a check made payable to "LCUSA Assembly" if you prefer.

Please send your donation to Silent Auction/Basket Raffle LOC at the address below. Please send us gift cards or other items and the following information describing your donation by August 15, 2018. We would appreciate receiving any donations prior to the Assembly. ***Pittsburgh Associations please drop your donations off at the Hotel on Wednesday September 19, 2018 – Noon to 7pm or call Karen T at 412 302-0272.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item:

Type of Gift Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Gift Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Gift Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

**Karen Tomaszewski**  
**412-302-0272**  
**Ktomas129@comcast.net**

**Marlene Garritano**  
**412 824-8242**

Send descriptions, gift cards, and donations by August 15 to:

**LOC Silent Auction/Basket Raffle Committee**  
**c/o Karen Tomaszewski**  
**81 Locust Street**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15223**

*Thank You! We are truly grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you in September.*

# WITNESS PERSPECTIVE: *BE A POVERTY CHANGE AGENT*

**Christine Krikliwy**, West Region Voice of the Poor Leader, Society of St. Vincent de Paul

**H**ave you ever walked down the street or driven down the road and tried to figure out if a certain individual was living in poverty? If yes, one would be amazed that it is not only the panhandler on the median or the scruffy individual on the sidewalk. Instead, they look just like you and me. They may be your neighbor or a parishioner kneeling next to you.

*'Be the Change that you wish to see in the world'*

– Mahatma Gandhi

So in this third week of January, designated as National Poverty Month by the United States Bishops, I would like to share a couple of personal stories that have moved me and changed my perspective on poverty.

I am an usher in my church and sit by the entrance. An individual who has attended Mass on and off came in. She limps, uses a cane and is cleanly dressed with slightly unkempt hair. Walking back from Communion she slowed down near me, apparently because something was bothering her.

After Mass ended, she informed me that a girl sitting two pews up laughed at her because she almost tripped. I told her that I would talk with the girl and ensure it wouldn't happen again, and she walked away.

She then lingered a bit longer until the Church nearly emptied, and asked if she could talk with me. I said sure. Sitting beside me in the pew, she said she was homeless, had been raped on the street several times, now lives in her old truck, and has lost everything she had. It was a dark, cold and rainy night; I felt the weather deep inside me.

At the back of the Church, we have a St. Vincent de Paul closet with donations that are dropped off by parishioners. I took her to the closet and, as fate would have it, she was able to get a quilt, shoes and clothes. I asked if she had a phone number because I would try to find her a place to stay other than her old truck. She said that she was waiting to hear whether she would receive "Section 8" housing and asked me to wait until she heard from them.

Three weeks later, she attended Mass again. I was so happy to see her and gave her a big hug. She smiled at me. She was clean, well dressed and look liked a new person. After Church she told me that I had saved her life. She said she was on the verge of ending her life until she ran into me. She informed me that I showed her that somebody cared and that I changed her outlook on life. Currently she is living in Section 8 Housing and not in her truck.

Then there was the time I was working as an evaluator at "failing" schools in a rough and poor neighborhood with broken down homes, surrounded by squalor. Many of the children were being raised by their grandparents because their parents were in prison. Because these children often came to school hungry, they were unable to concentrate and they fought any type of structure. Through governmental grants we offered these children a "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic" (STEM) curriculum, with trips to the university (different labs), museums, and to the observatory on Mount Lemon to study the sun, moon and the stars. The healthy food, bus trips and knowledge that we shared made an incredible change in the lives of these children and their families/caretakers that accompanied them. Their goals changed, they wanted to attend the university, become scientists, engineers and physicians.

Following is the World Bank's description of poverty:

"Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time.

Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action – for the poor and the wealthy alike – a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities."

People who live in poverty not only lack money but social acceptance. They find it difficult to purchase food and housing and buy needed medications. They are generally poorly educated; their children are unable to associate with fellow students (attend birthday parties, field trips and play sports); they lack integration among their peers resulting in ongoing generational poverty and isolation. The price of poverty impacts our health and justice system negatively. Simply being poor and dealing with that reality damages how one thinks of oneself with devastating implications on the person's mental health and prospects for climbing out of poverty, as a recent illuminating article, "The Psychology of Inequality," in The New Yorker shows.

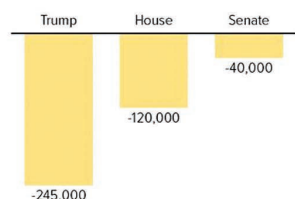
Around the globe poverty rears its ugly face differently, even as we continue to permit its existence. It is a complex societal issue. We identify and track poverty through social indicators such as health, availability of resources, education, social exclusion and vulnerability.

Astonishingly, in the United States, the rate of poverty is the third highest of the countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as measured by the percentage of people earning less than half the national median income (see chart

## Housing Assistance Programs, Such as Section 8, Are in Deep Danger in Federal Budget Plans

### Potential Housing Voucher Losses Under 2018 Budget Plans

Number of housing vouchers not renewed



Source: CBPP analysis of Department of Housing and Urban Development and other data

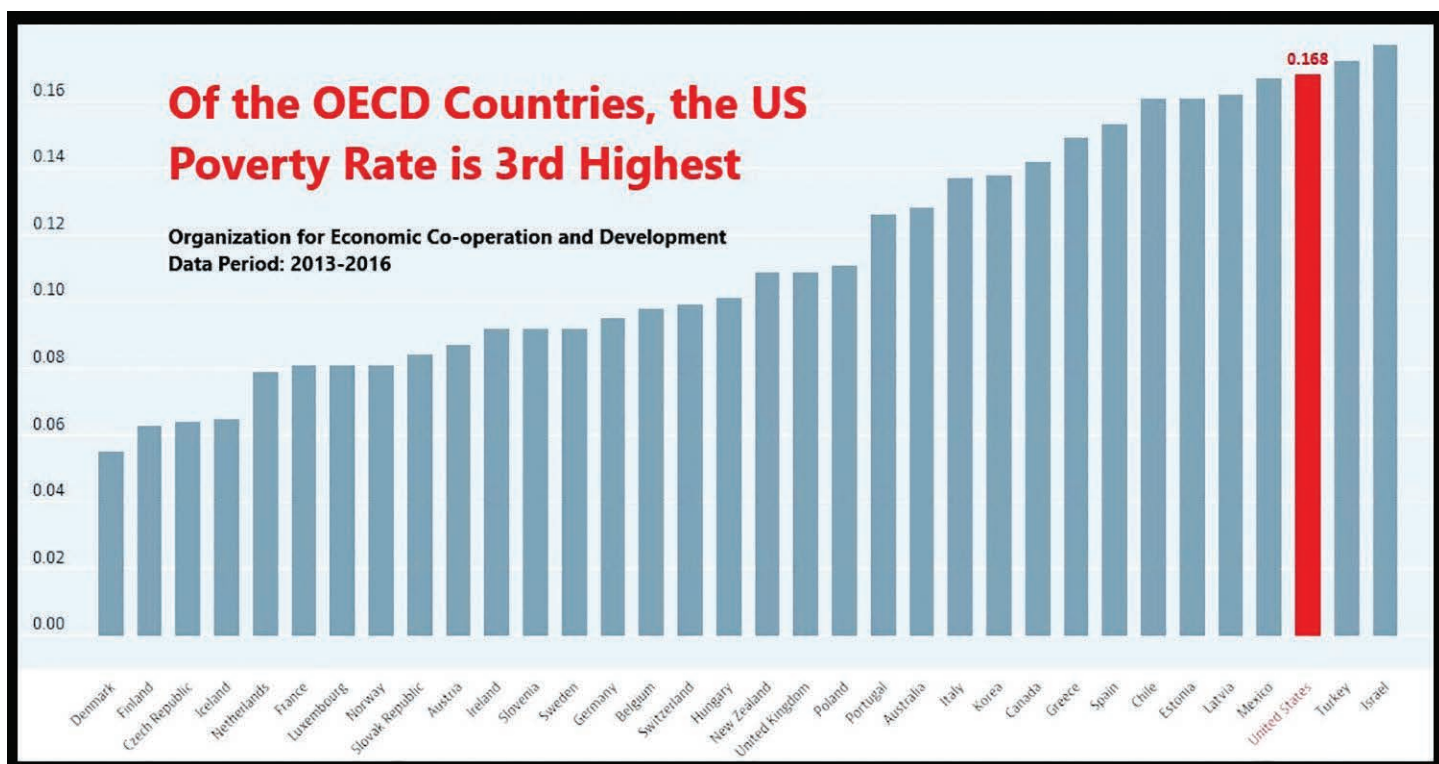
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**In 2027:**

**House would cut 1.8 million vouchers**

**Senate would cut 900,000 vouchers**





below – for interactive detail showing poverty rates by age groups – 0-17 year-olds; 18-65 year-olds; and 66 year-olds and more.

The causes are multiple, but not least among these is the affordability and availability of health insurance. Many studies and sources assert that the United States is the only highly developed industrialized country in the world that considers health coverage to be a privilege and not a right for all. Education and housing are taking larger portions of our monthly income, making everyday life an extremely expensive option.

As Vincentians we do amazing work feeding and clothing the needy. In today's world we must couple that work with the task of

systemically eliminating poverty. We must become advocates and mentors for those living in poverty, not mere couriers delivering food and clothing. We need to 'BE THE CHANGE' through our many voices, experiences and education.

**Luke 12:48** "To whom much is given, much will be required."

Christine Krikliwy is a West Region Voice of the Poor Leader serving on the national SVD Voice of the Poor Committee. She is based in Tucson, Arizona. Christine can be reached at [ckrikliwy@gmail.com](mailto:ckrikliwy@gmail.com). Subscribe to action alerts of National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul [otervoice.net/SVDPUSA/home](http://otervoice.net/SVDPUSA/home).

## Assembly

## Welcome to Mission Market Manager Natalie Newton

Suzanne Johnson



**P**lease join us in welcoming to LCUSA Natalie Newton, our new Mission Market Manager. Natalie brings to us years of experience in domestic and international marketplaces. She has experience in public relations, brand management, market trend analysis, advertisement promotions, budget management and networking skills. We are excited she is on-board as we move closer to launching our LCUSA Mission Market e-commerce store in a few months.

For the past 2 years we have been working to create an online market for the unique goods handmade by people in developing

countries. In collaboration with the Daughters of Charity Skilled Centers, we hope to be successful in establishing an on-line store to create an enterprising atmosphere for our artisans around the world and contribute to the success of poor people, learning skills and working toward self-sufficiency in business. This market place will further our partnership with the Daughters of Charity in our 400 year history of anti-poverty efforts and help change systems that keep people in poverty.

Look for future updates on Mission Market products coming to a retail gift shop, boutique, and Fundraising event near you.

## Ladies of Charity

Servicette, LCUSA Service Center  
2816 E. 23rd St.  
Kansas City, MO 64127  
Address Service Requested



<http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us>

*"To serve rather than to be served"*

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## ADVOCACY CONNECTION

# Standing in Support of DREAMers

Mary Ann Dantuono

**A**t the National Assembly in Kansas City on September 9, 2017, the Ladies of Charity of the United States of America adopted a resolution to stand with DREAMers as they seek a permanent solution to their "lack of status" in the US.

The young people we are concerned about only know the US as their home. They are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes and communities. As Catholics, we have long supported DREAMers as we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, especially that of our children and preserving the unity of family life.

Since the resolution, we have ridden a roller-coaster with the Dreamers. The President ended the program of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) begun in 2012, by executive order on September 5th and challenged the Congress to find a legislative solution by March 6, 2018. DACA offered temporary relief from deportation and the right to apply for work authorization. According to estimates about 55 percent of the 1.2 million youth who immediately met the program's criteria have applied and received a two-year authorization. Many DREAMers need to re-register but fear deportation if they go to immigration to renew because of the uncertain status of the DACA program.

Congress did not come up with a legislative solution as yet. As long as the negotiations link DACA with the Border Wall funding, it does not appear that a solution will be found. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case that concerns

the "constitutionality" of the Presidents revocation of the DACA program which is currently the subject of litigation and a nationwide preliminary injunction. This injunction or halt, is currently only partial and temporary. Congress, however, could permanently protect Dreamers who are contributing to our nation and provide them with a path to citizenship – through bipartisan legislation known as The DREAM ACT (S1615/HR3440), which has been under consideration by Congress for 17 years in one form or another.

Meanwhile, Maria is unsure if she can renew her work permit. Jorge is unsure if he can continue in his college program or if deportation will interrupt his education. Brenda whose permit expires in March of 2019 fears deportation and separation from her two children who are US citizens. Brenda is cautious of even dreaming.

Thanks to all the Ladies who participated in the USCCB call in to Congress day on February 26, 2018. Please continue to keep DREAMers in your prayers and in your conversations with your federal legislators. Write a personal letter and tell the story of a DREAMer you know. If you have not subscribed to the e-blasts on [aic.ladiesofcharity.us](http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us), please do so.

DREAMers need our support and a bill that offers qualifying immigrant youth **"conditional permanent resident status"** and **"a path to full lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship."** We can make a difference, we can make this happen.

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