

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VOL. 57 NO. 3 FALL 2018

SERVICETTE

TO SERVE RATHER THAN BE SERVED



AIC USA



Leadership

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 Shelly Clokey
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

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**:

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. Articles and photos should be sent separately and not within the text document.

Please contact us for information.

LETTER FROM THE LCUSA PRESIDENT

Susan Johnson, LCUSA President



Congratulations to those women who were installed as officers of LCUSA for the upcoming years of 2019 - 2020. Thank you for heeding the call and saying yes to serve on the National Board.

As in many local associations, the task of finding women to serve as leaders on the National Board of Directors continues to be a difficult one. For one reason or another, many women are reluctant to serve. For many it is a time constraint; for others a lack of confidence in their ability, or a reluctance to step forward and be in charge. During our recent assembly, I commented that when I was serving as President Elect, I was nervous about my upcoming term as President. I did not feel I had the same abilities as those who had served as President before I served. A very wise Daughter of Charity, however, commented to me that God wanted me to serve with my abilities, not the abilities of those others, and it was important for me to be ME. So, if you are reluctant to serve because you do not feel you measure up to those who have gone before, but others are recognizing your gifts of leadership, please say YES. God is calling YOU.

As far as being in charge and having all the answers, leaders of Ladies of Charity are not asked to be "in charge," but rather to be servant leaders. We are called to use our gifts, in collaboration with others on the board, to benefit those we serve. As leaders, we are not required to have all the answers, but be willing to seek the answers.

Margaret Hanson, former LCUSA President (2003 - 2004) and current board member serving as Parliamentarian, sent me the following:

A SERVANT LEADER is one who - Affirms the good in every person. Listens and makes sure everyone is heard. Takes a respectful interest in the ideas and suggestions of all. Nurtures the personal, spiritual and professional growth of others. Encourages participation and holds people accountable. Consciously recognizes and affirms the efforts of co-workers. Notices wounds that need to be healed without taking on the stress of another's problems. Shares knowledge and information. Values new ideas and new ways of doing things. Risks moving ahead while respecting the other's integrity and autonomy. Uses carefully and confidentially knowledge that is confided to her. Is open to constructive criticism.

Are you this woman? The Ladies of Charity needs you.

LEADERSHIP AND THE LADIES OF CHARITY

LADIES OF CHATTANOOGA WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Brocker



Investiture Service

"We are proud and honored to introduce Ladies of Charity New Members.....Laura Moore, Christine Dobson, Donna Antolak, Sharon Kirby, Gail McCauley, Cindy Shipp, Janice Bowden, Pat Hendrickson, Rita Rodgers, Becky Valadie, Florence Bannier, Jo Ann Gensler, Gail Cunningham, Pris McClean, MaryAnn Schenck, Faye Blevins, Janie Hughes, and Father Jim Vic.

The Investiture Service was followed by a beautiful luncheon.



"COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP IS YOUR JOB!"

Most Reverend David A. Zubik

One of life's hidden little secrets is that many of us would rather be led than lead. Why? Because it's easier. Just wait for someone to tell us what to do.

Sorry. As the contemporary disciples of Jesus, we can't do that. We are called to courageous leadership. The Church—and the world—needs you and me to lead courageously and with the gifts God has given us.

"What gifts?" you might ask. "What can I bring to the table?" you might wonder.

Allow me to offer a thought. As Ladies of Charity, you point the way through your gifts. This is not a time for false humility. Don't get trapped in that thinking. The Church needs you as God has made you. Remember: true humility is thinking of yourself less, not thinking less of yourself.

We must embrace the virtue of leading courageously. I would define "courage" as firmness and constancy in pursuing good. It is built on the virtue of fortitude, the virtue of Christian courage lived out in good times and bad.

I am reminded in courageous leadership of the three essential building blocks of Catholic Action: see, pray, act.

Courageous leadership first sees clearly—without distraction—the core issue at hand. What is it that we want to address? What difficulty needs resolved; what opportunity needs embraced?

Then, true courageous leadership is rooted in prayer. Prayer grounds each step with God as our constant companion and inspiration, or we end up just relying on ourselves, oftentimes with disastrous results.

And finally, courageous leadership moves to action. The courageous leader never approaches an issue blindly, or is directed by prejudices and presumptions. If action isn't the result of seeing and praying, then do some more seeing, do some more praying. Then get moving. Too often in our fast-paced society, programs become exercises but need to be matters of the heart.

We know the difficulties the Church faces. We face a growing shortage of clergy. Mass attendance has dropped dramatically. Sacramental reception—from Baptism to Matrimony—is down as well. We seem at times as followers of Jesus to be invisible, no longer having the impact we must have on our culture. And there is the tragedy of sexual abuse.

We can be courageous leaders to address every issue of our day. That's what we are called to do. And what is the bottom line of this courageous leadership? To lead everyone to learn, to love and to live Jesus. That's where we want to be heading. Nowhere else.

This is what we need today. This is where the Church needs your courageous leadership as Ladies of Charity. We are at a defining point for the Church. The Holy Spirit is determining here and now who we must be today and the legacy we must leave behind for our children and our children's children.

Like the first apostles and disciples of Jesus, we are in difficult times. And difficult times demand courageous leadership, like the leadership of those first Apostles.

Rededicate yourself to courageous leadership in your parish, to courageous leadership in ministry, to courageous leadership at home and in school. The future needs you and me. The world needs you and me. The Church needs you and me. And most important of Jesus WANTS you and me.

Thanks, dear Ladies, for responding to His call—to lead!

SERVANT LEADERSHIP YOU QUALIFY. GIVE IT A TRY.

Margaret Hanson



The director of an Institute for High Performance Business, Robert J. Thomas, theorizes that leaders engage in a transformative experience that prompts a person to ask themselves what is important to them. Ladies of Charity are ipso facto imbued by a faith based motivating force which impels them to implement the mission to “provide Vincentian leadership to women acting together against

all forms of poverty,”

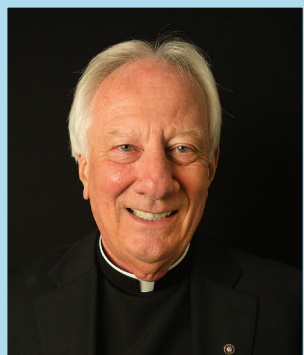
An important need, in our organization and in others, is to be more aware, not only of Servant leadership, but of leadership as a responsibility of those committed to a mission. One of the most pressing issues facing not only the national organization of Ladies of Charity, but also the local association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

At a recent dinner celebrating significant events in our local association, several women, heads of various committees, presented their report to the assembled group. What was immediately evident in their presentation was the outstanding servant leadership qualities that they possessed. The group rallied to their sense

of humor. They demonstrated empathy with the people they served, accepting them without qualification as the people they are. They provided inspiration and openness and recognized the contributions of the group members. In effect, these active and involved Ladies of Charity were manifesting characteristics essential to Servant leadership which grows out of the gospel injunction expressed by John 13:1-15 to serve others as Jesus did when he washed the feet of the disciples. Rather than using authority as power the Servant leader is an advocate in the service of those who are led. Father Theodore Hesburgh, for many years President of Notre Dame University, says, “The very essence of leadership is that you have a vision you articulate.” What is it that keeps creative women from responding to a call they probably feel in their heart, but fail to put themselves forward?

Should we examine our conscience? An excuse is used to mitigate or justify a reluctance to offer our service or exempt ourselves from following the promptings of the Holy Spirit to undertake an obligation or be impelled by a sense of duty. The call to discipleship includes a call to leadership. Leadership does not require a magnetic personality, nor does one need to be the most gifted person, rather positions of leadership provide opportunities to learn and develop insights beyond the realm of our own reflection. While virtue is its own reward, positions of leadership, despite toil and trouble, provide rewards beyond understanding. Are you sure, looking ahead and toward the future, you cannot be of service in a leadership capacity? Just checking! The Ladies of Charity, local, national and international organizations need you.

Margaret Hanson, LCUSA President 2003 - 2004



Rev. Richard Gielow

REV. RICHARD GIELOW – *30 years* OF LCUSA LEADERSHIP

Irene Siedlarczyk, Vice President Northeastern Region

At the LCUSA 2018 National Assembly, I had the opportunity to spend some time with Rev. Richard Gielow CM. I hope to have fully represented his thoughts and words in this article:

Fr. Gielow has served as the LCUSA Vincentian Spiritual Moderator from 1988-2018 - 30 years. Before taking on this role, he served as the local Kansas City Vincentian Spiritual Moderator for 15 years from 1972-1988. This represents an amazing 45 years of service to the Ladies

of Charity. When asked the reason for all of his years of service, his response was “Vincent wanted Ladies of Charity and I can’t think of anything better to do as a Vincentian.” In 1988, Ann Peffin, past president of LCUSA, asked herself, “Why not have a Vincentian as our spiritual moderator?” and asked Fr. Gielow if he was willing to take on the role. The funny part was Fr. Gielow drove 3.5 hours from Kansas City to Cincinnati to attend his first LCUSA national board meeting. He was asked to remain in the hallway for a lengthy period of time, as he had been invited before the board had decided on accepting him as their Vincentian Spiritual Moderator. He was accepted and he has been the LCUSA Vincentian Spiritual Moder-

ator attending board meetings, national assemblies and special events ever since then.

Fr. Gielow was instrumental in the Ladies of Charity having their own assembly separate from Catholic Charities and he feels proud and good about this change. He felt “no risk,



Fr. Gielow at the 2018 LCUSA National Assembly

no reward” and it might have failed but it didn’t; The LCUSA presidents have been extremely committed; LCUSA has never wavered in its focus for helping the poor. His heart aches that many local organizations want nothing to do with LCUSA national. St. Vincent said the poor are better served if the organization is better. National can only help the local groups. Fr. Gielow truly believes in the importance of the National Assemblies – It is not so much what you get but what you can give, but if you give you will receive.

Regarding Fr. Gielow’s role as Vincentian Spiritual Advisor, it is to advise, but he does have expertise in areas that can help. He listens and adds when he can help. This is not his organization. It is a women’s organization of lay ladies per St. Vincent with spiritual moderators and advisors from the other two branches – Daughters of Charity and Vincentian Fathers and Brothers.

Fr. Gielow believes the Ladies of Charity need to be more known nationally. Ladies of Charity are resource constrained. We need to communicate what we do via letters to the editor and other no cost communication means. If all knew what the Ladies of Charity are doing, money would come to help us. We do what we do because it is right (e.g. supporting dreamers and other immigrants). We also need to understand that like the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Ladies of Charity live with part time commitments from their membership. We need to be creative in our thinking (e.g. let young people know they don’t need to attend every meeting or perhaps have more summer meetings when it may be easier for young people to attend). The ultimate goal is to be effective administrators to the poor.

Personally, Fr. Gielow was raised with a Vincentian influence including the Daughters of Charity and Ladies of Charity and is happy helping the poor. He has a twin brother Robert who is also a Vincentian priest and a member of the same community. They both conduct parish missions and retreats all over the United States and Canada. They are the only Vincentian twins in Vincentian history. He considers the star of his family to be his younger sister Mary Ann who took care of their mother for 28 years. She is currently Director of Development for St. Cyril’s parish in Tucson after having a history in banking. For fun, Fr. Gielow likes golf!

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

*(edited from report submitted to
Assembly in Pittsburgh, September 2018)*

NOVEMBER 2018

It is with a very humble heart that I present this report, and with much respect for all the Presidents who have served before me.

#1 – My goals as President:

Membership: Focus on attracting younger members to Ladies of Charity. These would be women in their twenties, thirties. Even though they may be busy with jobs, families, are there some types of work we could be doing that would be attractive to them?

Finances: Work towards establishing a more sustainable method of financing our activities. If an endowment is not the answer right now, what is?

Systemic Change: Yes, we have been talking about it forever, but what are we doing. How can we encourage our associations to think outside the box to do MORE? Perhaps we can begin to think of this more as “Transformative Change.” How does what we do to serve those in poverty TRANSFORM their lives?

#2 – Report on Administration – Ashley Larsen continues to serve as LCUSA Executive Administrator. Her duties include working with local associations, recording their membership and leaders into LCUSA data base, providing Ladies of Charity supplies to local associations and answering any questions the Ladies have regarding the operations of LCUSA.

#3 – Office in Kansas City, MO – We continue to operate our National office from Seton Center in Kansas City, MO. Seton Center is run by the Sister of Charity of Leavenworth and the Ladies of Charity in Kansas City have worked very closely with them for many years. We are very happy to be associated with them. We have recently added a “land-line” telephone to the office to better serve those phone calls. The new phone number is 816-731-0949. We continue to have a cell phone – 816-260-3853.

#4 – Caregiving Project – Last October, I signed a contract with Josiah Mooney of Care Continuum to lead us in developing the Ladies of Charity Caregiving, Inc. After considerable research and questionnaires to local Ladies of Charity associations, it was decided that our pilot program would begin in Pittsburgh, PA. We plan to go “live” this fall. As of September 21, 2018, the Ladies of Charity

Continued on page 6

Caregiving received its license from the state of Pennsylvania and has since applied to Medicaid to work as a Medicaid provider. Its status as a nonprofit organization is pending. We continue to receive funding from outside sources, including Daughters of Charity and other foundations.

#5 - Mission Market - In May 2018, LCUSA hired Natalie Newton to direct the Mission Market. She has been working with the Daughters of Charity skill centers to determine the goods we wish to sell and has been working with an outside company to set up the website. The purpose of the Mission Market is two-fold - to provide women in underdeveloped countries with a source of income and to provide an income stream for LCUSA. The Mission Market office is also in Kansas City at the Seton Center, where Natalie can be reached at 816-832-6300 (land-line) or 816-400-2945 (cell). Thank you to MMI and Ascension for the grants underwriting the start-up costs for this project. The website should be "live" in early November. Check us out at www.lcusamissionmarket.com.

#6 - New associations - In March 2018, sixteen women were installed as Ladies of Charity in our newest association in Gallup, New Mexico. Bishop James Wall, Diocese of Gallup, presided at the Mass and installation of the new Ladies of Charity. Sr. Elizabeth Racko, D.C. and I participated in Bishop Wall's Pod cast, talking about the Ladies of Charity. In November 2018 a new Ladies of Charity Association will be formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Also underway are a new association in South Carolina and Santa Barbara, California.

#7 - Vincentian Family Leadership Meeting - Last October, I attended a meeting of the Vincentian Family Leadership, a group of approximately twenty leaders in the Vincentian Family, including priests of the Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity, Sisters of Charity, members of St. Vincent de Paul Society. During that meeting we shared feedback on the Vincentian Family Gathering in San Antonio, "Welcome the Stranger," heard from attendees of the Vincentian Symposium in Rome, discussed important events happening in the different branches, and most importantly, focused on how to attract younger members to our organizations. We listened to two speakers, one of whom, Kat O'Loughlin, will be presented at the assembly in Pittsburgh.

In October, 2018, I attended the leadership meeting which was held in Baltimore, MD. The focus of this meeting was the FamVin Homeless Alliance. At our assembly in Pittsburgh, the Ladies of Charity passed a resolution to support this alliance.

#8 - Closing of the 400th Anniversary - In December 2017, I traveled to Washington D.C. for the celebration of the closing of the 400th Anniversary of our founding by St. Vincent de Paul. Beside the Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, which was the blessing of the Trinity Dome, the highlights of my visit were dinner with some of the Ladies of Washington D.C. and our visit to St. Ann's Family Center in Hyattsville, MD. The Ladies of Charity of Washington D.C. support St. Ann's, which offers housing and support programs to women, children and families.

9 - Farewell to Members on the National Board:

December 31, 2018 will mark the exit of the following women from the National Board of Directors, who have contributed their time and talent (and treasure!) to LCUSA. Each of these women have spent at least six years on the National Board. Thank you for your devoted service. We will miss your contributions, but trust that God will send the right women to replace you!

Northeastern Region: Kathleen Kavanaugh
North Central Region: Donna Montague
Southern Region: Mary Cay Murray, Winona Nelson
Western Region: Teresa Ward
Representative of Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Irene Freschette
LCUSA Representative on Catholic Charities Board: Connie O'Brien

10 - Committees:

The board consists of eight committees (four planning committees and four standing committees) and each board member serves on at least one committee.

Communications Committee - Kathy Kavanaugh, Chairperson.

This committee oversees the publication of the Servicette and all postings to our social media. In anticipation of her resignation from the board, Kathy has been working closely with Rosa Avina to oversee the website and social media. Irene Siedlarczyk took over the helm of the Servicette when Kathleen Sieracki resigned from the board in 2016.

Thanks to the services of Monica Watson, we have kept up with communications on our social media - our website (www.aic.ladiesofcharity.us) and our facebook page Ladies of Charity USA. Please "Subscribe" to get e-mail notifications of any current postings to our website.

We welcome all news from your associations. Please contact any of these women if you want to contribute to the Servicette, Facebook, or the Website.

Spirituality Committee - Peggy Keene, Chairperson

This committee develops and processes materials for the local associations and Vincentian Spiritual Moderators to deepen the Vincentian incarnational spirituality of our members. In 2016, LCUSA published the Vincentian Spirituality and Formation for Ladies of Charity of the United States of America. This book is a great resource for the Spiritual Moderators in conducting prayer services and formation in the local associations. It is also available for individual members. There are copies of this for sale at the assembly.

Also, in 2016, LCUSA began a Vincentian Spiritual Moderators' training for lay women. Last year we commissioned nine women as Lay Spiritual Moderators. Five more women will be commissioned this year. With the grace of God, we will be able to continue this training. If you feel you are being called to be a Lay Spiritual Moderators, please contact Peggy Keene.

Advocacy Committee - Mary Ann Dantuono, Chairperson

This committee assists the National Board and Local Associations to engage in advocacy through establishing

theme Issues, working with regional advocacy liaisons and other partners such as “Voice of the Poor” and Catholic Charities USA. The Committee will integrate “systemic change methodology” and collaboration with the Vincen-tian Family in Advocacy efforts.

This year the concerns of the advocacy committee have included Care, Migration, Violence against women and Traf-ficking, and Support for Family Caregivers. See the web-site for more information on how you can be an advocate.

Membership Committee – Mary Cay Murray, Chairperson

This committee promotes and encourages the formation and growth of local associations and junior associations, and reviews, updates and proposes changes to the Associ-ation President’s Handbook and membership manual. As a reminder, the A.R.M. (Association Resource Manual) can be accessed on the website.

The focus this year has been on Junior Ladies of Charity – spirituality and formation – and on ways in which associa-tions can attract younger women to Ladies of Charity. The committee has produced a handbook for the Junior Ladies, which is available at this assembly.

We have invited the Junior Ladies to this assembly, and have made some special programs available to them.

Standing Committees include:

Finance Committee – Debbie Chadwick, Chairperson

This committee prepares the budget for approval by the board of directors, monitors the revenues, expenditures and investments, and identifies, develops and evaluates new and existing sources of income and fundraising. A member of this committee also participates as an advisee on the Assembly Committee and Caregiving and Mission Market.

They are currently evaluating alternate sources of fund-ing to support the Mission of LCUSA.

By-Laws Committee, Margaret Hanson, Chairperson

This committee reviews the bylaws periodically, receives suggestions for amendments to the bylaws and is alert to any changes needed in the Directors Handbook. This com-mittee reports to and brings these to the attention of the Board of Directors. In the event of a proposed change to the by-laws, the Committee works with the National Assembly committee to shepherd the proposed change to a vote.

This year there is a suggested change to the By-Laws regarding the procedure to be followed when replacing a board member between election years. A copy of that change is provided in this folder.

National Assembly Committee, Peggy Keene, Chairperson

Working with the Local committee, this committee, select-ed by the President, produces an Annual National Assembly.

We are planning the assembly for 2019 in Salt Lake City and are looking forward to Knoxville in 2020. The as-semblies are held on a rotating schedule between regions – Northeastern, North Central, Mid Atlantic, Western and Southern. It is never too early to express an interest in hosting the assembly in your region.

Nominating Committee, Holly Walter, Chairperson

Elections are held biannually, in the even years, with the office to take effect January 1, of the following year. This committee is formed at the first board meeting of the new year and consists of a representative from each region. These women are charged with the responsi-bility of soliciting women to participate on the National Board as directors and presenting the Board of Direc-tors with a slate of officers – President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer – to be approved at the appropriate Na-tional Assembly. This year’s nominating committee was comprised of Holly Walter, Northeastern Region; Karen Radu, Mid-Atlantic Region; Theresa Ward, Western Re-gion and Mary Nell Williams, North Central Region and Mary Cay Murray, Southern Region.

#11 – **Other Board Responsibilities** – At our board meet-ing in April 2018, we reviewed the Board of Directors’ Handbook. Suggestions were made to update the handbook, which are currently being incorporated. We hope to have this revised handbook available by the end of this year.

#12 – **Thoughts and Reflections** – As I began this report, it caused me to reflect on the goals I had committed to at the beginning of my presidency. I feel that no goal was totally accomplished, though we (LCUSA) have tak-en small steps toward accomplishing each.

1) Reaching out to new (younger) members – Thanks to the hard work of the membership committee, an empha-sis has been put on attracting young women to Junior Ladies of Charity. They have produced a great hand-book to use with the young women. In addition, we in-vided Kat O’Loughlin, Associate Director of Mission and Ministry at the College of Mount St. Vincent, to speak to us about engaging young adults in our ministry.

2) Finding a more sustainable method of financing our operations – This is an ongoing goal of the Finance Committee. Hopefully, the Mission Market will become successful and will provide an income stream upon which LCUSA can rely.

3) Encouraging associations to engage in “transforma-tive” works with those in poverty. Thursday, prior to the assembly this year, we are offered an in-depth look at “Bridges Out of Poverty- Getting Ahead in a Just Get-ting by World,” a program that brings under-resourced individuals together to better understand their current living conditions, community resources and to develop their own plan for getting out of poverty. Some asso-ciations are already involved in this program, and their participants have successfully changed their future.

4) Ladies of Charity associations continue to stress ed-ucation as one of the most important solutions to mov-ing people from poverty.

Finally, as my term as President ends, I am thankful to God for all of you, and all you do to serve God’s poor. Remember to “Embrace the Future.” Those in poverty depend on you!

Suzanne Johnson, President



Photography courtesy of Chuck Austin and Peggy Keene.

LCUSA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2018

By Chris Young, LCUSA Board Director, Western Region

PITTSBURGH – The Diocese of Pittsburgh hosted the AIC-Ladies of Charity USA for its 38th annual assembly building on last year's 400th anniversary and its founding by St. Vincent de Paul in France in 1617. The 2018 theme was "Remember the Past: Embrace the Future," enhancing the words of St. Louise de Marillac, "Do not believe that things will always be as they are now."

With 1,500 members, the Diocese of Pittsburgh Ladies of Charity, the largest association, welcomed more than 400 members from five regions across the country with hundreds of cookies – a Pittsburgh tradition that was a hit throughout the week.

The assembly opened with a Mass celebrated by Vincentian Father Richard Gielow, who has served as the LCUSA Spiritual Moderator for the past 30 years. "If you don't know where you are going, you will end up somewhere else. The only place I want to go, is Heaven," he said in his homily.

The first step to the kingdom is conversion – the Road to Emmaus – that is why we are called to greatness. "Everything I am today is because of the Daughters of Charity and my parents," he said. "The second step is to care for our brothers and sisters – the Road to Jericho. In the third step we are called home. That is why we come to the table to receive our Lord. It's all based on faith.

Throughout the assembly, the ladies were blessed with the presence of St. Louise de Marillac (Tish Bridges), St. Vincent de Paul (Paul Bianculli) and Elizabeth Ann Seton (Sr. Mary Clark), who were introduced by Peggy Keene, LCUSA Secretary and Co-chairperson of the assembly. "We must keep our hearts open to the 1617 Ladies of Charity and the 1633 Daughters of Charity. With God's help, our work continues," she said. "It was St. Louise's truly divine providence that brought us together. St. Louise felt herself so deeply united to God who

sent her to work under poor conditions to boost morale and to train women, who were able to see God's face in the poor. Now 400 years later we are chosen by God to serve the poor all over the world."

"Where are the prophets and prophetic voices?" asked Fr. Gielow in his presentation "Where Does the road Ahead Lead You?" That is our challenge today. The Ladies of Charity have an incredible past, he said.



The Ladies of Charity have gone from a group that were the pastor's auxiliaries who took care of receptions to advocates for women's rights so that women get equal pay for equal work, and advocates for the migrants who must be treated with dignity. They are so concerned about the poor, the homeless and the hungry that it drives them. That kind of a history is the mosaic that makes up the Ladies of Charity. St. Vincent, St. Louise and Elizabeth Ann Seton have colored and shaped their mosaic.

Their Home Health Care project is not only for the Ladies of Charity but for the world and they are going to be in the forefront, Fr. Gielow said. They are called to embrace the future, which doesn't exist, there is only the past and the present. "Look forward to tomorrow because of what you do today," he said. "We must plan ahead – it was not raining when Noah built the Ark," Fr. Gielow said.

"Today we need you to boast in the Lord: your history and your past and move to the future that doesn't exist and it must be about hope," he said. "You have the ability to make a difference in this world. Joy thieves, like pessimism, negativism and indifference, will slow you down. Identify those thieves and change them into excitement and joy. And don't worry."

Dr. Marilyn Martone, who served as a LCUSA director from New York was instrumental in establishing the LCUSA Caregiving, Inc. "How do we remain faithful to another human being when the rest of society might refer to that human being as damaged goods? There is nothing damaged about them."

Martone was referring to her daughter Michelle, who suffered a brain injury almost 20 years ago when she was 21.



"There is nothing damaged about her. She is different, she is unique, she is special, and I am convinced she is my road to salvation," she said as the group gathered at the assembly watched at touching video of Martone's daughter singing while receiving music therapy. Before the accident she loved to sing and she continues to do so.

Martone is a public speaker and moral theologian, a retired Associate professor of theology from St. John's University who represented the Holy See at the United Nations on



Women's issues, served on various hospital committees and disability ethics and an author.

There are three prongs of home health care, which is the fastest growing need in our country said Martone. The first prong is organizing health care in society so it does not become burdensome; people are gifts and should be treated with dignity.



The second prong is taking care of the care givers. It took Martone at least five years to get a team for her daughter in place. A relationship must be developed with the members of the team. They need to know their patient's needs and treat them with dignity.

The third prong is establishing webs of relationships, having a central focus, and providing the best holistic health care in the United States.

"This LCUSA project will not work without the help of all the Ladies of Charity," said Martone. "We are a nonprofit and our goal is to address both spiritual and physical needs; the need to provide quality jobs and just wages for our employees, and the need to provide quality care for as many individuals as possible. Right now we have a skeleton program and cannot offer the sliding scale of care to help those who are not yet on Medicaid but cannot afford to pay the full price for our services. But I know the Ladies of Charity and I know how they care for those in need, and together we will find a way."

Daughter of Charity Sister Elyse Staab in her presentation "Finding God in the Experience," said sometimes it is not easy to recognize God's presence in our encounters with others, but apostolic reflection allows us to refer back to an event. Apostolic reflection is a process that helps Christians look at our encounters to see how God is present even though we might not have been aware.

"The more we practice apostolic reflection, the more we will see God," she said. "When it is practiced by ourselves or together, God is present. A sister will go visit the poor 10 times a day and 10 times a day she will find God there," said Sr. Elyse. "It's important to remember that God is already there in the person or the situation before we ever get there. Sometimes we lose sight of this in the emotion of the encounter. If we truly believe that God is present in every experience, then we won't be surprised to find him in the difficult encounters we might have."

The concept originated from a Vincentian model that recognized the presence of God in the lives of the poor, leading Christians to treat them with reverence, dignity and respect, said Sr. Elyse. The Ladies of Charity also see the face of Christ in the poor they serve.

Continued on page 10



Continued from page 9

Sr. Elyse serves in Macon, Ga., and is the Vincentian family coordinator for the Province of St. Louise in St. Louis.

Kat O'Laughlin, Campus Minister at St. Anselm College, speaking about engaging young adults, told us young people today crave a faith community and crave having friends. They constantly want a face to face experience with someone else. Statistically speaking they are less likely to go to Mass and less likely to understand the Catholic doctrine. How can we get young people to meet Jesus? "Service is the answer," she said. "Invite and reach out to them. The idea of needing the young and their skills is what they need to hear. Invite them to join and start building a community. Plan events for young adults. They have good ideas and are more connected across the world and they have opinions. Invite them to share."

"Change is the only constant in life," said Father Joseph Mele, the Episcopal vicar for leadership development for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, who gave a presentation on "The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same." He went on to speak about kerygma, which means to proclaim. How we handle change is the most important thing.

"When an act is done in God's name it is transformative it is not just another act of service," Fr. Mele said. The Ladies of Charity work hard; they are no nonsense kind of women who: 1) are passionate; never kick another when they are down, 2) diverse, endearing, loyal, not afraid of originality, authentic, 3) great pride for other's accomplishments, 4) close to one another, 5) generous, will do the lowly task, 6) well informed, explain why things matter, 7) encourage vocations, 8) never forget the elderly or former members, everyone is a gift from God, 9) members attend the assemblies, 10) create bonds and relationships.

The Ladies learned about Blessed Rosalie Rendu from Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C. Rosalie lived her entire adult life in the Mouffetard District in Paris, among the poorest of the poor. All the works she started are still there, now run by the government. "I never prayed so well as in the streets." Rosalie was so loved by those she served that at her death, 50,000 to 70,000 people followed her casket to the cemetery.

Prior to Mass celebrated by Bishop David Zubik, Fr. Gielow concluded the assembly by urging us to be prophets – those who say yes to change for the benefit of others. The risk is worth the reward.



LCUSA LEADERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020



Debbie Chadwick (President) and Suzanne Johnson (Past President)

DEBBIE CHADWICK (PRESIDENT)

Debbie Chadwick is the new president of LCUSA and will serve in this role for all of 2019 and 2020. She joined the Ladies of Charity in 1987. She served as the President of the Nashville organization and co-chaired the 2010 National Assembly that also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Nashville LOC.

On the LCUSA National Board of Directors, Debbie joined the board in 2007 and has held every elected office (Treasurer 2009-2010, Secretary 2013-2016, President Elect 2018-2018 and now President 2019-2020) as well as serving a term as Finance Chair 2017-2018.

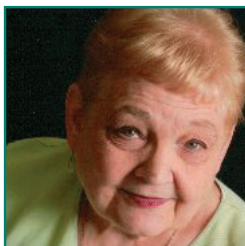
Professionally, Debbie is President and CEO of a non-profit organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Debbie has been married for 43 years and has four sons, four grandsons and one granddaughter.

SUZANNE JOHNSON (PAST PRESIDENT)

Suzanne Johnson of Los Angeles will continue her participation on the board as Past President. She joined the LCUSA board in 2011 and has served as western regional vice president, treasurer and chair of the Finance and Development Committee, president-elect and president. She was privileged to chair the 400th celebration in Kansas City and the recent assembly in Pittsburgh, PA.

Professionally, Suzanne is both an accountant and an attorney specializing in immigration issues. A native of Kansas City, Suzanne travels to Kansas City to visit her daughter and grandchildren. These visits also enable her to "check-in" at the National office in Kansas City. Suzanne and her husband Roger also enjoy traveling, with their most recent travel being a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

She is looking forward to her role as past president, continuing her roles on the Caregiving Board of Directors and Mission Market Board and supporting Debbie Chadwick, our new President.



PEGGY KEENE (PRESIDENT ELECT)

Peggy Keene is the current President Elect for the LCUSA National Board of Directors. She has served in multiple roles in the Association of Ladies of Charity Diocese of Pittsburgh including Treasurer and President. She was President and is now Secretary of the Madonna/Word of God Ladies of Charity. Peggy was the co-chairman of the 2018 LCUSA Assembly in Pittsburgh.

She is the current news editor for the DeMarillac News Letter/ Association of Ladies of Charity Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Peggy has been the office manager for a private Allergy/Immunology Practice since 1979. She is a widow with four children and four grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, music, theater, travel, sports (she is from Pittsburgh!), bible study and many church activities on a local and diocesan level including being a Eucharistic Minister and serving on her parish council.

**VICTORIA SHOAF (TREASURER)**

Victoria Shoaf, Ph.D., CPA, is a Professor in the Department of Accountancy at the Peter J. Tobin College of Business at St. John's University. She holds a Ph.D. in Business (Accounting) from Baruch College of the City University of New York. After joining the Tobin College of Business in 1997, she went on to serve as the Chair of the Department of Accounting & Taxation (2007-2008), the

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College (2008-2010) and the Dean of the College (2010-2016).

Victoria has published in such peer-reviewed journals as the Journal of Business Ethics, the International Business and Economics Research Journal, the Journal of Applied Business Research, the Journal of Accounting and Finance Research, and the Review of Business, and she has published three book chapters. She is an active member of the American Accounting Association and has served on the Board (2004-2007) and as the President of the Northeast Region (2005-2006) of that organization.

Prior to joining St. John's, Victoria held several leadership positions in industry, including Vice President-Finance for Tie Rack, Inc., and Controller at Laura Ashley, Inc. and at Greeff Fabrics, Inc. She is currently on the Board of the Queens-Brooklyn Chapter of the New York State Society of CPAs, where she served as President in 2008-2009.

Victoria is a member of the Ladies of Charity, St. John's Chapter, where she serves as Chair of the Finance Committee. She has also served on the Board of the Ladies of Charity USA as the Treasurer since 2016.

**KATHLEEN SIERACKI (SECRETARY)**

Kathleen Sieracki enrolled in the Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Buffalo in 1997. She began a more active role after retirement from paid employment, beginning with volunteering for clerical duties, and advancing to service on the advisory board. She was president of the local board in 2004-2006, and 2016-2018. Kathleen continues to volunteer weekly at the association's thrift store,

which gives her the opportunity to collaborate regularly with other members, and to provide direct service to the needy and lonely people who patronize the store.

She served on the LCUSA Board of Directors from 2011-2016, as a director and regional vice-president for the Northeastern Region, and as editor of the Servicette.

Kathleen has a very high regard for the mission and efforts of Ladies of Charity. From her earliest involvement, she has been humbled in witnessing the individual amazing and generous women who work together to sustain the association and achieve remarkable results.

**IRENE SIEDLARCZYK (VICE PRESIDENT NORTHEASTERN REGION)**

Irene Siedlarczyk has been a member of the Ladies of Charity in Binghamton, New York for over 20 years. She has served on the executive board as budget chairman for several years and previously was responsible for the organization's newsletter. Irene is currently the LCUSA North Eastern Region Vice President and

is editor of the Servicette. She has been on the LCUSA National Board since 2017.

Professionally, Irene retired in December 2015 after 34 years with IBM, Loral and Lockheed Martin companies. She has significant

experience in Project Management, Engineering Personnel Management, Electrical and Systems Engineering. Irene has been President of the Kopernik Society for the past 7 years. The primary mission of the Kopernik Society is to promote science, technology, engineering and math education for the community with a focus on Pre-K - grade 12. The Kopernik Society is a non-profit organization responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Kopernik Observatory and Science Center in Vestal, NY.

Irene is a member of Saint Joseph's Church in Endicott, NY and on the Parish Council. She is a widow. Her husband Carroll James Baker died in 1998. She has two married step daughters and three grandchildren all of whom live on the west coast. Irene shares a home with her mother Molly Siedlarczyk. Molly is a past president of the local Ladies of Charity and also served on the LOC National Board. Travel is a passion of Irene's and she has visited 23 countries. In 2016 she completed her lifelong goal of visiting all 50 states.

**HOLLY WALTER (DIRECTOR NORTHEASTERN REGION)**

Holly Walter has been a Lady of Charity since 2008 and is the current president of St. Mary's Parish Ladies of Charity in Lancaster, NY. She is a member of the advisory board and Advocacy chair for the Ladies of Charity Diocese of Buffalo, and was installed in 2017 as the Spiritual Moderator of Diocese of Buffalo Ladies of Charity.

Holly also has served on the LCUSA National Board of Directors since 2017, was the nominations chair for 2018, member of the Advocacy Committee and is responsible for solicitations for the Madagascar Twining Project.

Holly is very involved in two churches (St Leo the Great in Amherst and St. Mary of the Assumption in Lancaster, NY) acting in one or both churches as lector, Eucharistic minister, choir member and cantor. She is also the current director of parish outreach, chair of the social justice committee and chair of evangelization committee at St. Mary of the Assumption Church. Professionally, Holly taught elementary catholic school both full time and as a substitute until retiring in 2015. She also taught religious education from 1974-2015.

In her personal life, Holly has been married to her husband Michael since 1974 and has two children (Dr. Michelle M. Walter - Roswell Park Memorial Cancer Institute and Christopher A. Walter - Computer Engineer). She also has twin grandchildren Evelyn and Alexander that she loves dearly.

**NATALIE BOONE (DIRECTOR NORTHEASTERN REGION)**

Natalie Boone grew up in Pittsburgh and graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a BS in Medical Technology. She was a clinical microbiology tech within the University of Pittsburgh medical complex and after her move to New York, worked at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as a microbiology supervisor and then as an Infection Control Practitioner until her retirement.

She is a charter member of the St. John's University Ladies of Charity association, formed in 2009. She has served as the association's finance chairman, secretary, vice-president, and president as well as being the co-chair of the 2016 National Assembly. Natalie has been an AIC representative at the United Nations since 2010 and also sits on the LCUSA Advocacy Committee sharing UN foci.

She is the coordinator of the food pantry at Our Lady of Hope in Carle Place, NY. Natalie has been married for 44 years to Larry, a now-retired St. John's University management professor. They have one son, Andrew.

Continued on page 12



**KAREN RADU (VICE PRESIDENT
MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL)**

Karen Radu was invested into the Ladies of Charity in 2009 through her parish of St. Louise de Marillac and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. She served as 1st Vice President and currently is the Spiritual Chairperson for ALCDP and Extension Chairperson. Karen has served on the LCUSA National Board of Directors since 2015 and currently is the Middle Atlantic Region Vice President and serves on the Spirituality Committee.

In 2009, Karen organized a group of women who loved to sew and wanted to do something to help other women with their breast cancer treatment. They designed and sewed a robe they call Dignity Robes of St. Louise to make the uncomfortable process of radiation more bearable and dignified for them. They now provide robes to six hospitals in the Pittsburgh area and have made more than 5,000 robes since starting the ministry.

Karen has been married for 47 years to her husband Dan and has two daughters and two grandchildren (and a grand-dog named Nico). She also has a West Highland white terrier named Frankie who joined their family last winter.



**DEBORAH SELF (DIRECTOR
MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION)**

Deborah Self is a member of the Middle Atlantic Region and part of the local Ladies of Charity in Lanham, Maryland. She has been a Lady of Charity since 1999 and a member of the LCUSA National Board of Directors since 2017. Her parish is St. Matthias the Apostle with about 25 LOC. They have a pantry, visit the homebound, give to needy families allowing the children to participate in school activities, and a giving tree for Christmas. Deborah volunteered and was elected to be the Archdiocese of Washington President. Her goals are to improve communication and increase membership.

Deborah's professional experience is as a Registered Nurse. She retired after 40 years of hospital nursing which allowed her to fulfill her passion of providing care to others.

She has 3 children that have given her 3 grandchildren, Nathan, Julia and Caroline, the loves of her life. They keep her busy when visiting, and she Facetimes them frequently to keep up with their activities. She is their "BB".

Being a Lady of Charity has given Deborah the opportunity to meet other Ladies and network to bring new ideas to the local units. "We all try to do the best we can to help others in need especially when you see the face of Christ in the poor. They can be so grateful for the littlest thing done for them." She feels honored to help as much as possible as a Lady of Charity.



**NANCY BIANCULLI (DIRECTOR
MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION)**

Nancy Bianculli has been a Lady of Charity for six years. She is currently the Treasurer of the Word of God Parish Ladies of Charity in Pittsburgh. She has been the Junior Ladies of Charity Moderator on the Pittsburgh Diocese Board for four years and was the underwriting, sponsor and program book chair for the 2018 LCUSA National Assembly in Pittsburgh. Nancy has served on the LCUSA National Board of Directors since 2017 and was instrumental in writing the new handbook for the Junior Ladies of Charity.

Nancy has worked as a Registered Nurse at UPMC Mercy for 42 years. She has been married 24 years to her wonderful husband Paul and has one daughter and two grandchildren.



**MARY NELL WILLIAMS
(VICE PRESIDENT
NORTH CENTRAL REGION)**

Mary Nell Williams is a co-founder and charter member of the re-founded Ladies of Charity - Indianapolis and is past co-president and current member of the board. She is the current LCUSA North Central Region Vice President. Mary Nell is involved in many non-profit organizations and activities too numerous to list. Of note, she is an Affiliate of the Daughters of Charity, President of the St. Vincent School of Nursing Alumnae Association and supporter of the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaigns.

Mary Nell's professional experience includes 25 years as a Neonatal Intensive Care nurse at City Hospital, St. Louis and St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis. She worked in various leadership positions including manager of the NICU and co-facilitator of the parents' bereavement support group. From 1994 -2016 she administered the financial assistance program for the associates of all St. Vincent Health across the State of Indiana as well as serving other important roles. Currently she is Coordinator of Facilities, St. Vincent Seton Cove Spirituality Center, St. Vincent Health, Indianapolis. She also co-facilitates spirituality programs and retreats, provides hospitality for guests and plans and executes Mission Integration projects.

Mary Nell is the oldest of five children. Two of her sisters have died; one of ovarian cancer and the other of acute congestive heart failure. She never married and has no children. She is very close to her remaining sister and brother as well as their families and her nieces and nephews. She enjoys time with her family and many friends, walking, gardening, nature, travel and photography.

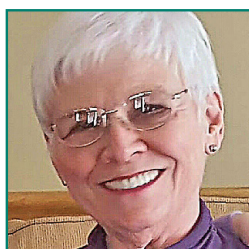


**JANE HAAS (DIRECTOR
NORTH CENTRAL REGION)**

Jane Haas has been a member of the Ladies of Charity of Quincy, Illinois since 2007. She joined the local board in 2011 and has served as president of her local organization since 2012. She has worked in the children's clothing area for 5 years. Jane has been a member of the LCUSA National Board of Directors since 2017.

Jane's professional experience is as an elementary and preschool teacher for 30 years, primarily in parochial schools. She is involved in other important organizations such as Right to Life of Adams County, Cursillos of Christianity and served in multiple roles in her church (St. Francis Solanus Church).

Jane is originally from St. Louis where her three siblings and mother still live. She married her husband Robert on August 9th, 1975 and moved to Quincy in 1977. She has four children - three boys and one girl (plus four children-in-law) and nine grandchildren.



**RUTH WELLMAN (DIRECTOR
NORTH CENTRAL REGION)**

Ruth has been married to Sam Wellman for 46 years and they have two children, two grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Before retiring, her work experience included making international travel arrangements for missionaries, teachers, and medical personnel offering services to those in underprivileged foreign countries.

This year Ruth is serving on the Program Committee, specifically providing table decorations for the Kansas City association's general meetings. Participation in Ladies of Charity has been very rewarding to Ruth, especially helping with the 2017 National Assembly held in Kansas City during the organization's 400th

Anniversary. She is honored to serve on the LCUSA Board of Directors.

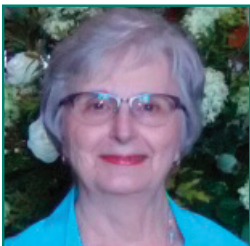


ANNELIES GEELLEN (VICE PRESIDENT SOUTHERN REGION)

Annelies Geelen was born and raised in The Netherlands, the middle child of seven (two brothers and four sisters), and attended all girl Catholic schools. She met her husband in 1965 and celebrated 52 years of marriage on October 7, 2018. She has three daughters and nine grandchildren. Annelies came on assignment to the USA a few times, before immigrating to California in 1979. She and her family explored this country for some time, and travelled all over the world.

Annelies joined the LOC of San Francisco toward the end of the 90's. She recognized this organization as a great group, and they did lots of work. They helped at Mount St. Joseph St. Elizabeth, a home for women on substances, helped at a soup kitchen, took care of AID's people, and visited nursing homes. It was a very active group.

She taught and coached tennis for 26 years at the junior high school level and was the president for about 20 years of the organization that sponsored the after-school program MTP (mid-peninsula tennis program). Annelies now live in North Carolina and is trying to start a local LOC organization, not an easy thing to do, but she does have some support.



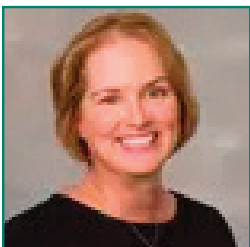
MARLYSS GILES (DIRECTOR SOUTHERN REGION)

Marlyss Giles and her family were introduced to the Daughters of Charity in 1974 when they became members of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Tallassee, Alabama. The contagious Vincentian spirit exhibited to her by the Vincentian pastor and his pastoral assistant, a Daughter of Charity, was responsible for a meaningful relationship to the present.

The Vincentian spirit stayed with Marlyss throughout her career working in St. Margaret's Hospital in Montgomery, Alabama and St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. She is now retired after 31 years working with the Daughters of Charity. Marlyss had many opportunities for spiritual and work-related growth as assistant to the president of the hospital as well as other important roles involving mission services. The charism of the founders came alive and a deep sense of responsibility to continue in their footsteps was nurtured. After retirement, the Daughters of Charity honored Marlyss with an affiliateship, which was a humbling experience for her and one that she has cherished.

Following retirement in 2005, Marlyss became involved with founding the Ladies of Charity association in Birmingham. She also has volunteered with Meals-on-Wheels, Care Team, as lector and Eucharistic minister at church and for patients at the hospital, and rosary making for the Cancer Center and Chapel at the hospital.

Marlyss married an Air Force NCO and is the mother of six children and grandmother of six as well. She enjoys travelling both domestic and internationally and recently attended the Vincentian Gathering in Rome with one of her daughters. They also went to Fatima, Portugal during the last week of the 100th anniversary celebration of the Fatima apparitions.



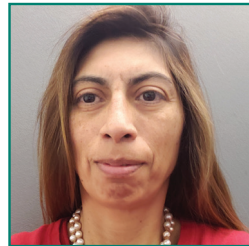
SUSAN UNBEHAUN (DIRECTOR SOUTHERN REGION)

Susan Unbehaun, Ladies of Charity Knoxville Executive Director, has an active and vital role serving the community of Knoxville. As Director, she oversees the emergency assistance program, thrift store operations and fundraising. The thrift store and emergency assistance

program has provided many volunteer opportunities and a few jobs for individuals who struggle with barriers to employment.

Susan graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is a graduate of the University of Tennessee Consortium for Social Enterprise Effectiveness, and a 2017 nominee for the YWCA Tribute to Women. She is currently a board secretary of the North Knoxville Business and Professional Association and a National Board Member of the Southern Region of Ladies of Charity of the United States as Advocacy Committee Representative.

She is married with three children and resides in Knoxville. Her interests include trips to the Smoky Mountains to bike or run.



ROSA AVINA (VICE PRESIDENT WESTERN REGION)

Rosa Avina has been doing homeless outreach on Saturday mornings since 2015. The homeless community has always had a special place in her heart because she always thinks if circumstances were different, it could be her out there. When she see them on the street, she see someone's son, brother, uncle, cousin, friend. The San

Fernando Region Ladies of Charity members have always been so kind and generous in the community. Rosa was honored to be asked to join.

Professionally, Rosa has done a little bit here and there. She was in the United States Air Force for six years, stationed in England for three years. She has worked for the American Red Cross for over 12 years as a Donor Counselor.

Overall it's her faith community at St. Charles Borromeo in North Hollywood that has taught her and supported Rosa in her journey to keeping faithful to God in prayer and service.



CHRIS YOUNG (DIRECTOR WESTERN REGION)

Chris Young is a member of the Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Salt Lake City and has served on the national board as a Director and Interim Vice President. Chris is heavily involved in making the 2019 LCUSA National Assembly, to be held in Salt Lake City, a successful event. Chris has written many articles for the

LCUSA Servicette including a detailed summary of past national assemblies.

Professionally, Chris is a highly qualified journalist and public relations manager. She has 20 years experience promoting fund raising events, writing and distributing press releases, radio and television spots, scheduling and appearing in radio and television interviews and promoting awareness of programs available. She works writing, editing, photographing stories, interviewing story individuals, scenes, sites and that which makes up a story. Chris works in an editorial capacity for the Intermountain Catholic Newspaper in Salt Lake City; the diocesan newspaper for Utah.

Chris currently serves as the Education Director for Saint Olaf Parish, Bountiful, Utah and has for the past 10 years. She is a member of the Catholic Press Association, St. Benedict's Foundation board member and Bountiful Community That Cares committee member. Chris previously lived in Anchorage, Alaska.

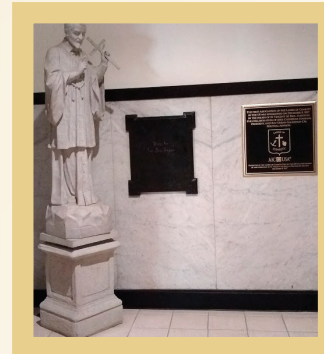


LCUSA ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH, ST. LOUIS, PLAQUE DEDICATION AND BLESSING

Mary Nell, Vice President, North Central Region, LCUSA



Daughters of Charity with LCUSA Plaque December 8, 2017



LCUSA Plaque Mounted at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, St. Louis

A special plaque was dedicated and blessed on December 8th 2017, at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish in St. Louis. The words on the plaque are as follows:

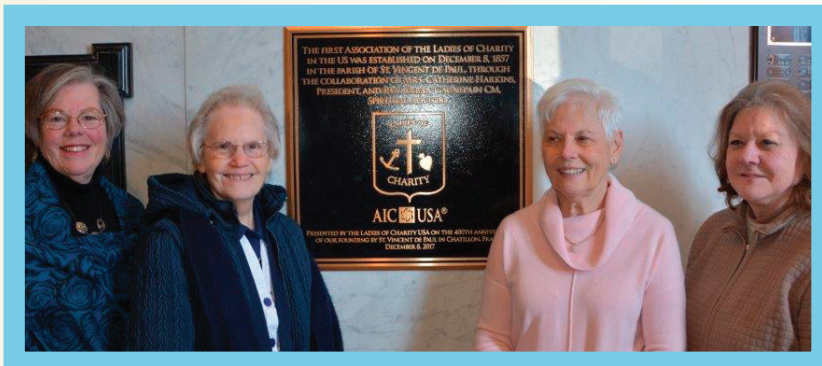
The first association of the Ladies of Charity in the US was established on December 8, 1857 in the Parish of St. Vincent de Paul through the collaboration of Mrs. Catherine Harkins, President and Rev. Urban Gagnepain CM, Spiritual Advisor.

Presented by the Ladies of Charity USA on the 400th Anniversary of our founding by St. Vincent de Paul in Chatillon, France.

This event was attended by Ladies of Charity and Daughters of Charity and was a beautiful, spiritual experience. In addition, a reporter and photographer from the St. Louis Review were present. The text of the article is here in this edition of the Servicette. The supporting photographs can be found online at the associated link.



Joan Stanard, Ladies of Charity President, St. Vincent de Paul Parish and Fr. Ed Murphy, CM, Pastor



L to R - Mary Nell Williams, Vice President, North Central Region, LCUSA; Sister Carol Schumer, Vincentian Spiritual Moderator; Joan Stanard, President, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, St. Louis, Ladies of Charity; Rosemarie Vohsen, President, St. Catherine Laboure Parish, St. Louis, Ladies of Charity

Joe Kenny – reprinted with permission from the St. Louis Review

The full article and supporting photos can be found at the following link <http://stlouisreview.com/article/2017-12-14/ladies-charity>

LADIES OF CHARITY QUIETLY ATTEND TO WORK OF SERVING OTHERS

Inside the spacious hall at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in south St. Louis, several women were busy sorting items and checking distribution plans for an annual Christmas gift-giving to residents of a nearby senior residence.

It's part of the Christmas program, the biggest operation of the year for the parish known for its ministry to poor and homeless people. But even on a typical weekday, members of the Ladies of Charity take part in a half-dozen or so other activities related to the parish outreach.

Their goal is "to serve rather than to be served." This year, the Ladies of Charity celebrated the 400th anniversary of its founding in France. On Dec. 8 this year, the group at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in south St. Louis dedicated a plaque presented to them by the national organization recognizing their association's role in the Ladies of Charity history.

Catherine Harkins began the outreach at the parish in 1857, the first association of the Ladies of Charity in the United States. A member of St. Vincent Parish, she had three nightly visions of St. Vincent trekking through the snow to gather needy children under his cloak. She shared her experiences with Vincentian priests who served the parish. Father Urban Gagnepain saw it as a sign for her to assemble a group of women to assist impoverished people. On Dec. 8 of that year, Harkins gathered 11 other women and formed the association.

The group began by helping people who were starving due to an economic depression caused by the panic of 1857. Their outreach widened to support orphans, senior citizens and destitute families. Today, in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, associations are at St. Vincent Parish in south St. Louis, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Perryville, St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Sappington and at the Ladies of Charity Service Center in St. Ann (formerly known as Caritas Center), which has a food pantry and thrift store. Women needn't be a member of one of the three parishes to join the Ladies of Charity.

Joan Stanard, president of the Ladies of Charity at the south St. Louis parish, served six years on the national board. She has been a member since 1999, when she retired and a friend, Judy Sieckhaus, invited her to become involved in the volunteer work.

"It's a big family," Stanard said. "And it's a very welcoming and loving parish."

Stanard's ties to St. Vincent go back to when she was 4 years old and attended Guardian Angel nursery school, which was operated nearby by the Daughters of Charity, and visited her grandmother, who belonged to the parish. Stanard is proud that the Ladies of Charity in the United States began at her parish. She's excited about a new home health care program being started by the Ladies of Charity USA that will provide the workers with dignity as co-owners and with job training. Another important new effort is a fair-trade initiative called mission market.

Pat Monroe also was invited to join the Ladies of Charity by Sieckhaus, becoming involved in 2010. "I started out gradually, and now it seems like I live here," Monroe said with a laugh.

Besides the outreach work, the Ladies of Charity at St. Vincent gather each fall for a day of recollection and have a May Crowning at the Daughters of Charity provincial house.

Peggy Brinkmann, a Lady of Charity from St. Catherine Laboure Parish who helped at the Christmas gift-giving preparations, looked at a stack of wrapped gifts surrounding a portrait of St. Vincent de Paul. "He's awesome," she said of the saint. "That's why we're here."

Founded by St. Vincent de Paul in 1617, the Ladies of Charity responded to the needs of the poor in 17th-century France. Together with St. Louise de Marillac, they went quietly about their tasks, seeking no recognition, satisfied with the knowledge that they were serving Christ in the person of the poor.

The Ladies of Charity, since their origin, have possessed the charism of their founder, daily prayer and personal service to the poor. That same Vincentian spirit characterizes the association today. It asks the personal gift of self, of time, devotion, sacrifices, and perseverance in the effort to bring dignity to each person and to respond with compassion to every human misery.

Continued on page 16

LADIES OF CHARITY SERVICE PROJECT FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO COMING TO BUFFALO NEW YORK AFTER HURRICANE MARIA



Ladies of Charity sorting items for hurricane Maria relocating to Buffalo

After Hurricane Maria struck the island of Puerto Rico, many people were left without electricity, water, and food. Many schools in Puerto Rico were closed and people lost their homes. In September, 2017, people started arriving in Buffalo, New York to resettle and find a new life. Buffalo was attractive for many because they already had families here and could stay with them and enroll their children in school. They needed help in resettling and Catholic Charities came to the rescue. The Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Buffalo, St. Vincent de Paul

Society of Buffalo and Catholic Charities worked together to help these American refugees from the storm get supplies, furniture, food, clothing, and other needed items.

The World Day of Prayer proposed by Pope Francis was planned as a day for the Ladies of Charity of Buffalo to pray for the poor, attend a Mass together that was dedicated to the poor, and share food and fellowship afterwards. Instead, the ladies were called into service to sort clothing and other items at the Catholic Charities Center in Lackawanna New York. The ladies came to this Caldwell site to sort a truck load of donated items and get them ready for distribution to the incoming displaced people of Puerto Rico. Over sixty women helped in the effort and everything went very smoothly all day long. The ladies shared a lunch provided by Catholic Charities and then went back to work. It was a job well done and a combined effort with Catholic Charities employees to sort, tag, and box up the donated items. Many of the items went to the Ladies of Charity thrift store locat-

ed on Broadway on the east side of Buffalo and others went directly to the hurricane victims.

Since the hurricane, over three hundred families, composed of over one thousand five hundred individuals, have been helped by Ladies of Charity Buffalo from referrals from Catholic Charities. These Puerto Rican families have been given clothing from that Day of Prayer service project and from other donations that poured in from around Western New York once the call went out that help was needed. The hurricane refugees have also received many household items, cleaning supplies, personal care products, and other items. In addition, the eight food pantries of the Diocese of Buffalo run by Catholic Charities have helped feed the influx of people coming from Puerto Rico. It goes to show that when people work together, many people who need help can receive what they need to thrive and start over. Ladies of Charity collaborate with many organizations to serve those who need help and this was a perfect example of that collaboration.



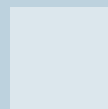
Over sixty women helped in the effort

Continued from page 15

In 1857, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in south St. Louis, Catherine Harkins extended the work of St. Vincent to the United States. The number of associations grew and in 1960 a national organization was established to offer consistent formation to all associations and to strengthen the bonds of charity.

There are 250,000 Ladies of Charity serving people who are less fortunate in 52 countries. In the United States, 8,000 Ladies serve in 68 associations in 21 states and the District of Columbia.

For information on the Ladies of Charity, visit www.ladiesofcharity.com. To join one of the associations in the archdiocese, contact St. Vincent de Paul Parish in south St. Louis, (314) 231-9328; St. Catherine Laboure Parish in south St. Louis, (314) 843-3245; St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Perryville, (573) 547-4591 and the Service Center in St. Ann, (314) 383-4207.



VISIT OF IRENE FRECHETTE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Holly Walter

On Friday, August 3, the Regional Vice President of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Irene Frechette, paid a visit to Western New York to visit our local St. Vincent de Paul president Larry Brooks. Holly Walter, Spiritual Moderator for the Diocese of Buffalo Ladies of Charity and member of the LCUSA national board, invited Irene to see our Ladies of Charity store at 1122 Broadway, Buffalo. Irene was very happy to come to the store and enjoyed looking at all the various donated items for sale, what goes on behind the scenes in the clothes sorting area, Catholic Charities staff employees and workers downstairs and the Layette, Christmas Toy, and Fresh Start programs upstairs. Irene also enjoyed meeting all the ladies volunteering in the various departments. Patra Mangus, store coordinator, gave a very good tour and both Irene and her husband Armond were very impressed. Irene and her husband are from Massachusetts and they travel throughout the Northeastern United States to visit various St. Vincent de Paul groups. They were impressed with the new waterfront development in Buffalo, the architecture, lack of traffic congestion, and most importantly, all of the wonderful ladies who



Irene Frechette, Patra Mangus coordinator for our LOC store in Buffalo and Armond Frechette Irene's husband in back row; Holly Walter is seated.

work at the store and their dedication to the poor of our area. Past president, Kathy Sieracki, and current president Kathy Roseti were able to join Irene and her husband and Holly at the store and helped represent what the Ladies of Charity of Buffalo do to aid those in need. Irene and her husband were delighted with their visit and were appreciative of how we all work together to help as many as possible.

LADIES OF CHARITY, INDIANAPOLIS THANKSGIVING DINNER 2018

Mary Nell Williams, Vice President, North Central Region

One of the ministries the Ladies of Charity Indianapolis support is the St. Vincent House, Indianapolis. It is a house of hospitality sponsored by St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis. It is a 20-bedroom house built by generous donors from the community and some well-known public figures. It stands on the same property that the Daughters of Charity house stood on prior to their leaving Indianapolis in July, 2014. It is 1 ½ years old and is open to those families and patients at St. Vincent who live at least 25 miles away from the hospital. A social worker evaluates their crisis situation and refers them for overnight housing. Our group cooked and hosted a Thanksgiving dinner there at the house. We had some very needy families and a couple of children who were also patients receiving treatment. Connor, a young boy in one of our pictures, made the experience all worth it for us. He said that the turkey was the best he had ever had. Other family members were so thankful in part because they thought they would not be having a Thanksgiving dinner this year due to their or their loved one's health concerns. There were very serious medical situations for all of these guests. We were so happy to bring a little joy in the midst of such suffering.



Family Enjoying the Thanksgiving Celebration

17TH CENTURY WORK OF THE LADIES OF CHARITY, CARE OF ABANDONED BABIES PART 1

by Carol Schumer, D.C.

By 1600, four hundred babies were abandoned annually to the streets of Paris. These foundlings, as they were called, were the most marginalized in Parisian society. Most of them were deserted by their parents due to abject poverty. The death rate among these children was total and alarming and no one was addressing this crisis until Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac, the Ladies of Charity and the Daughters of Charity got riveted.¹

LaCouche, the deplorable government facility established for the care of these infants, was staffed by a woman and 1-2 wet nurses. The babies were given drugs to sedate them or were sold to beggars who crippled them to elicit pity and alms. All died from lack of care and hunger. On January 1, 1638, Vincent wrote to Louise, "... experiment with the foundlings to see if there is a way of feeding them with cow's milk ... I am consoled that Providence is turning to you for this work."² Thus a new ministry was born.

Prior to this date, the Ladies of Charity were serving some of these babies, in a haphazard way, at Hôtel-Dieu. Clearly, a plan, an orderly system of care was needed. Our founders were well-suited to address this city-wide

calamity, not perfectly (as we will see), rather with compassionate care and dedication to the well-being of these vulnerable children.

Conversations, face-to-face and in writing, transpired among Vincent, Louise and the Ladies as they explored how to address this major challenge. In the end, all agreed to start from scratch instead of revamping the current institution. By 1640, this initial experiment had grown steadily until all infants who were brought to them were accepted. A Foundling Hospital (children's home), Saint Victor, was set up, wet nurses were hired, foster care and visiting nurses were in place.

Money was a constant worry. Food and salaries for bakers, nurses and the men who helped were necessities. Vincent's response: "we must trust God and do what we can ..."³ Help came in 1642 when King Louis XIII and Queen Anne took notice of the work and gave 4,000 livres to assist. In 1644, they again offered monetary aid of 8,000 livres. In addition, Anne supported Vincent through a gift of her jewelry.

During a meeting in April 1640, those assembled discussed forming a separate association for service to the foundlings. This came into being when the Ladies assumed responsibility for the infants from LaCouche on March 30 and moved them into the motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity. Vincent also shared a detailed report of the work, e.g., "...not a day goes by that one of them is not brought in and yesterday there were three..." and "... five have died within the last three weeks."⁴ The needs were massive.

Indeed, many pictures of the era show Vincent carrying a baby under his cloak with a mother looking on. He would then give the child to Louise, the Ladies and the Daughters for nurture and care. (to be continued)

Reflection: How do the unwanted children of St. Vincent's time compare to today's children who are aborted, abused or living in poverty?

What would Vincent and Louise have us do for marginalized children in this century?

References: Keim, Janet, D.C., material from project entitled "The Work of the Foundlings with the Ladies of Charity"

¹ Udovic, Edward R., *Vincentian Heritage Journal*, Volume 12, issue 2, article 1, page 103

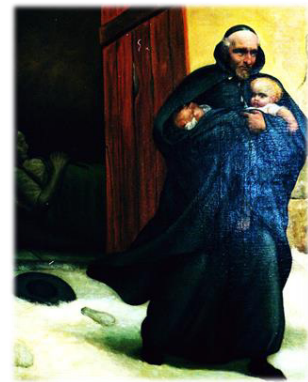
² Coste, *Correspondence*, volume 1, #288, Vincent to Louise, January 1, 1638, page 407

³ Ibid. volume 13b, #190, General Meeting on the Works of the Hôtel-Dieu and of the Foundlings, April 1640, page 407

⁴ Ibid, page 403



Queen Anne donating
to Vincent



LADIES OF CHARITY USA MISSION MARKET LAUNCHES E-COMMERCE WEBSITE

ACTING TOGETHER AGAINST ALL FORMS OF POVERTY IN THE 21ST CENTURY THROUGH A GLOBAL MARKET.

Natalie Newton

Kansas City, MO., December 4, 2018 – The Ladies of Charity Mission Market announces the launching of www.lcusamissionmarket.com, an e-commerce website that will support the Daughters of Charity skill centers in developing countries. Men and women will learn valuable skills, and increase productivity and earnings as the Ladies of Charity market their products to retailers in the United States of America.

The Mission Market e-commerce website provides a wholesale inventory of a variety of products such as jewelry, handbags and clothing. Retailers will join our efforts to alleviate poverty by purchasing direct trade products for resale from our website in support of the Daughters of Charity missions and artisans. Solidarity will be created as retail markets include trading cards affixed to each product, connecting the purchaser with the artisan who made the craft. Purchasers will have an opportunity learn about the artisan, his/her community, and how the purchase will impact their future. Join "Mission Market" today and make your impact on tomorrow!

Mission Market was created by Ladies of Charity to assist the Daughters of Charity Missions by providing a market for products made in the skill centers in developing countries of the world. Mission Market is grateful to Ascension Health and Mission and Ministry, Inc., for grants provided to initiate this project. We also thank the Ladies of Charity USA Board, Mission Market steering committee and Suzanne Johnson, Ladies of Charity President, for their vision and drive to make this project a reality. Most especially, we thank, Sr. Mary Louise Stubbs, DC and the Daughters of Charity International Project Services (DCIPS), our partners.

Artisans at Work

The Ladies of Charity of the United States of America® is a network of women working together against poverty. A member of the International Association of Charities (AIC), we envision, create and implement activities and programs that encourage and empower persons who are vulnerable and economically poor to move from marginalization and despair to participation and hope. We trace our history back to St. Vincent de Paul who founded this mission in 1617 in France.

The "Mission Market" is an online market for the unique goods made by women and men in developing countries where the Daughters of Charity have skill centers. With over 64 countries served by the Daughters' missions, there is a large diversity of products that will be sold through retail collaborators in the Vincentian family and beyond. Our goal is to expand the outlets for these products so that persons who live in poverty may learn productive skills and build businesses to support their families and communities.



Artisan at Work

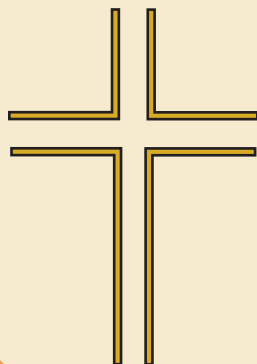


Mission Market Product Examples

For further information about the Ladies of Charity Mission Market, visit our website www.lcusamissionmarket.com.

Contact

Natalie Newton, Deputy Director
816-832-6300 | natalie.newton@ladiesofcharity.us



IN MEMORY OF:

Patty Palmatier.....	Betty Wasielewski
Jeff Johnson.....	Suzanne Johnson
Jeff Johnson.....	Kathleen Sieracki
Helen Molinaro.....	Maureen Humin
Sally Johnson.....	Suzanne Johnson
Michael Goss.....	Maryann Houlihan
John Caveny.....	Maryann Houlihan
Sisters.....	Janet Welch

BEQUEATHED BY:

Betty Wasielewski
Suzanne Johnson
Kathleen Sieracki
Maureen Humin
Suzanne Johnson
Maryann Houlihan
Maryann Houlihan
Janet Welch



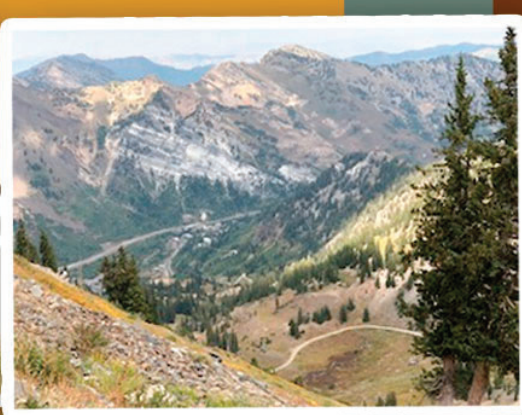
Ladies of Charity

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

AIC USA

aic.ladiesofcharity.us

"TO SERVE RATHER THAN TO BE SERVED"



LCUSA
NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY
2019

SALT LAKE CITY

**HOPE TO SEE YOU IN SALT LAKE CITY
FOR OUR 2019 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

"Begin to Weave and God will Provide the Thread: Ladies of Charity in Action"

SEPTEMBER 20 - 21

Information available on our website aic.ladiesofcharity.us. If you would like information mailed to you,
please contact the Ladies of Charity office at 816-260-3853 or 816-731-0949.

**The Fall 2018 edition of the Servicette was delayed due to circumstances beyond our control.
Please accept our sincerest apologies.**