

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VOL. 60 NO. 1 FALL 2020

SERVICETTE

TO SERVE RATHER THAN BE SERVED



AIC USA



LADIES OF CHARITY...
BRINGING *healing, help & love*
DURING A PANDEMIC

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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



AIC USA

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 November 1, 2020. 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

Debbie Chadwick, LCUSA President



My Dearest Friends
My Dearest Friends,

When we welcomed this year in January, no one could have ever imagined that this would truly be a year of seeing with a new and different vision of our lives and daily existence. Prayer and the Rosary have become even more important now than ever as we walk by Faith and not by sight. We have Faith in our God that loves us and is by our side every moment, every step. We walk along side of our founders who lived in times of great need.

Remember that you have God with you, that He fights along with you, and that you will certainly overcome. St. Vincent de Paul (III:138)

As a global community we have experienced struggles, suffering, and uncertainty on a level never witnessed in our lifetimes. The loss has been unthinkable on so many levels as we continue to traverse time that seems to melt from days into weeks and weeks into months. As a faithful community we have adapted to Mass online and Spiritual Communion as social distancing and enhanced safety measures became the norm. Cancellations of local, board and international meetings to flatten the curve and then decrease the spread of Covid-19 as we fought an invisible foe in solidarity. Our Assembly, that we look so forward to every year, was cancelled.

Trials bear the special mark of God's goodness. St. Vincent de Paul (III:120)

Through this unfortunate period, the important work of Ladies of Charity in the United States and our AIC partners around the world has continued. Reaching out to those in our communities who find themselves without jobs to feed their families and the daily necessities, is most important as our Mission becomes not only to help the poor but now those in need due to the pandemic who are truly poor in spirit. Let us continue to pray for the most vulnerable among us. Those who seek food, shelter and jobs to provide for their families. It is critical that we continue to assist in these emergent conditions by building our membership to serve the poor now and in the future. Continue to seek like minded women who share the values of our association for membership. Do not forget the importance of one.

Do whatever God asks of you and remain at peace; above all, love and support one another in Our Lord. St. Vincent de Paul

Let us remain in prayer with our Vincentian Family, and remain faithful to God as together we pray for an end to the pandemic. We pray that St. Vincent, St. Louise and St. Elizabeth Ann will continue to guide our works as they were guided.

*Yours in prayer,
Debbie Chadwick*





Most Reverend David A. Zubik

“SEEING CHRIST IN THE FACE OF THOSE WE SERVE”

They speak to each other. They accuse each other of bad deeds and bad intentions. The intensity of anger and suspicion toward those with backgrounds different from our own is worse than it's been for decades. What does it take to calm and heal that anger and accusation? The answer? Charity.

As you know better than I do, “charity” goes far beyond the common definition of a gift to a wandering stranger. In the New Testament, charity means unselfish love; love for those who don't love us back; love for those whom others say don't deserve love; love even for our enemies. The Ladies of Charity are living examples of all of those kinds of love. And you do it because you see Christ in the face of those you serve.

Certainly, you are known for that most basic practice of charity: giving help to strangers in need. Such acts have defined the Ladies of Charity for 400 years. You hear about people in need. You quietly assist them. You are the disciples of Jesus who do your almsgiving in secret as you care for Him in his guise as “the least of these.” That's charity!

You do that because you are motivated by the love that comes from Jesus. You desire to show your love for Him by sharing it with others. That is the unselfish love that Jesus Himself, demonstrated on the cross. You give charity without

regard to whether the recipients will love you back, or even thank you for it. It is enough for you to be able to love Jesus through those you serve — because you see His face in them. That's true charity.

For the Ladies of Charity, there is no question of whether someone “deserves” charity. None of us does. The message of our Savior who gave up His life for us is that none of us can earn God's love. We are all sinners, saved by grace. God loves us unconditionally. He loves us when we fail Him. He loves us when we don't love Him back. He loves us when we don't love others as we should. When you offer support and kindness to that person with the foul mouth, the parent who smokes away food money, to children who may act like bullies, you are loving them as God loves all of us. That's true charity.

When I think about love for enemies, I'm tempted to say that I can't imagine anyone who would be an enemy of the Ladies of Charity. However, we live in a fallen world. People with one worldview get angry with those who help immigrants. People with another worldview get angry with those who help women with crisis pregnancies bring their children into this world. The Ladies of Charity serve a God who is above ideology, a God who loves immigrants and unborn children. By reaching out to everyone in need, you cross those social divides and help to repair the dangerous cracks in our culture. That's true charity.

Keep doing what you do. In every small act of charity, offered in private to obscure strangers, you undo the work of the true enemy, Satan. When you bring healing, when you bring hope, when you love the unlovely — you bring the kingdom of God to earth and the angels rejoice in heaven.

INTERNATIONAL / NATIONAL UPDATE: APRIL, 2020

Margaret Hanson



AIC, (International Association of Charities), the international arm of the Ladies of Charity, Vincentian Volunteers, had planned the Delegate Assembly to be held in Bogota, Columbia, March 20-23, 2020. Eight women from LCUSA were registered to attend. However, as we are now aware, this assembly was canceled with a view to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Elections were held as per the bylaws via technology and the new president, Rose de Lima Ramanankavana, was elected.

Rose is a long time member of AIC from Madagascar. This is the country our local associations and LCUSA supports with our financial contributions each year.

Also elected as a delegate and Vice-President was Suzanne Johnson, currently past president of LCUSA. She will represent LCUSA along with delegates from Columbia, Brazil, Belgique, France, Philippines, Guatemala, Madagascar and Mexico. Ladies, we are part of an international organization.

Similarly, the LCUSA National Assembly scheduled to be held in Knoxville, Tenn., August 28-29, 2020, has been postponed to the same time in 2021. The Crowne Plaza Hotel has already booked the Assembly to be held there next year. YOU are all invited to attend. This year elections need to take place, and a scheme to hold them electronically will occur. Local association presidents and delegates will be apprised of this event. Your participation is key.



JOHNSON TRAVELS TO BOGOTA, COLOMBIA FOR THE AIC ASSEMBLY THAT WASN'T

Suzanne Johnson, LCUSA Immediate Past President

A week or so before the world went into isolation, I was visiting Bogota, Colombia (NOT Columbia). Not from any great burning desire to visit Bogota, but in anticipation of participating in the AIC assembly to be held from March 17 to March 21, with an additional three days of meeting as

a member (hopefully) of the international board.

Not one to let the grass grow under my feet, I decided to take advantage of this meeting in Bogota. My friend Patty Fitzpatrick, who is always ready for an adventure, agreed to spend six days in Bogota with me prior to the meeting. Ignoring the fears expressed by other members of the U.S. delegation that COVID-19 would soon be wreaking havoc and interrupt either our entry into Colombia, or our return to the U.S., we arrived in Bogota on March 10. We were immediately met by a person checking all incoming travelers for fevers. A little unnerving, but we passed with flying colors!

Our days consisted of touring with Juan Carlos, our English-speaking guide, and evenings dining and relaxing at the beautiful Hilton Corferias. Wednesday was a "slow" day spent sampling the delicious Colombian food and coffee, walking the ancient district of Usaquen, and visiting Zona Rosa – an upscale shopping area filled with boutiques and restaurants. One of the highlights was lunch at "La Plaza De Andre" a colorful marketplace like a food court at our local malls, but much bigger! Lunch consisted of "ajiaco", a soup with chicken and corn, rice, avocado, capers and creme fresche followed by a shared dessert of "arepa de chocio," a corncake stuffed with cheese.

Thursday's activities included a visit to the historical colonial neighborhood of La Candelaria and Plaza de Bolivar, a plaza surrounded by the Cathedral, government buildings and a Jesuit University. As Bolivar is much beloved by the Colombians, there are more than one Bolivar plazas in Bogota.

The streets of this neighborhood are lined with vendors selling their wares. Most notable of these was a group of refugees from Venezuela making and selling small purses made from Venezuelan currency. This day included visits to churches, most notably Our Lady of La Candelaria, whose altars are adorned with gold leaf. We visited Museo de Oro, or Gold Museum, a fabulous collection of pre-Colombian gold and Museo de Botero, displaying the works of Fernando Botero, Colombia's most famous artist, known mostly for his "fat" figures. Finally, we ended our tour by traveling via funicular to the top of Monserrate to view (and pray) the Stations of the Cross and visit the Sanctuary, a church dedicated to the fallen Lord.



Friday took us to the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá, a cathedral built in the salt mines of Colombia dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary for the protection of the salt miners. The sanctuary is 650 feet underground and the Stations of the Cross line the path to the sanctuary. Most of the images are carved from the salt. Incredible.

Saturday was spent hiking and bird watching at the Chicaque Natural Reserve. The hike began in the clouds, approximately 8,500 feet above sea level. As the day was a bit overcast, we did not see many birds (not for lack of trying), but we did enjoy the three-mile hike to the park restaurant, where we had lunch and relaxed before "catching" our ride back up the mountain.

Sunday was supposed to be our day of rest, but we opted to return to the district of Usaquen to do some shopping at the local street fair, followed by lunch. Luckily, Juan Carlos accompanied us, so we were able to bargain for handmade crafts and bring home a few souvenirs. By the time we departed for the U.S., Bogota had begun to shut down in response to the impending pandemic. The AIC assembly had been cancelled, restaurant hours at the hotel were shortened and tourist attractions were closed. I feel blessed that I had been able to have this experience. I made friends. Juan Carlos is now one of my Facebook friends, and I was able to spend a great week with my good friend Patty. *God is good!*

THE NON-MEETING MEETING

Suzanne Johnson, LCUSA Immediate Past President

In March 2020, I expected to be attending the AIC meeting in Bogota, Colombia. While there, I hoped to be elected to the International Board and spend three days meeting and planning with the new board of directors. Alas, this was not to be. The rise of the Corona Virus pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the meeting and voting was done by the National Presidents via e-mail.

I was elected as a Vice-President. There are ten women on the board of directors – Rose de Lima Ramanankavana, from Madagascar, is serving as President, Clara Ines Diaz Henao from Columbia and I are Vice Presidents, and seven

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A heartfelt thank-you TO MARY ANN DANTUONO: INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AIC

Natalie Boone, LCUSA Board Director

As a civil society organization, AIC belongs to global networks, actively participating in organizations headquartered in the USA, Europe and most recently in the southern hemisphere. Since 2003 the AIC has been an approved civil society organization permitted to participate within the UN New York. In 2017, the AIC along with other Vincentian family members, created a coalition of the Vincentian Family at the UN (VFUNNY). With approval from their respected international bodies, AIC, Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity, Sisters of Charity Federation and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have formed a collaborative group. When the international Vincentian Family embraced ending homelessness as our united focus, the VFUNNY became founding members of a new working group at the UN: The Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH). (Working groups are more influential instruments of UN civil society organizations, with greater capability to exert more influence upon UN member governments.)



In 2003, as the associate director at the Vincentian Center of Church and Society at St. John's University, Mary Ann began her work at the United Nations as an expert on women and children's issues for the Holy See Mission at the UN. At their request she covered meetings and submitted written reports to the Ambassador to the Holy See. Her knowledge of the international reality of human rights conditions, international responses and her expertise in communicating in the vocabulary of the UN made her a well-respected colleague.

Since 2016, following her term as LCUSA national president, Mary Ann Dantuono was elected to the international executive board of AIC and given the role of coordinator of international representation in New York, until her term ended in January 2020. Other AIC members assigned to covering the United Nations activity have relied on her expertise and guidance and reported directly to her.

It is impossible to separate the growth of AIC's participation within the UN from Mary Ann's tireless

participation. She has authored position papers on behalf of VFUNNY or WGEH. These statements have helped put the job of ending homelessness on the 2020 agenda for the United Nations for the first time in its 75-year history. Her knowledge of the workings of the UN have been priceless. She is currently serving on the executive board of the non-governmental organization (NGO) committee on the Commission of Social Development that is spearheading the focus on homelessness. Mary Ann's leadership and skill set have offered many benefits to this group.

Because of her passion and commitment to a huge range of issues important to women and children, she has elevated AIC's participation at the United Nations in New York. Though no longer on the international board, she and other members of the New York-based group await word that all have been reappointed for a new three-year term as international representatives. Reporting will be done to Laurence de La Brosse, based in Paris.

We are very proud to acknowledge Mary Ann's work on the international level and thank her profusely for her commitment to insuring the dignity of women and the well-being of their children is not a forgotten cause.

"THE SHADOW PANDEMIC."

Marie A. Copeland, LCUSA Advocacy Committee

It is called the "Shadow Pandemic." In this time of sheltering in place as a result of COVID-19, what is happening "in the shadows" is an increase in domestic violence. Home for most of us is a sanctuary, a peaceful and loving place; but to a victim of domestic violence, home is anything but a sanctuary. Fear about being abused or worse hangs over the victim each day. It affects them psychologically and emotionally. Their children and even their pets are affected and in danger, especially if the abuser is living in the same house.

The Shadow Pandemic Campaign is a recent initiative of UN Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, because violence against women and girls is a human rights violation. This public awareness campaign focuses on the global increase in domestic violence during the COVID-19 health crisis. Since the outbreak, all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has escalated. Domestic violence shelters have reached capacity in many countries and calls to helplines have increased. UN Women launched the Campaign on May 27, 2020, featuring a 60-second video narrated by actor Kate Winslet (www.unwomen.org/shadowpandemic). "UN Women hopes that this campaign will make a lifesaving difference to women and girls across the world, during

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LEADERS OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY TRAVEL TO ROME IN THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, MICHAEL K. BARTH, S.T. GENERAL CUSTODIAN FR. MIKE BARTH, S.T., ADDRESSES HIS CENACLE FAMILY IN A LETTER TO HIS BROTHERS, AS FOLLOWS. . .

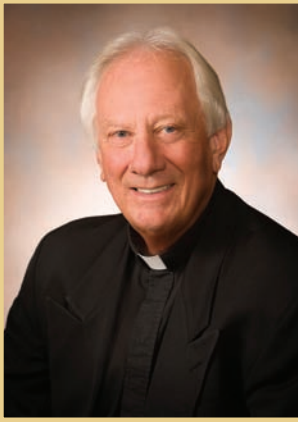
Dear Brothers, May the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit be with us forever. I shared with you last month that myself, Fr. Raphael and Pat Regan would be attending, in Rome, a gathering of the global leadership of the Vincentian Family. Now that we have returned, I want to share with you some insights from this gathering and my thoughts on how we should move forward. Gathering with the leaders of over 95 of the more than 120 branches was both stimulating and challenging.

Like us, many of the branches gathered were not founded by St. Vincent de Paul or St. Louise but by followers of Vincent, those moved by his charism and spirituality, like Fr. Judge. Each branch, following their own unique charism, is living the larger charism in unique ways. There was no attempt to try to merge these unique charisms, but rather invite those gathered to collaborate in the spirit of St. Vincent, becoming an enormous power for good in the world for the alleviation of poverty. The lay branches gathered, the MCA in the person of Pat Regan, have and will continue to play a most vital role in moving both our own and the larger Vincentian charism forward into the future. My takeaway from the gathering is a desire for us to move closer in our relationship to the Vincentian Family. This does not diminish us or the unique contribution we have to offer. The Vincentian Family is proud of us and desires to embrace both the legacy of Fr. Judge and the unique vision he had of St. Vincent's call to us and our Cenacle Family. The Council and I will look at ways that we can, both on the national and local level, be more intentional in our connections and possible collaboration with the Vincentian Family. I encourage you, on the local level, to investigate and be open to ways in which you may move this forward on our behalf.

Some other highlights of the visit to Rome were the opportunity I had to have a private visit with Pope Francis. I was able to gift him with a copy of the biography of Fr. Judge, "Every Catholic an Apostle", ask him for prayers for each of us and our donors and to pray for our centennial efforts. While assuring me of his prayers and blessing, he did ask us all to pray daily for him. In addition to this, both Raphael and I were able to celebrate Mass one day at the Tomb at St. Peter - thanking God for each of you, and again praying for our benefactors and vocations.

At the closing of the Conference, Fr. Tomas, the Superior General of the Vincentians, presented each of the Superiors gathered, a relic of St. Vincent de Paul. This will be placed at the Generalate in Maryland as we ask St. Vincent to guide us in our efforts to preserve the faith, lift the poor and be that lamp where the fire is kept. I am grateful for this opportunity, not only for myself, but for our Cenacle Family and look forward to opportunities to further collaborate within our own family as well as the Vincentian family. Please keep this all in your prayers.





Rev. Richard Gielow, CM
LCUSA Spiritual Advisor

“A MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT”

One of the great accomplishments of LCUSA has been the success and joy of the National Assembly. They have been held in cities all over the United States. The Ladies of Charity plan, save and attend these wonderful meetings, and look forward to them. So, for the National Assembly in Knoxville, Tenn., to be postponed due to the Pandemic was a major and heartbreaking disappointment.

These Assemblies have been so beautiful, well planned with great participation, and providing inspirational memories that will last forever. There have been so many opportunities for growth especially with regard To Vincentian History and Formation.

Now we have to wait to experience our next Assembly. In the meantime, let us rely on Faith, Hope and Love. Faith in the eyes of our Blessed Mother was to trust without question. She did that from the moment she was asked to be the mother of Jesus to the day she watched Him die. We must trust like her. Hope is always about being an optimist. Heaven is in our future and there are many Easters along the way. We thank God for all those blessings. Love is needed more than ever.

Our parents taught us the importance of this. We work hard to bring out the best in the other.

The assemblies have always been times of great joy, connections to others from different parts of our country and opportunities to learn and be more inspired to follow Vincent and Louise. I pray that you will make a commitment to be at the next assembly. It will be a time of renewal, a time of faith, hope and love. I always remember the advice I got to LIVE each day to the fullest, LOVE everyone and LAUGH at yourself. Until we meet again at the next assembly know you are in my thoughts and prayers.



MADAGASCAR UPDATE FOR 2020

Holly Walter

As everyone knows, the Corona-19 Virus Pandemic has shut down most Ladies of Charity associations and groups across the nation, and as a result, has forced the cancellation of our 2020 National Assembly in Knoxville Tennessee. This assembly is a major source of contributions for our Ladies of Charity Twinning Project in Madagascar. The people of Madagascar are also suffering from the Pandemic and still need our help. In order to meet our annual contribution goal, we need LOC Associations and individuals to contribute to the Twinning Project this year whenever they are able to do so. You can help by sending a check for any amount to our National Service Center. The address is:

LCUSA National Service Center
2816 E. 23rd Street
Kansas city, MO 64105



Please put Madagascar in the memo line on the check, or otherwise indicate in the envelope that the money is for the Twinning Project, and make out the check to the Ladies of Charity. Thank you for your support in the past and for any contribution you can make at this time.

KNOXVILLE LOC GAIN INSPIRATION FROM SAINT TERESA OF KOLKATA PRAYER LADIES OF CHARITY KNOXVILLE HOSTING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 2021:

"The Ladies of Charity in Knoxville just can't wait to show our city to everyone attending the assembly. After we will have waited two years to get together, the attendees should add extra days to visit the mountains, Gatlinburg or Dollywood. The Knoxville members have applied over 300 assembly bags and designed two new charm bracelets to help offset the convention costs." As a National board member and a local Ladies of Charity Knoxville member, I see all the planning it requires to coordinate such a big event. I hope all the members consider attending the 2021 Assembly. Thank You!

Susan Unbehaun

While the world at large is saying goodbye to loved ones, healing, and trying to cope with the Pandemic, the Ladies of Charity in Knoxville are continuing to serve those in need and gaining strength and inspiration from their priest, Fr. Tim Sullivan, CSP, and the Saint Teresa of Kolkata of India Prayer.



Our Sr. Mathilde award winners are shown from the Kansas City Ladies of Charity general meeting and Christmas luncheon: Lois Hoefer (left) and Bonnie Bonella (right), are pictured with their award. The Sr. Mathilde Award is given to any living member of the Kansas City Ladies of Charity who shows exceptional service to the Ladies of Charity. Our 35-year members were also honored. They were Rita Rost, Martha Burge, and Patti Schugel. Congratulations to all our wonderful Ladies!

"If our life is without prayer, it is like a house without a foundation. Love is a fruit in season at all times, and it is within reach of everyone's hand. "If you are kind, people may accuse you of some ulterior motive. Be kind anyway. "Sacrifice and suffering are not popular topics in today's world. Our culture wants us to believe that we can have it all, that with the right technology, all pain and problems can be overcome. That is not my attitude toward sacrifice and suffering.

"Here is a great paradox: When you don't have anything, then you have everything. Having nothing liberates you in amazing ways. Be careful what you attach yourself to. In the end, we have to give it all up anyway. We can't take money or anything with us. But we do take with us all the love we have allowed God to fill us with.

"Lord, grant that I may always realize the ministry you have called me to live out each day. Never let me dishonor you or dishonor my calling by being cold, or unkind, or impatient toward others.

Knoxville LOC President Lisa Daley, in the August newsletter hoped everyone was doing well and remaining safe during the Pandemic, and thanked them for their generous donations to the "Sweeten the Pot Appeal," which allowed them to help many people with their current needs. 2020 has been a challenging year, but "we will get through this," she said. "I must thank our amazing team members who have worked tirelessly for LOCK (Ladies of Charity of Knoxville) in so very many ways. We could not continue to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ without your support.

For the month of July, Mast General Store in Knoxville raised money for LOCK with a dollar round-up campaign. With every sales transaction, shoppers had the opportunity to round-up their purchase to the nearest dollar to donate to LOCK. This gave Mast General Store employees the opportunity to share the goals and mission of LOCK with locals and tourists; since reopening in May, Mast General Store has selected a charity each month to help. They raised \$1,400 for LOCK. Natalea Riley is LOCK president-elect and general manager of the Mast General Store.

UTAH LOC ASSOCIATIONS SERVE THOSE IN NEED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Chris Young, LCUSA Board Director

The Ladies of Charity Chapters in Bountiful and Salt Lake City, Utah, continued serving about 80 households during the Covid-19 Pandemic lockdown, and opened their Center of Hope Pantry to welcome more than 35 additional families as the need for supplemental food continued to increase. They also served seven families at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Layton.

With guidelines from the Center for Disease Control, the way the people were served was modified. "Due to the size of our building, we could only have five people present at one time. We wore masks and Nitrile disposable gloves, and were able to social distance," said Joni Robertson, Bountiful LOC president. The food pantry saw an increase in requests of about 15 percent in April: The Bountiful group distrib-

utes about 50 pre-packed food boxes to families at St. Patrick Parish once a month, and more families continue to come to the pantry each month on Saturdays. The boxes are now pre-packed, and people must remain in their cars; they are no longer allowed to come inside the pantry to select their food preferences."

"We have not had food shortages because St. Olaf Parish has been doing food drives for us and we have had many

donations," said Robertson. "The food donations from the parish continue to pour in, and Utah Food Bank has been delivering supplies. The Woodbriar Mormon Ward also brought us two pallets of food, and twice a month we get donations from different ministries such as the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, some Catholic ministries, and another Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints wards help to fill the fridge with milk, cheese and eggs. We have been blessed abundantly with donations of food through this [Pandemic] and these donations help us to help others abundantly."

The Salt Lake Chapter delivers food to mostly 30 refugee families in their homes, and with the lockdown and self-quarantine in place, they decided to purchase \$30-75 gift cards to give to the families during April and May, depending on the size of the family. In June, they returned to delivering supplemental food boxes. They decided it would be safer to drop off a gift card rather than enter the homes with a food box because most of their women are elderly and this virus is so contagious.

As a special gift, Jenny McDonald, LOC Salt Lake City, got an idea from the library where she works to give the families packages of vegetable and strawberry seeds, she said. "The idea was welcomed with excitement and fun; some of the families had good success with the

seeds starting gardens," McDonald said. "I gave them the directions so they would know when to plant the seeds in our climate, along with a note that said we were praying for their wellbeing, safety, and health. It was such a strange time during the lockdown, so as I left the seeds and the gift cards, I would distance myself. I could see that some of them just wanted to talk; they were so glad to see someone. Most of them are immigrants and the isolation was hard; they just wanted to express what an extraordinary time they were experiencing. It was a source of real excitement for the families to get a care package."

In the June letter, the card said the Ladies of Charity were continuing to pray for the families and hoped that they were healthy in body and mind, that we were all trying to navigate difficult aspects of this world, and that they would again be delivering boxes of food and possibly an additional gift card in the future.

ST. ANTHONY LADIES OF CHARITY GIVE AWAY EIGHT TONS OF FOOD

Barbara Glover

The town of North Beach, Maryland, congratulated the St. Anthony Catholic Church Ladies of Charity, who saw an increase of more than 40 percent in the number of families served, and over 50 percent in family members served from roughly March to April of the same time period last year compared to this year. In that time they have given out over 8 tons of food, not including that which was donated during the Easter Grocery Giveaway. Thank you to our ladies for everything you do.

ANNUAL POLAR BEAR PLUNGE PROCEEDS IN NORTH BEACH

Peggy McKelly, Secretary

Each January 1, the Town of North Beach holds a Polar Bear Plunge, where adventurous people of all ages run into the Chesapeake Bay for a few minutes. This is a fundraising event for Charity as well as a fun event for the town. The Calvert County Ladies of Charity organization was the recipient of the proceeds from the Polar Bear Plunge in North Beach, MD January 1, 2020. There were many chilly participants and spectators to appreciate their willingness to plunge. All in all a big success for the LOC. Mayor Benton and the Town Council presented a check for \$7,247.97 to the Ladies of Charity Calvert County. This energetic group of ladies also volunteered at the event, sold pizza, baked goods and hot chocolate to raise funds for their organization. *Congratulations, ladies!*

DIOCESE OF ALBANY *Celebrates* 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Ann D. Rose, President
Albany Association of Ladies of Charity

Even as we Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Albany observe our 50th anniversary, the pandemic of Covid-19 has taken hold. While many of our ministries are curtailed and some are modified to provide for the safety of ourselves and the people we serve, we thought we might reflect and give thanks for our activities this past year.

Mary's Corner, supported by many religious organizations, individuals, and corporate contributors, assists families with infants and young children. Each month a family receives diapers, hygiene products, wipes, diaper rash cream, two to four items of clothing and three books for each child; in addition, families with children up to age one receive formula, baby food and cereal. This ministry was regularly serving 140 children in Albany and 60 children in Cohoes in 2019. Many Ladies are involved: collecting and sorting donations, assisting parents to select items for their children, reading to and playing with them, while their parents are "shopping." This ministry is labor-intensive, but our Ladies are happy to be doing this work.

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World" is a series of 12 weekly classes to help people understand the institutions, beliefs and habits that hamper their economic success. Ladies teach the classes and mentor students. While others cater lunch so that moms can take part in the program. Two women graduated in June 2019 and two others in December. We pray that they are well and can continue to transform their lives in the midst of this pandemic.

Many of our members volunteered at the Sister Maureen Joyce Center in 2019. Some worked cooking and serving at

the soup kitchen, where more than 100 guests are fed twice a week. Others helped people select groceries from the full client-choice food pantry. Another small team collected and distributed clothing and personal care items through the Giving Room to an average of 70-80 people each week. With the requirement for social distancing, many volunteers had to back away from these ministries, but all look forward to serving person-to-person one day soon.



One of our best-loved activities is called "Saturdays with the Sisters," where once each month our Ladies meet with the Daughters of Charity at the Saint Louise House to play games, cards, do service projects, have parties or just sit and chat. The Sisters especially enjoy the Valentines and Halloween parties, where children join in as well writing cards to the soldiers at Christmastime. The sing-alongs last year at the St.

Patrick's Day and Christmas celebrations were also popular. In May there were a breakfast, Mass and a May crowning of Mary. It will be wonderful to resume these activities again.

Assisted by other local organizations, Albany Ladies annually run Coats for the Community. We spend many hours collecting, sorting and hanging the coats. We help guests "shop" the collection for themselves and their families. Last October we served 196 households. Many more people were helped as left-over clothing was distributed to local charities.

Every year we worship and give thanks at spring and fall liturgies, and afterwards enjoy camaraderie at a buffet meal. Though we are physically apart this year, we still are spiritually united praying for each other and for all the people we have been so blessed to serve.

LADIES OF CHARITY OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA ASSIST DURING PANDEMIC

Diana Gritz, LOC President

The Ladies of Charity of St. Ignatius of Loyola delivered toiletries in January we collected through the last half of 2019, to Each One Feed One, an organization that provides food and personal hygiene items to homeless and elderly people.

We also held our eighth annual baby shower in February to help the Forestville Pregnancy Center and Elizabeth Arms. Our sewing group supplied us with an overwhelming number of hand-made blankets, sweaters, hats and booties, and we collected diapers, clothing and baby toiletries. In March, our ladies helped our parish priest make phone calls to parishioners to make sure they were doing alright during the pandemic and to see if they needed groceries or medicine.

Our Lenten food drive was cancelled due to Covid-19, so we started a Pandemic Food Drive with the help of parishioners by sending out email letters to collect money for the local food pantries. We received over \$4,500, and helped numerous pantries, shelters, and nursing homes in the area.

ST. HUGH LOC/GREENBELT, MD, COMMUNITY GROWS STRONGER DURING PANDEMIC

Regina Barrett, First VP Prince George's County LOC

The St. Hugh Ladies of Charity were determined to provide food to those in need in the greater Greenbelt area throughout the challenging Pandemic, when the "stay at home" order was issued by the governor.

The members talked with their pastor to review the order, which indicated that charitable organizations were exempt and volunteers could continue to provide services. "You will need to stay open because the community needs our pantry more than ever now," said Fr. Walter.

The St. Hugh Pantry distributes food through the rectory staff Monday through Friday, and a rectory staff member was needed at home, so a LOC member volunteered to work her shift so that food distribution could continue throughout the week.

Word got out to the community through the Greenbelt News Review about the pantry remaining open, and the community responded. Coop Grocery Store increased their \$5 donation bags to 60-70 bags a week that go to the pantry. The community also started giving Coop Grocery Store gift cards valued from \$25-\$100 to St. Hugh LOC to be given to pantry recipients to buy perishable foods. The community donated more than \$10,000 in gift cards, and many people bought gift cards with their stimulus checks.

The Greenbelt City Council also worked with the Greenbelt Cares Office to utilize the Interfaith Good Samaritan Fund to collect community monetary donations to be given to the pantry. Over \$3,600 was donated to the pantry to purchase food, and in addition the local Elks organization donated \$2,000 to the pantry.

Using the St. Hugh Church on-line communication system, Flock Notes, we held a virtual Lenten food drive by setting up a safe way to prepare pantry food bags each week utilizing 4-6 volunteers, social distancing and face masks. LOC volunteers also delivered food bags to the homebound and made special arrangements for families who were unable to come to the pantry to pick up food bags. We also have a volunteer who translates in Spanish for recipients.

During this difficult Pandemic, it has been heartwarming and a great blessing to experience the incredible generosity of the Greater Greenbelt/St. Hugh community. Pantry families with tears in their eyes, have expressed their profound gratitude; they know that the community cares about them.



**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR
WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST NEWS AT
AIC.LADIESOFCHARITY.US**

JUNIOR LADIES COLLECT PURSES FOR WOMEN IN NEED

Holly Walter

About 40 Junior Ladies of Charity from St. Mary's Parish in Lancaster, New York, held their monthly meeting in March to welcome guest speaker, Louise O'Connor, who runs "Priceless Purses" out of her garage in Hamburg, New York. The juniors, in sixth grade through high school, collected and presented O'Connor with 536 gently used purses, 75 wallets, 90 cosmetic bags, and toiletries. O'Connor has distributed more than 4,000 purses since she began her ministry five years ago.



The juniors collected these items in a little over a month in collection boxes at St. Mary's Elementary School and St. Mary's Parish, from family members, the St. Mary's Ladies of Charity, the parish Wings Women's Bible Study group, and parishioners.

The girls washed, sorted and organized the donations to be distributed to many organizations serving women who had suffered from homelessness, physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence and extreme poverty. The organizations include Girard House, Buffalo City Mission, Corner House Manor for abused women, St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, the Refugee and Immigration Center run by Catholic Charities, the Summit House in Niagara falls, and the Little Portion Friary, all located in Buffalo and Western New York.

The girls also spent time during the meeting preparing for their annual "Bunny Brunch" by sorting and bagging candy treats for the children of St. Mary's Parish that was held the Saturday before Easter.

Outstanding leadership under moderators Marian Snyder, Diane Stottele, and Kate Berger has contributed to the growth of the group, and afforded the girls many opportunities to serve the community.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON HELPS FAMILIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Toni K. Gaines

The Ladies of Charity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in the Archdiocese of Washington, and their Pastor, the Very Reverend Michael Thompson, S.S.J. volunteer in the food pantry every Thursday from 9:30 am-1:30 pm.

On an average, the volunteers provide food for approximately 150 people per week. However, during the Covid-19 Pandemic, there has been an increase of approximately 350 people weekly who are being fed.

The demand is due to a loss of employment and the Center for Disease Control's stay-at-home lockdown.

- Typically each family receives food to last three days. The average number of people in a family is four.
- They receive fresh produce, meat, nonperishables (canned vegetables, cereal, milk, pasta, tuna, soup, canned fruit, peanut butter/jelly, rice and beans), bread and baked goods, if available. The food pantry has become a lifeline for the community, but resources are dwindling.



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other women from around the world serve as members. In addition to the elected board, there is a general manager - Benedicte de Bellefroid from Belgium, a Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Bernard Massarini, C.M., and two former presidents - Alicia Duhne from Mexico and Laurence de la Brosse from France (both former presidents) are on the board. It is quite a mixed group. Since we were unable to meet in Colombia, we have had to meet via Skype and Zoom. For me, the meetings take place very early in the morning, as one of our members

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this crisis...and for the long-term."

Globally during the past year, before the pandemic, 243 million women and girls aged 15 to 49, (1 in 3 women), experienced sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner. Since the pandemic, several factors have contributed to the escalation in violence: safety and security concerns; health and money worries; crowded or inadequate living conditions; forced isolation with abusers; movement restrictions; and deserted public spaces. Unfortunately, in some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from support services to immediate COVID-19 relief.

In the US, Congress provided \$45 million in the CARES Act to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) which funded programs that provide emergency housing and shelter to domestic violence survivors across the country. It also included funds for The Hotline to ensure critical, ongoing services to survivors who reach out for support, resources and safety planning during this time. (The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233)

Yet another way an abuser seeks to control or dominate a victim is by threatening their pets. Between 49% and 71% of women who experienced domestic abuse reported that their pets have been threatened, harmed or killed. In April 2020, the Department of Justice provided \$2 million in federal grants under the PAWS (Pet and Women's Safety) Act to support shelter and transitional housing services for survivors of domestic violence and their at-risk pets.

As the pandemic keeps us sheltering in place, domestic violence will continue to be the "shadow pandemic" unless we have a global collective effort to stop it. UN Women is working on prioritizing prevention of violence and access to essential services, such as health, justice and policing, social services, helplines and coordination of these services, to provide support to those who have experienced and/or witnessed violence.

The Ladies of Charity USA (aic.ladiesofcharity.us) is working through the AIC International organization (<http://www.aic-international.org/un/>) and with the Vincentian Family at the United Nations in New York on violence against women and has followed this issue since 2010. The Ladies of Charity USA with AIC International hopes to become a voice to alleviate gender based violence in our homes, our communities and the world.

is in the Philippines - fifteen time zones away. We have had four meetings to discuss our goals and action plans for the next three years, in addition to committee meetings. I will be serving on three committees - Vincentian Family Contact, Twinning, and United States representative (a committee of one!).

It will be a busy three years. With the grace of God, I am up for the challenge. Please keep me in your prayers.

SISTER KATHLEEN APPLER D.C.,

NATIVE OF UTICA, NEW YORK SUPERIORESS GENERAL OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY, GENERAL COUNCILLOR, VISITATRIX, PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR, LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPERIOR, EDUCATOR

A Mass of Christian Burial for the Superioress General of the Daughters of Charity Sister Kathleen Appler, D.C., was celebrated March 24, 2020, at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 140 rue du Bac, Paris, France. Sr. Kathleen died on March 18, 2020, at the Daughters' Motherhouse in Paris following a long, courageous battle with cancer. She was 68 years of age, and 47 years of vocation as a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Sr. Kathleen was elected Superioress General of the worldwide Community at the General Assembly of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul on May 25, 2015. She was the first American and only the second non-French Daughter to be elected Superioress General. In August 2019, she was named to the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life by Pope Francis. At that time, the Holy Father named six superiors of women's religious orders, a consecrated laywoman, and the superior of the De La Salle Christian Brothers to be full members of the congregation. Previously, the members had all been men.

Born in Utica, New York, on Feb. 23, 1952, Sr. Kathleen (baptized Kathleen Mary) was one of 10 [6 girls and 4 boys] children born to George and Mary (Fahy) Appler. She was a 1970 graduate of Utica Catholic Academy, Utica, N.Y. In April of 1973, Sister entered the Daughters of Charity from St. Paul's Parish in Whitesboro, N.Y. Sister served in educa-



tion, administration, and vocation and formation ministries. She served in schools in Syracuse, N.Y., (Cathedral School, 1974 to 1975); Bridgeport, Connecticut, (St. Ann's School, 1975 to 1979), Utica, N.Y., (Our Lady of Lourdes School, 1979 to 1982 and 1985 to 1995); and Wilmington, Delaware, (St. Peter's School, 1982 to 1985). Sr. Kathleen served at St. John's Parish Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., from 1997 to 1999. Sister then moved into governance in the Daughters' former Northeast Province in Albany; she served there until her 2009 appointment as the English Speaking General Councillor for the Daughters in Paris for a six-year term.



Sr. Kathleen earned her Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts from Maria Regina College, Syracuse, N.Y., in 1975; her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature with a Concentration in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University, Bridgeport, Conn., in 1978; a Master's in Elementary Education from State University of New York at Cortland, Cortland, N.Y., in 1984; and her Certification in Spiritual Direction from the Center for Spirituality at Work, Denver, Colo., in 2006.

During her time in the United States, Sr. Kathleen served as a member of many boards of directors including Lourdes Memorial Hospital, Binghamton, N.Y.; Samaritan Counseling Center, Utica, N.Y.; St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, N.Y.; and Catholic School Administrators for New York State, New York, N.Y.

Many of our Ladies of Charity Associations experience the loss of members who pass away, and we should remember them all; we are all members of the AIC-LCUSA. Unfortunately, because of the numbers of women who pass away throughout the nation each year, we are unable to write memorials on each of them unless it is someone who has served on the national level, a former president, or someone of prominence.

To submit a memorial, send it to the LCUSA executive office at office@ladiesofcharity.us or the Servicette editor at chrisdy2005@comcast.net, and we will do our best to publish it. Please include the name and association, and the date of death. *You can still submit obituaries to be published on the website.*

In Memory

Betty Singular	Bountiful Utah Ladies of Charity	April 6, 2017
Violet Barney	Bountiful Utah Ladies of Charity	April 1, 2017
Linda Nesi	Bountiful Utah Ladies of Charity	July 23, 2019
Sue Matiesen	Bountiful Utah Ladies of Charity	September 7, 2019
Sara Marie Singfield	Ladies of Charity Immaculate Conception in the Archdiocese of Washington	July 9, 2020

THE UPCOMING ELECTION AND LADIES OF CHARITY

By the Advocacy Committee: Holly Walter, Chris Young, Natalie Boone, Marie Copeland, and Anneleis Geelan

The Advocacy Committee of LCUSA has presented several posts on our website over the summer regarding the upcoming election in November 2020 and our responsibility as citizens to cast our vote. The first post was *Civilize It - Dignity Beyond the Debate* on examining your conscience as you consider all of the issues this year. We were asked to weigh Catholic Social Teaching on many fronts from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in subsequent posts that included care and concern for the poor, immigration reform, health care, economic justice, peace, promoting legal justice, the environment, and combating discrimination in order to prepare to vote. These issues are important to us as Ladies of Charity and form the very essence of why we continue to exist as an organization after 403 years and our founding by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac in France in 1617.

The guidance provided by USCCB helps us to separate the real issues from all the rhetoric we hear every day. Our choices must be based on what we believe and what is important to us. The United States Catholic Organization (us.catholic.org) also provides information on voting and how we can make good decisions on the issues presented. We can use all of these tools to help us vote during this most important season.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic many people, especially older, more vulnerable Americans, are hesitant about going to the polls to vote in person. So some strategies need to be thought out and implemented so that their vote is cast and counted. Since this is a Presidential year, our vote is even more important. What are some of the options we have for voting?

The first option, of course, is to cast your ballot on Election Day, November 3rd. For that, there is a safe strategy. The best times to go to the polling place near you, if you can, are mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Polling places are less crowded at these times as you will avoid voters on their way to work, on their lunch hour, on their way home from work, and those trying to get to the polls at the last minute, if you are in a high Covid-19 area, or hot spot of the country.

If you feel uncomfortable going to your polling place at any time, Absentee or mail-in ballots have been used successfully in many states around the country for many years. It is a perfectly safe and legitimate way of voting. Many of our elected officials use this method of voting as do our military personnel and citizens abroad. Another option is early voting. Many states, if not most now, have early voting, sometimes several days or even two weeks ahead of the actual election. This is a good option for people who are not hesitant to actually go to a polling place but want to avoid crowds and long lines. These early voting opportunities are usually far less congested and the waiting times are shorter.

Unless you are intent on going to the polls in person on Election Day November 3rd, it is extremely important that you vote early. Applying for and sending in your mail-in ballot early will ensure that your ballot arrives on time and is counted. Check to see if your state provides a drop box to deposit your ballot so you don't have to mail it.

Investigate procedures for voting in your state. A link is provided here to direct your attention to regulations in each state regarding mail-in ballots, early voting times, and voting rules. <https://www.postcardsforamerica.com/vote-by-mail.html>.

Not only is it important for you to vote, but it is also important to encourage others to read and become familiar with the issues, to examine their conscience, make sure they are registered, and that they vote this election season. Talk to friends, relatives, other Ladies of Charity, fellow parishioners, and others in your community; mention how important it is to vote. Offer rides to others so they can get to the polls on Election Day, or can vote early.

WE CARE, WE SERVE, WE VOTE - Wear the button you received at the Ladies of Charity Assembly in Pittsburgh two years ago, or that someone else may have given you. It helps to remind others that we, as Ladies of Charity, are concerned about our nation and our future; we are here to serve, rather than be served. We are concerned about our future and those we care for and come in contact with no matter what the circumstances are in our immediate and other geographical regions. As Ladies of Charity, we consider voting an important duty and privilege as American citizens.



BLESSED GIUSEPPINA NICOLI, D.C., FOUND JESUS IN POOR PEOPLE

Sr. Carol Schumer, D.C.

"He who gently pours out at the feet of Jesus and his Immaculate Mother the unstoppable momentum of the love of God and the treasures related to the ardent charity of her beautiful maternal heart, here rests Sr. Giuseppina Nicoli, D.C. in the peace of the just."



Thus reads the inscription on the headstone of Sr. Nicoli's tomb. Her life clearly illustrates her unstoppable love and her ardent charity for persons, especially children, living in poverty.

Born fifth of 10 children in 1863, Giuseppina entered the Daughters of Charity in Turin, Italy at the age of 20. She was missioned to Sardinia, an island off Italy, where she spent 35

years ministering in multiple works, often serving also as the local leader or Sister Servant of the D.C. community. In her roles, she regularly struggled because the administrators of the agencies did not trust her. However, over time, they came to appreciate her dedication, courage and good will. She worked first in Cagliari, ministering physically and spiritually to orphans and infirmed persons. She also taught catechism and met with youth in the Society of the Sons of Mary, which she founded.

In 1893, at age 30, she contracted tuberculosis. This disease progressively consumed her, but did not interrupt her service. Six years later, Sr. Nicoli was moved to Sassari, another city on the island, to run an orphanage. Here she also organized a group of women to mend, sew and distribute clothing to poor persons. These ladies, under her leadership, also taught religious education to about 800 children every Sunday.

Sr. Nicoli was called back to the provincial house in Turin, in 1910. While there, she served as provincial treasurer and as Directress of the Seminary Sisters (novices.) However, due to the dampness her health suffered, and after three years, she returned to Sardinia and a warmer climate.

Arriving in Sassari, she was greeted with hostility by the new political leaders who made her efforts to run the orphanage impossible. Thus, after one year, she moved back to Cagliari.

In addition to running the orphanage, the aftermath of World War I, compelled Sr. Nicoli and her Sisters to minister to those who were wounded. She also organized the "Young Women of Charity" and opened with them, a facility for children who suffered with rickets and scrofulosis, a form of tuberculosis. Other endeavors

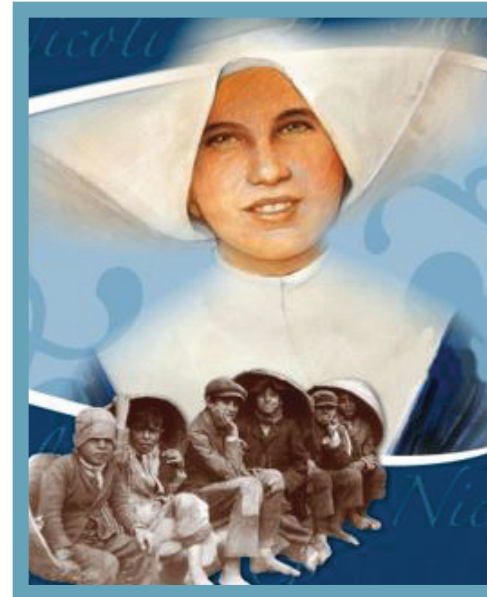
included helping to develop the Propagation of the Faith and the Holy Childhood Society, and the founding of the St. Teresa Circle, which became the Women's Catholic Action movement. In addition, she established the Josephite Association for the religious instruction of affluent children. In the end, the group that captured her heart, the "Urchins of Mary," the basket brats, were comprised of vagrant street

children. She involved them in meaningful activities, taught them to read and write, and made sure they each learned a trade. All toll, this multiplicity of works, accomplished in just 10 years, benefitted many and is amazing given her deteriorating health.

At the age of 61, due to bronchial pneumonia, she went peacefully to God. A handwritten prayer, found after her death, reads: "I want to serve you faithfully, practicing poverty, chastity and obedience, and for love of you to serve the poor." She lived this and thus found Jesus in the poor people. Sources: filles-de-la-charita.org; famvin.org; vatican.va/news_services Reflection: How does Sr. Giuseppina's life and ministry challenge me to see Jesus in others?

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Reflection: How does Sr. Giuseppina's life and ministry challenge me to see Jesus in others?





Ladies of Charity

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