

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

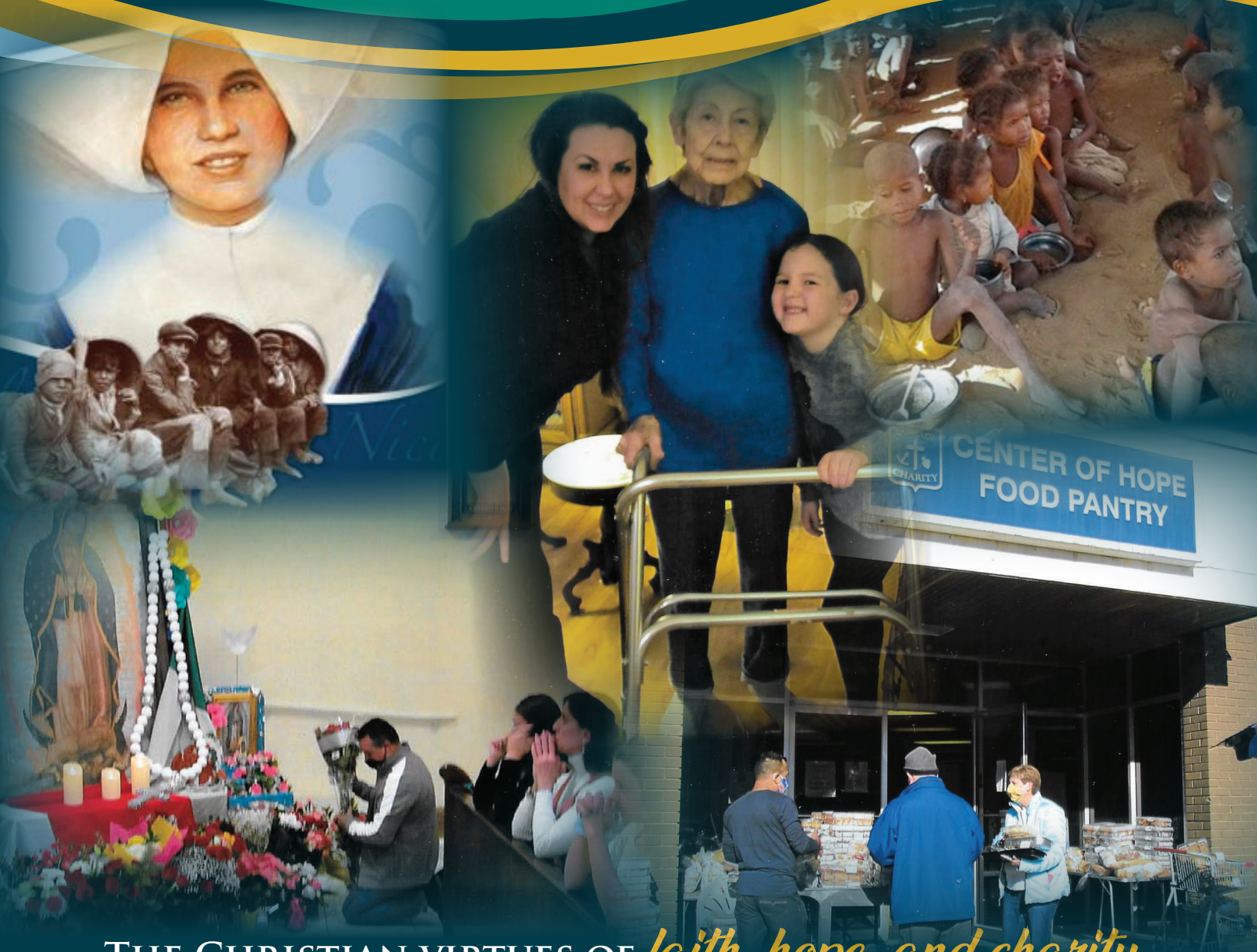
VOL. 61 NO. 1 WINTER 2021

SERVICETTE

TO SERVE RATHER THAN BE SERVED



AIC USA



THE CHRISTIAN VIRTUES OF *faith, hope, and charity*,
GENEROUSLY INSPIRED BY THE EXAMPLE OF THE SAINTS;
A CATECHESIS OF THE TWOFOLD COMMANDMENT OF CHARITY.

“WHAT IS DONE OUT OF CHARITY IS DONE FOR GOD.” ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (XII:391)

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 Debbie Chadwick
Editor Chris Young
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 April 15, 2021. 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

By Debbie Chadwick, LCUSA President



During this time of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, we have many Blessings of which to count. It is during the season of the Birth of Jesus that the Ladies of Charity were officially recognized by the Archbishop of Lyon, France on December 8, 1617; it is also the very important Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception.

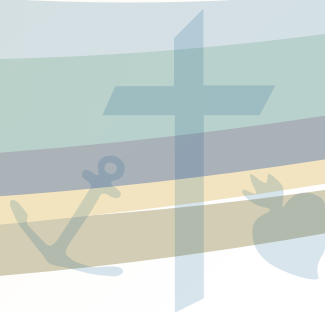
This is a time of firsts for Ladies of Charity. The first of the great foundations of the Vincentian family was laid. The first lay women's organization and the first social services agency in the world established to serve and see the face of Jesus in the face of the poor. For the first time, women were recognized as having a role in the Church and in society. Ladies called to membership in the Confraternities of Charity are to be like Jesus, who came to serve rather than to be served, and are to serve those living in poverty with humility, simplicity, and charity.

I ask each of you reading this, to stop and reflect on Ladies of Charity and our Mission. No really, stop and think about how Ladies of Charity is part of a unique vision that was not only inclusive of women but recognized the poor and marginalized as our focus of service. This was an historical time when women through the guidance of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac came together to make a difference in the world by establishing the genesis of your work, of our work, together, that continues today across the globe. During this time of goodwill, I ask you to continue to consider sharing your gifts. Gifts of membership to welcome a woman in your parish as her sponsor who would enjoy the fun and fellowship of helping our fellow man. Gifts to the Annual Appeal of prayer, time, and treasure to continue to support the good works of our hands.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for giving me the honor of serving as your president during 2019 and 2020. It has been my absolute privilege. It is with great appreciation that I welcome the new Officers and Directors of Ladies of Charity of the United States. They are an incredible group of women who have answered the call to share their gifts with a servant heart. The same servant heart as our founders St. Vincent and St. Louise.

Congratulations Ladies!

Wishing you and yours a beautiful and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!





“THE CHRISTIAN VIRTUES OF FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY”

By The Most Reverend David A. Zubic

a living witness to the reality and power of faith, hope and charity. You have provided food for the sick and the quarantined, aid for the unemployed, prayers for the dead and compassion for all of those who suffer.

You do this because you follow in the footsteps of Jesus and of your founders: Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. More than 300 years after they walked this earth, we revere them both because they demonstrated what it means to act on the great virtues of faith, hope and charity.

Yet, even as we light a candle before their statues, it can be too easy to take their holiness for granted. They were not born with halos. They were real people who had to learn to place God's call to faith, hope and charity above their own inclinations and difficulties.

Saint Vincent de Paul said that his natural temperament was rough and uncaring. At the time of his ordination, he wanted only to live a comfortable life in a comfortable parish. But hearing the Confession of a dying servant opened his eyes to the spiritual and material needs of the poor. God used that encounter to transform him,

leading him to serve imprisoned galley slaves. He later organized ministry to the poor, while leading retreats to revive the spiritual zeal of priests. Because he opened his heart to the movement of the Holy Spirit, he was transformed from a difficult, insensitive person into one of our greatest saints.

His co-worker, Saint Louise de Marillac, launched her ministry among the poor long before she became a nun. Orphaned and later widowed, she was reduced from a life of privilege to a life of need. In that difficult transition, she heard and obeyed God's call to serve those in far greater need than she was. Saint Vincent initially overlooked her capabilities but later saw that her insight into the needs of the poor suited her to accompany and assist him in leading others to doing the same.

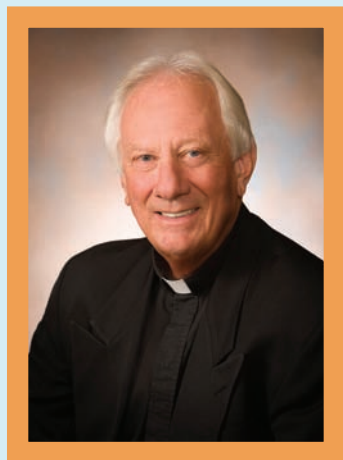
My dear Ladies of Charity, as you follow in the footsteps of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise, remain open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, as were they. The neighbor whom God calls you to serve with faith, hope and charity may be the person down the street. The difficulties in your lives aren't roadblocks to ministry. They prepare you for ministry when you move with the Holy Spirit to use them to help others from your heart. May our Lord always continue to bless and guide you in the path of faith, hope and charity.



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

PLAN A AND B

By Fr. Richard Gielow, C.M.



Rev. Richard Gielow, CM
LCUSA Spiritual Advisor

I was thinking the other day that God doesn't have a plan B. And we are sometimes struggling to put plan A into action. I began asking God for directions and He immediately told me that He did that a long time ago.

St. Paul put the guidelines into a pretty simple formula when he said that, "in the end, only three things last - FAITH, HOPE and LOVE." He went on to add that the greatest of these is LOVE."

Jesus often referred to the two greatest commandments: Love of God and love of neighbor. The significant and hopeful conclusion to plan A seems to be a world, a country and church filled with LOVE. While the gift of faith gives us the basis for all of this. Hope comes alive because of this faith and the desire to love....God and neighbor.

But St. Paul never defined Love ... In his great letter to the Corinthians, he merely described it ... The great Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine said he couldn't define it but he knew what it looked like. The philosopher, St. Thomas Aquinas did define love. He said "to love is to bring out the best in the other." The focus must always be about the other and not myself. Love God and Love neighbor.

St. Vincent de Paul said love is inventive even to infinity. When he asked us to take a trip with Jesus as our guide and leader, he mentioned that it was okay to wear yourself out for others. The challenge then in carrying out God's plan A, LOVE must be at the heart and foundation of it all. God gave us the faith so we can trust in HIM. Hope convinces us that heaven is in our future. We are in the midst of difficult times and we must remain positive relying on God's grace. Looking for a great dream always begins with a dreamer. Believe in yourself and know God and others are depending on you because you are a person of faith, hope and love. You are not alone in this and as the sacrificing, wonderful firefighters in the West tell us, "When you divide the fire, you will soon put it out."

Hope this season brings you great joy. The one who knows what we are facing better than even ourselves is the God who loves us no matter what we do. The God who always forgives ...The God who gave us Plan A ... The God who gave us His Son forever and ever. May God bless you and bless your families.

NASHVILLE LADIES OF CHARITY RECEIVE CARES ACT GRANT

By Margie Druffel

The Ladies of Charity Nashville received a Covid-19 Cares Grant from the State of Tennessee in September 2020. The grant is intended for the purchase and distribution of food to those who are suffering the effects of the pandemic in the Nashville community.

The members are glad to join together for this worthy project. They meet weekly to unload the pallets of food from the delivery truck, fill grocery sacks with a supply of food, and then load their cars to deliver the food. They are supporting families who are recovering both from the tornado and the pandemic; seniors in assisted living, foster families and youth leaving foster care, individuals in a rehab center and groups of immigrant families.



Nashville Ladies of Charity sort items of food for seniors, foster families, youth and immigrant families.

Since September, these ladies and friends in the community have donated more than 36,000 pounds of food in 2,400 bags of groceries. They have also distributed 150 boxes of fresh produce donated by Second Harvest. They hope to continue this project as long as the funds last. It is hard work, but so worth the effort.



Nashville community donates more than 36,000 pounds of food in 2,400 bags of groceries.



LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA®

AIC USA

Providing Vincentian Leadership to Women Acting Together Against All Forms of Poverty



MOST REV. DAVID A. ZUBIK, D.D.
Episcopal Chairman

REV. RICHARD GIELOW, C.M.
Vincentian Spiritual Advisor

SR. CLAIRE DEBES, D.C.
Vincentian Spiritual Moderator

SR. GRACE HARTZOG, S.C.
Vincentian Spiritual Moderator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DEBBIE CHADWICK, PRESIDENT
Nashville, TN

PEGGY KEENE, PRES. ELECT
Pittsburgh, PA

SUZANNE JOHNSON, PAST PRES.
Arcadia, CA

MARY ANN DANTUONO
AIC Executive Board, East Williston, NY

VICTORIA SHOAF, TREASURER
Bayside, NY

KATHLEEN SIERACKI, SECRETARY

KAREN RADU, V.P.
Mid Atlantic Region, Eighty-Four, PA

NANCY BIANCULLI
Mid Atlantic Region, Pittsburgh, PA

DEBORAH SELF
Mid Atlantic Region, Lanham, MD

MARY NELL WILLIAMS, V.P.
North Central Region, Indianapolis, IN

JANE HAAS
North Central Region, Quincy, IL

RUTH WELLMAN
North Central Region, Overland Park, KS

IRENE SIEDLARCZYK, V.P.
Northeastern Region, Endicott, NY

NATALIE BOONE
Northeastern Region, Westbury, NY

HOLLY WALTER
Northeastern Region, Lancaster, NY

ANNELIES GELEN, V.P.
Southern Region, Southern Pines, NC

MARLYSS GILES
Southern Region, Birmingham, AL

SUSAN UNBEHAUN
Southern Region, Knoxville, TN

ROSA AVIÑA, V.P.
Western Region, Los Angeles, CA

CHRIS YOUNG
Western Region, Bountiful, UT

February 2021

Dear Ladies of Charity,

“The practice of Charity...is to be preferred to all other exercises.”
St. Vincent de Paul (VI:514)

The holidays we so enjoy have come and gone and the New Year is in now in full swing. It is during this time of new beginnings that we ask you to consider Ladies of Charity USA (LCUSA) Annual Appeal as you plan your yearly giving.

As a part of the 5,000+ members in 50 Associations across our country you work diligently to provide for God's poor and marginalized in many ways. God's call as well as the example of our founders are supported by you in the care extended in feeding and clothing those who are hungry and naked, sheltering the homeless, caring for the sick and forgotten, especially during these uncertain times of the pandemic.

In addition to maintaining our national office, your donation will help by continuing to:

- Organize, train, and encourage leadership in your local Associations.
- Create future programs that will respond to needs in your communities.
- Communicate our message of concern for those in poverty through advocacy.
- Provide formation in the Vincentian spirituality.
- Witness God's mercy to people in poverty.

Please help us with your continued prayers. For your convenience, a reply envelope is included. If you would like information about leaving a legacy to LCUSA through your estate, please call 816-260-3853.

In the spirit of St. Vincent, St. Louise, and St. Elizabeth Ann,

Debbie Chadwick
President 2019-2020

LCUSA NATIONAL SERVICE CENTER • 2816 E. 23rd St., Kansas City, MO 64127
Tel: 816-260-3853 • E-mail: office@ladiesofcharity.us
Web: aic.ladiesofcharity.us

AIC REPORT

The following was a homily presented by Fr. Miguel Augusto Muñoz Rodríguez, CM, National Spiritual Advisor of AIC Colombia to AIC volunteers in Colombia and subsequently published in the October 2020 AIC Training Reflection #3.

Following the election in April 2020, the Board of Directors of AIC (International Association of Charities) met several times via Zoom to establish Priority Lines of Action (PLA) for 2020-2023. These are the lines of action on which we propose to focus our common work in AIC for the more than 100,000 volunteers around the world. We establish them during the International Assemblies to which we are invited to represent the 55 countries, from four continents, which make up AIC. Drawing up Priority Lines of Action (formerly Operational Guidelines) was an initiative that was born at the International Assembly held in Assisi, Italy in 1981, and has been followed ever since. The current PLA are as follows:

1) To promote creativity and solidarity in facing contemporary poverty.

This first PLA is an invitation to come out of the paralysis that can cause us to fear the life-threatening pandemic. Jesus is inviting us to be wise and to know how to understand adequately what we are experiencing to respond to it with creativity. Creativity is the ability to reinvent ourselves, to create new ways of doing what we have always done, which is charity. We, the volunteers, can no longer adhere to programs or social projects that are no longer effective forms of charity. It is time to examine the viability of our services. Let us look outward, beyond our fellow volunteers, beyond the positions we hold in the association, beyond the "it's always been done this way," [attitude] and let us focus on the people living in poverty. We must listen to them and look carefully at their everyday reality. Doing so will prevent us from providing theoretical solutions based on our whims that do not always help to improve their situation, but rather make them more dependent on the bread we offer them.

Let us be the voice of those who have no voice, of those who prefer to die from hunger out of shame, of those, who because of their appearance are discriminated against when they work, of those who because of their ignorance are abused and their basic rights violated. Let us, as a matter of urgency, be promoters of solidarity; let us touch hearts, let us denounce injustices and make the world see them, let us leave selfishness and indifference behind to reach out to our most disadvantaged brothers and sisters. Let us also promote this solidarity among the people living in poverty, motivating them to walk together united to move forward.

Let us not forget that, as St. Vincent says, "Love is inventive, even to infinity." In other words, there is no creativity if there is no experience of love for God, only love moves hearts to care for the wounds of others. Only love reinvents, creates if possible. Every new work is born in the love of God.

2) To implement educational and transformative projects based on Vincentian charism.

Each volunteer must reflect in her actions the project of Christ, which aims to make each human being divine by touching their fragility. We are asked to implement transformative projects based on systemic change. Projects that seek to move from being mere handouts to being empowering.

Education is a theme that should predominate in all our projects. A holy educator said: "To educate a boy is to educate a man, to educate a girl is to educate a family." AIC, aware of the importance and necessity of this, has encouraged work aimed at women for many years. Women are the emotional pillar and often the economic support in a family, they are the faith educators and those who teach children values. The family, which has been severely attacked in recent times, is generally maintained by the strength, work, and sensitivity of women. Therefore, we direct our educational and transformative projects towards women: They are an example to us all.

Charity, in order to respond to the Vincentian charism, must be "affective and effective." This attitude will prevent our services and projects from being mere social services. Do not forget that every project is born in silence; that is, everything we do must be born in prayer, so that we can be certain that it is the Holy Spirit who is guiding and helping us to ensure that God's will is fulfilled in every initiative.

3) To strengthen networking and partnerships.

Working together was so important to Jesus that the first thing he did was to call his twelve disciples, accompany them and prepare them to undertake a task that had to reach the ends of the earth.

St. Vincent de Paul did not work alone either. He knew that charity must be an organized practice, so he called together eight women who were willing to serve to continue weaving the net of Christ. He also took advantage of the relationships he had with wealthy people of his time to achieve his ends.

A network as large as that of AIC, 55 countries in 4 continents, and the Vincentian Family, with about 4 million volunteers in 156 countries, helps us to work together on



"Everyone has a fundamental role to play in a single great creative project: to write a new page of history, a page full of hope, peace and reconciliation."

(Pope Francis - Fratelli Tutti Encyclical - [231])

Continued on page 9 ►

MADAGASCAR:

2021 MADAGASCAR APPEAL

By Holly Walter, Madagascar Chair
LCUSA Board Director

The Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020 has shut down most Ladies of Charity associations and groups across the nation for much of the year. It also postponed the 2020 National Assembly until 2021, which will take place in Knoxville, Tenn. The assembly is a major source of contributions for our Ladies of Charity Twinning Project in Madagascar. The people of Madagascar also are suffering from this worldwide pandemic and are still in need of our help.

In order to meet our annual contribution goal for both 2020 and 2021, we need the Ladies of Charity associations and individuals to contribute to the Twinning Project whatever they are able to donate. You can help by sending a check for any amount to our National Service Center. The address is:

**LCUSA National Service Center
2816 East 23rd Street
Kansas City, MO 64127**

Please put Madagascar in the memo line on the check made out to the Ladies of Charity. Thank you for your support in the past and for any contributions you can make at this time.



AIC Centre, Madagascar



MADAGASCAR APPEAL
Let's make a difference!

photo: aic-international.org

A 21ST CENTURY “CALLING” ROOTED IN A 400+ YEAR HISTORY

By MaryAnn Dantuono, Chairperson, Board of Directors

The Ladies of Charity USA Board voted to create a National Home Care Agency as part of our celebration of the 400th Anniversary of our founding by St. Vincent de Paul in 1717. The task at hand was monumental but step by step we moved forward and sometimes backward in our efforts to launch this endeavor.



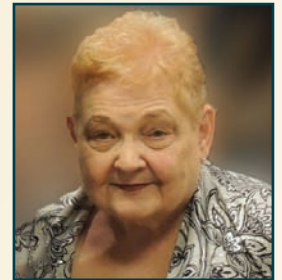
Sandra Jurani

A venture like Caregiving is a tremendous opportunity for growth and for stress. We have experienced both as a Board, who with our staff have guided the pilot location of Ladies of Charity Caregiving in Pittsburgh as a licensed home health agency. Commitment to the elderly, sick and frail persons who need assistance in their home and training of care workers to provide that care is a great task and achievement. Our mission, our “calling” provides us with the passion so that we have now reached the milestone of two years of operation, navigating the health care, business environment, and one of the greatest threats to an operation such as ours – COVID-19.

Over the past year, under the excellent leadership of **Sandra Jurani, executive director**, we have grown our operation, trained excellent caregivers and hired and developed staff with skills and understanding of the Vincentian charism. We have approved a long range strategic plan, a marketing plan, developed our training curricula and sought and received financial support from foundations and donors. On August 26th at our second annual meeting, the Board approved the development of a second branch office. Based on all indicators and the vote of the Board of the Kansas City Metro Ladies of Charity, it will be in that area with state licenses to serve in both Kansas and Missouri.

We have learned much. Our greatest lesson is that partnering with the Local Ladies of Charity is a great strength. The Ladies of Charity in Pittsburgh formed an advisory committee and served our professional staff as local guides, experts and cheerleaders. We are most grateful for their collaboration. In addition to the advisory group, they developed a mentoring program for our care workers, many of whom were beginning a new career in caregiving.

As a group the Pittsburgh Ladies have donated their time, talent, and resources to our success. While grateful for each Lady of Charity who contributed to this project we also lift-up in a special way, Peggy Keene as she amazed all of us with her resourcefulness and her ongoing commitment to this project. We look forward to her new role as she begins her term as President of LCUSA as she will now become an ex-officio member of the Ladies of Charity Caregiving Board and Executive Committee. We look forward to her insights, experiences and dreams for this project.



Peggy Keene



Marilyn Martone was the Chairperson of our Board of Directors for the first two years. She has stepped down and Mary Ann Dantuono will serve for the next two years. We are grateful for Marilyn's vision and passion for this initiative. As her colleague, Michael Elsas VP of the Board stated, “Marilyn is a woman of unparalleled courage and strength.” Marilyn remains a Board Member. To see a list of those serving on the Board of Caregiving, please go to our website loccaregiving.org.

We are also grateful to the National Board and membership of LCUSA. We are grateful for prayers, support and commitment to the future of this endeavor. It is a labor of love and of hope. Please know that we continue to need your interest and commitment.

If an Association wishes to be considered as a location for a future branch office, please contact Sandra Jurani, our executive Director at admin@loccare.org. We also welcome donations to our **special care fund** (loccaregiving.org/donate) to enable a sliding scale fee for persons without insurance or to our **general fund** (loccaregiving.org/donate). If you have ideas for this project or wish to serve on our Board or Board Committees, (openings for persons with marketing and development skills), please



Marilyn Martone



MaryAnn Dantuono

email **Mary Ann Dantuono**
(madantuono@gmail.com).
Please sign up at loccaregiving.org
for our monthly newsletters
and please continue to keep this
work in your prayers!

Continued from page 6 ▶

important projects such as the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA), whose goal it is to change the lives of more than 10,000 homeless people around the world within 5 years.

By networking with other AIC volunteers, we get to know the projects and experiences of other volunteer groups, both within and outside our home countries. We get an idea of how they have obtained resources to carry out their services, and we may be able to replicate the projects that have been successful. "Working together we will be stronger and more competent".

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us the creativity to implement transformational projects that respond to the signs of the times and for God to tie every knot in our network of charity.

Thank you, Father Miguel, for sharing these ideas on bringing these suggestions for action to life. Thank you also to International Vice President and Continental Coordinator, Clara Inés Díaz.

**To learn more about AIC go to
www.aic-international.org**

*The Caregiving Team*

WE MADE IT THROUGH 2020!

**Donate \$20.21 to
support our mission
in the coming year**

**MONTHLY BUS PASSES FOR
CAREGIVERS**

**SLIDING-SCALE PAYMENT
PROGRAM**

**ON-BOARDING AND
TRAINING DEVELOPMENT
FOR CAREGIVERS**



loccaregiving.org/donate

2020 KATHLEEN HAGER GRANTS

Awarded

TO LOCAL LADIES OF CHARITY ASSOCIATIONS:

The LCUSA Board of Directors are pleased to announce the following recipients of the Kathleen Hager Grants for the year 2020. The goal of the grant is to assist the Ladies of Charity Association's on the local level to build relationships with persons living in poverty and alleviate this poverty through service, education, and advocacy. Normally we would recognize the grant recipients during the annual National Assembly, however due to Covid-19 the assembly has been postponed until August of 2021 in Knoxville, Tenn.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

*St. Francis de Sales, Washington D.C.,
President Linda Williams*

The project works to fulfill requests for Christmas gifts for children and grocery gift cards for Seniors.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

*St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louis, Mo.,
President, Natalie Cox*

The project will be able to include new underwear to the selection of clothing available for the homeless in Operation Clothing Window.

*Ladies of Charity Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Ind.,
Co-Presidents, Connie Brandes and Barb Killian*

The project provides 3-4 meals a year as well as welcome bags to guests of St. Vincent House for families of patients receiving care at Ascension St. Vincent Indianapolis.

NORTHEAST REGION

*Ladies of Charity Binghamton, NY,
President Frances Simkulet*

The project works with elementary school staff to provide clothing and personal care items for children marginalized by poverty.

NORTHEAST REGION JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY

*St. Mary of the Assumption, Cheektowaga, NY,
Moderator, Kaitlyn Berger*

The project will make reusable bags from T-shirts, which will be used at area soup kitchens as plastic bags are no longer used. The bags will also be used in the winter to provide hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries and snacks to help the local soup kitchens with care packages.

On behalf of the membership, we congratulate and thank you for all that you do for the least of our brothers and sisters. We applaud these efforts to meet the needs in your communities with creativity and commitment in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

CHRISTMAS JOY FOR SENIORS IN LANCASTER, NY

By Holly Walter, Northeastern Region Director

St. Mary's Ladies of Charity in Lancaster, New York, have been assisting the residents of Symphony Manor, an Assisted Living Facility located in the village of Lancaster, since May of 2020. The ladies spent two days in November at the rectory of St. Mary's Church, writing Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to the residents to cheer them up and to let them know someone cares about them during this very difficult time of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Other ladies from the Lancaster group worked from home in the same fashion preparing personal care packages. These ladies brought gifts for each of the residents by providing personal care items and small gifts such as socks, scarves, and candy, and other necessities. Sharon Ellis, the activities director, held a drawing for the residents at the facility before Christmas.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's and Junior Ladies of Charity helped in the effort by providing a good example of working together as members of the Vincentian Family to help others in need.



*St. Mary's Ladies of Charity in Lancaster, NY,
create Christmas cards for seniors.*

LAKE TRAVIS LADIES OF CHARITY THRIFT SHOP PROVIDES \$3,000,000

in financial support and in in-kind donations to numerous charities

By Janice LeMond

The Ladies of Charity of Lake Travis was founded 29 years ago by 36 women, who within a few months, opened a small thrift shop – with a goal of providing financial support for the Lake Travis Crisis Ministries. Today, the Lake Travis Thrift Shop is the largest provider of aid in the Lake Travis area. It has provided more than \$3,000,000 in financial support and more than \$3,000,000 in in-kind donations to numerous charities. A list of beneficiaries is listed in a box with this article.

The Lake Travis Thrift Shop outgrew three shop locations over the years, and with ever increasing rental costs, the Ladies of Charity took a leap of faith and built their own shop.

“Four years ago, the Ladies of Charity of Lake Travis were called by the Holy Spirit to reach beyond our capabilities and place our trust in God,” said Carol Nex, LOC-Lake Travis president, who gives credit to the Holy Spirit for His guidance throughout this enormous undertaking.

“We were a group of women who knew how to operate a very successful business, but we had no knowledge of how to purchase land or construct a building; but we knew in our hearts that we were being called by God to move forward,” Nex said. “Although the road has not always been smooth, God led us to the ideal realtor, perfect builder, and amazing advisors along the way. We are all thrilled with the end result and anticipate great success in the new location.”

A quiet dedication was held in late August, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The shop officially opened to the public on September 2, 2020; masks and physical distancing are required.

The LOC-Lake Travis commissioned a painting to honor the Holy Spirit with their gratitude for His guidance throughout this journey. Local watercolor artist and Thrift Shop volunteer, Theresa Martin was scared about accepting this project because it included materials she did not customarily work with in her studio, a substantial canvas (8'x5'), and acrylic paint. However, she had the desire to bring the vision

of the Ladies of Charity to life, and overcame her fear telling herself, ‘It’s for the glory of God, so I can’t fail.’

Martin’s inspirational painting is showcased at the entrance of the new shop with the words, “The Holy Spirit Led Us to This Place.” Opposite the painting, will be rotating monthly exhibits of local artists, holiday traditions, charitable organizations, lives of the saints, and more. The displays serve as a base for a stunning prayer request box, where shoppers are invited to place their prayer intentions. Shari Bauer, creator of the displays and prayer request box, explained, “I wanted to offer the priceless gift of prayer to anyone who was in need of it. Each prayer request will be prayed in utmost confidence with a team of prayer partners.”

The success of the Thrift Shop depends upon the community to donate, volunteer and shop. Multiple churches in the Lake Travis area, including the Lakeway Church, Lake Travis Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of Lake Travis, and Emmaus Catholic Parish have hosted events that help to fuel the success of the shop. Their gifted and

hardworking volunteers, donations and overall supportive efforts have been overwhelming.

“The people of the community have been incredibly generous,” said Anita Fisher founding member and LOC-Lake Travis president-emeritus/and original Thrift Shop. “The success of the shop is beyond my expectations. It’s a miracle!”

This year’s roster volunteer/membership is 233, currently due to Covid-19 many volunteers are not able to work at the shop. The volunteers ages range from 14 to 95. We partner with Mormon Elders and Sister Missionaries, Young Men’s Service League, NCL mothers and daughters and with the youth volunteers.

The shop has a full-time manager and two part-time assistants. It takes a minimum of 12 people each day to operate the new shop. Members do not need to be Catholic and the LOC-Lake Travis encourages ecumenical participation.



Lake Travis Thrift Shop Founding Member Anita Fisher and Current Pres Carol Nex.



Ladies of Charity - Lake Travis Thrift Shop Financial Beneficiary Partners

Air Warriors Courage Foundation
(Project Christmas Hope)
Annunciation Maternity Home
Austin Diocesan Prison Ministry
Austin Disaster Relief Network
Bright Horizons
Catholic Charities
Connect Africa
Cheyanna's Champion 4 Children
Emmaus Catholic Church - outreach
Helping Hands of Spicewood
Foster Angels
Gabriel Project
John Paul II Life Center
Lake Travis Crisis Ministries
The Rotary Club of Lakeway/Lake Travis
(RCOLT) Scholarship Program
LCUSA - Hurricane Relief
LTlov (Green Santa)
Mary House Catholic Worker
Mary's Touch - Frontline Faith
Mobile Loaves and Fishes Truck Teams
Mobile Loaves Community First Village
St. Louise House
St. Vincent DePaul - Spicewood
Partners in Hope
Women's Storybook Project
World War II Honor Flight Program

Ladies of Charity - Lake Travis Thrift Shop In-Kind Beneficiary Partners

Africa's Promise Village
Angel Wings
Angels Healing and Recovery Church
Arms of Hope-Medina Children's Home
Austin Christian Fellowship-Outreach
Casa Marianella
First Baptist Austin - Outreach
Kerby's Clothing Ministry
Lake Travis Cav Lounge
Not a Glum Lot
Pet/Animal, Various Rescue Services
Posada Esperanza
Presbyterian Church of Lake Travis-Outreach
Safe Place
St. Edwards Drama Department
Sunrise Community Church Homeless Ministry
Tru Care Pregnancy
Wildflower Center - Children's Literacy Program



Lake Travis Lady of Charity artist
Theresa Martin painted the mural.



Lady of Charity Shari Bauer displays the
prayer box she created for the Thrift Shop.



Lake Travis Board of Directors 2020

LADIES OF CHARITY FORM FIRST ASSOCIATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

By Chris Young, Board Director

The members of Sacred Heart Parish in Pinehurst, North Carolina, never dreamed they would have a Ladies of Charity Association, let alone be the first in North Carolina to have or be members of a Ladies of Charity association. That is until Anneleis Geelan moved from California to the shores of North Carolina bringing with her experience and compassion, the Vincentian spirituality, unlimited talent, a charismatic and fun-loving personality, a contagious laugh and a lot of charm.

Anneleis, the LCUSA vice-president of the Southern Region and an LOC Spiritual moderator, personally invited women to become Ladies of Charity and asked them to bring their friends. The Sacred Heart priest encouraged her to put an announcement in the parish bulletin, but Anneleis thought it would be more appealing if she invited them personally. The Catholic faith is only about 5 or 6 percent in her area, she said.

"It hasn't been easy – it's not easy to get people involved," Anneleis said. "I was going to start on January 1, after the holidays, and then one morning after I got back from traveling, I thought, no, I'm starting right now." That was Oct. 1, 2017. Late in the summer of 2019, eight women were installed in the Ladies of Charity of Sandhills North Carolina Association. "It was beautiful," Anneleis said. "There are now 15 members in our group."

Vincentian Past Superior General Fr. Gregory Gay and Father John Forbes, Sacred Heart Parish priest, installed the women. Also present for the ceremony were Fr. Javier Castrejon, parochial vicar, Daughter of Charity Sr. Mary Shea, the Spiritual Advisor, and Daughter of Charity Sr. Claire Debes, Vincentian LCUSA Spiritual Moderator.

The Sandhills Ladies Association meet once a month and go on retreats whenever possible. This has been a difficult year for everyone with the Coronavirus Pandemic, Anneleis said, adding that Sr. Mary has been a dedicated and a very helpful person for the group. "She drives an hour to get to our meetings and comes prepared every time." Some of the ministries the women are involved in include working in senior centers doing yoga or telling stories, working in infant units in hospitals dressing up the babies for photo ops with their families, welcoming families as they come into the hospital, and reading with elementary children at schools.

The women are "excited about the work we are doing; they are all friends, and I am very proud of these women and that it's the first Ladies of Charity group in North Carolina," Anneleis said. "Actually we have been attending the 8 a.m.

Mass every morning and sitting having coffee and cookies afterward. It's really nice."

Anneleis joined the Ladies of Charity in 1997, while living in San Francisco, Calif. She moved to San Francisco in the 1970s from the Netherlands early in her marriage; she had three young daughters when her husband was transferred to San Francisco with his job. After 50 years of marriage, she now has several grandchildren and a few great-grandchildren.

Anneleis was very active as a Lady of Charity in San Francisco under the direction of Spiritual Moderator Daughter of Charity Sr. Estella Morales; working with the homeless, in the soup kitchen, the Age House, and women with substance abuse issues. "After I had moved to North Carolina in 2010, I went back to San Francisco to set up the National Assembly held in San Jose, then Morgan Hills took over because I couldn't stay there."

"I still miss all of those women today," Anneleis said. "We held meetings at the Daughter of Charity Mother House in Los Altos, where the women in Morgan Hills were installed by Bishop Patrick Joseph McGrath."

I met Anneleis in 2006 when I was elected as a board director for the LCUSA Western Region and Anneleis was the regional vice-president; she was my mentor and continues to teach me today. We became fast friends as she does with many people.

After moving to North Carolina it took a while for Anneleis to get acclimated and back on the LCUSA Board, but she did in 2017 and immediately became a vice-president again and is making things happen in the south as she did in the west.



Anneleis Geelan assists in installing the women during the ceremony.



Fr. Gregory Gay, installs the Ladies of Charity in the Sand Hills Association in Sacred Heart Parish in North Carolina.

SALT LAKE CITY LADIES OF CHARITY OVERCOME HURDLES

By Lori Donnester, Lady of Charity

COVID-19 tossed more hurdles into our lives than a star quarterback tosses passes to his teammates in a game. The question is, how do we deal with that? The Salt Lake City Chapter of Ladies of Charity at Our Lady of Lourdes met the challenge. Just as we changed up our food deliveries to our 30 families from delivering actual food to gift cards, we changed our Christmas Wishes program this year. We normally selected a child and purchased a gift for them. Then we got together and wrapped them at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

This year, each child received a \$30 gift certificate to Walmart. Our talented Jenny McDonald decorated delightful bags, and each bag contained a Christmas card including the gift card, a box with two decorated candies (a Santa and a Christmas Tree) tied to candy canes, a hot chocolate packet, fruit gummies, socks and a special little gift - fuzzy Christmas socks, puppet, ball, sequined heart). Carol Huffman and Jackie Harover packed them on a sunny day in Carol's garage. Each family will receive a gift card to Smiths to purchase meat, as they did for Thanksgiving. We leaped over the hurdle! Although I will admit, I missed getting together to wrap the gifts.

COVID-19 has presented mental hurdles as well. We can only go out to the grocery store and we can't see our friends. Prayers help with that a lot. We send each other updates, prayer requests and help support those that need it.

Gratitude is another way to overcome dark times and put joy in your heart. Here are some of the things we are grateful for:

Faith, family, friends, food, warmth, church Mass, bingo, and Christmas lights.

Our organization and the service that it provides to families helping them in their daily struggles. Helping others in need creates that warm glow in your heart.

We're grateful for the scientists - they came up with vaccines for COVID so quickly.

We're grateful that we live in Utah with its easy access to outdoor recreation.

We're grateful for technology. Zoom and Facetime have provided a great way to stay in touch.

We're grateful for our health and that of our family. It is not taken for granted.

We're grateful for the medical professionals who care so much.

We're grateful for the teachers who care so much.

We're grateful to the grocery store workers, the truckers and all of the multitudes of people who go out there every day to serve.

We're grateful for the fact that we were created in God's image. That is why the doctors, nurses, teachers, and so many others keep going - Because they care. And God designed us that way.

We're so glad He did!



Ladies of Charity of Lourdes Chapter in Salt Lake wrap Christmas presents for children.



ENCOURAGING AND SHARING A POSITIVE FUTURE

By Natalie Cox, President
Ladies of Charity St Vincent's - St. Louis, MO

DePaul USA opened St. Lazare House in St. Louis; a Vincentian based supportive housing program that serves as a bridge for young adults transitioning to adulthood. It is St. Louis' only supportive housing for homeless 18-24 years old. The program provides permanent supportive housing for youth (tenants), who may be disabled, single, unaccompanied or chronically homeless, an opportunity to learn and practice how to be a tenant. The around-the-clock staff works with the tenants helping them build skills that will increase their success. The end goal is for them to move into their own permanent housing and become self-sufficient and contributing members of the community - "Because homelessness has no place in our society."

"St. Lazare House would be nothing if we were not a part of the amazing Vincentian family here in St. Louis," said Gretchen Shipp, Program Director, about her relationship with the Ladies of Charity. "The Vincentian family has embraced our program tenants and allows us to serve and support in ways that we otherwise could not. The Ladies of Charity from St. Vincent de Paul Parish continue to be an integral part of our Vincentian family of support. They have been with us since we opened in 2017, and have responded to our tenants' needs in a variety of creative ways," she said

What started as a humble and modest gesture in June 2018 by the St. Vincent Ladies of Charity has blossomed into a program made up of several simple acts full of support and encouragement for these young adults. The facility is currently at capacity with 17 tenants.

In June 2018 the Ladies started providing birthday celebrations for the tenants, some from their personal treasury. The 'cake ladies' as they are called, deliver a birthday cake and birthday card, along with a \$10 Quik Trip gift card to St. Lazare House the day of or day before the tenant's birthday, Gretchen said. "The Ladies are our birthday angels," adding that the tenants are not used to being celebrated on their birthdays; they are like little kids filled with joy when their cake arrives. "The Ladies have also conducted several card-writing campaigns to offer support, love, and hope to our tenants during difficult times, for Christmas, or just to be reminded that someone cares about them," she said.

This past July, two of the tenants unfortunately died. This loss was very difficult for the other tenants. Our chairman asked our members to mail sympathy cards, and assigned the names of the tenants to the Ladies so tenants could each receive several cards personally addressed to them. They were very touched, as many had not received mail before. The chairperson had the idea of a memorial garden for those tenants who had passed, so the tenants also added garden stones with the names of the deceased on them, and planted a plant in their memory.

This past Christmas, members volunteered to mail Christmas cards to each tenant so they would receive several, and we gave \$25 cash to each of them for Christmas. One of our ladies volunteered to make cakes and cupcakes, enough for all the tenants and staff so when the gifts were delivered, they could have a party. "They were also our Christmas angels this year gifting our tenants with an extra surprise gift for each tenant. This added great joy to them," Gretchen said.



Trashawn proudly shows the keys to his new apartment.



Gretchen Shipp loads supplies for Trashawn's new apartment.

Continued on page 16 ►

PANTRY OPENS EVERY SATURDAY IN NORTH SALT LAKE

By Chris Young, Board Director

The Ladies of Charity of Northern Utah have now opened the Center of Hope Food Pantry every Saturday in North Salt Lake. The Ladies of Charity in Utah was established in 2003 in Bountiful, Utah by Sr. Charlotte Marie Clark, and a shed was used in the Daughters of Charity convent to store the food. Volunteers packed food boxes and basic essentials in the driveway of the sisters' home, and delivered them to several families around the valley once a month. With a growing need we've expanded "The Center of Hope" Food Pantry twice. Now, under the direction of Sr. Germaine Sarrazin, we serve 150+ families a month.



Center of Hope Food Pantry.

With the Coronavirus things have changed, we have witnessed an increase of about 30 new families coming to the center. Until November we had been serving 40 families each month at St. Patrick Parish in Salt Lake City. We then realized we could accommodate more families in need by opening our pantry every Saturday. The people from St. Patrick Parish now come to the pantry along with new families, and we serve about 30 to 35 families each week. During the holidays we gave away 120 turkeys at Thanksgiving and a mixture of turkeys and beef roasts for the Christmas holiday.

We provide some household items, hygiene products, baby layette items, diapers, and limited clothing from the pantry donations. Normally people would be able to come into the pantry to shop for items they need, but with the Covid-19 outbreak, we have had to ask them their needs, fill their boxes and take them to their car. On sunny days we are able to display the clothing items outside and they can shop.

Continued from page 15 ►

The newest mission partnership with St. Lazare began in January 2021. As encouragement and congratulations, the program allows the tenants who graduate to be gifted with a start-up set of brand-new household items to help them have a good start in their new home, Gretchen said. The tenants fill out a prioritized list of 11 items they need and the Ladies of Charity buy them based on their budget.

"The tenants do not typically have family support or people who can help them. It again reminds them they are not alone, and that people care and are rooting for them as they take this next step," Gretchen said. "The Ladies continue to remind us that kindness, compassion, and action are the core of the Vincentian spirit and response to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. AND we are so VERY grateful!"

Our first blessing came January 18, when we delivered the housewarming gifts to Trashawn. He is a happy young man with a job and a new apartment of his own! We couldn't be prouder of him and are grateful to be a part of his journey. With our budget and some donated items, we were able to provide everything on his list and more, including bedding, bath and kitchen linens, bath accessories, dishes, pots and pans, cleaning supplies, a laundry basket and everything he would need to set up a household, including a chocolate chip cookie that read: Congratulations!

We all met at St. Lazare, talked and laughed, and moved all of the items from [Natalie Cox's] car to Gretchen's car. It was an awesome and amazing day for us. Trashawn is full of joy and is taking this journey with a lot of thought and planning. We wish him the best and hope to get updates on his success. All this to make an impact on someone else's life. Help and care does not have to be a huge financial or time commitment, it just needs to be a true and sincere commitment of support given from the heart.



Natalie Cox and Trashawn admire the supplies for his new apartment.

ELECTION FOLLOW-UP AND LADIES OF CHARITY AS MEMBERS OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY

By Holly Walter and Marie Copeland,
LCUSA Advocacy Committee Members

A big thank you to everyone across the nation who participated in the 2020 Presidential election by casting a vote, assisting others to be able to vote, or volunteering their time and effort to those in their communities during this period of the Coronavirus Pandemic. When we work together we can accomplish many things.

During this time, Holly had the privilege of attending a virtual Vincentian Seminar in November 2020 to learn more about how St. Vincent de Paul founded the Ladies of Charity, and the purpose behind our inception in 1617. Other ideas that arose were how we can better cooperate with other Vincentian organizations in our areas and work together to help and serve the poor.

The biggest lesson is that cooperating and working together on different projects will go a long way to ease the suffering of our most vulnerable populations as they struggle to overcome the devastating effects of the Coronavirus on families and communities in our nation. This is now a new age that requires us as Ladies of Charity to enlarge our memberships locally and nationally, and to reach out to others to facilitate our presence in our neighborhoods and geographic areas.

In the last Advocacy article, our motto: WE CARE, WE SERVE, WE VOTE must be what we live by as we go forth as Ladies of Charity in 2021 to bring people together and end divisions that keep us from achieving the goals of uplifting people out of poverty. Our advocacy for our fellow citizens will go a long way to improve the situations of many poor and marginalized people around our nation and the world. Please make an effort this year to make your voice heard. Even though the election is over, the issues affecting our population will not go away until we work together to eliminate the causes of systemic poverty.

The Advocacy Committee invites you to explore the Catholic Conference in your state and join its Catholic Action Network to receive alerts in the form of fully editable emails to send to your governor and legislatures on important issues on the Bishops' agenda. For federal alerts, join **Votervoice** by going to **aic.ladiesofcharity.us**. On the home page, under "Advocacy," access the drop down menu to find "Sign up for VoterVoice. Again you will receive a fully editable email to send to your congressional representatives.

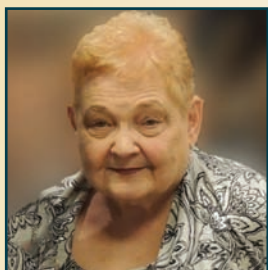
We base everything we do on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the examples given to us by St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: perseverance and dedication to those we serve. God Bless You for all of your efforts during this very difficult time.

The Advocacy Committee would like to ask you to make helping and serving others a priority in your daily life, and make the goals of the Ladies of Charity something you live by at all times. Let others know about what LCUSA does, and don't be hesitant about making your voice heard. Thank you for being an advocate.



THE ELECTION FOR LCUSA BOARD OFFICERS

By Kathleen Sieracki



Peggy Keene

A new Board of Directors for the Ladies of Charity of the United States of America (LCUSA) who will take office effective January 1, 2021, for a two-year term was held in a unique way this year. Because the 2020 National Assembly, which would have included an election, was cancelled, local association presidents voted unanimously by email to elect the board.

Peggy Keene of Pittsburgh will serve as president. Peggy has been president of the diocesan board for Ladies of Charity (LOC) twice, was co-chair of a national assembly, has been on the national board for several years, including serving as Chair of the Spirituality Committee, and has been instrumental in the success of the pilot LCUSA Caregiving Program in Pittsburgh.



Holly Walter

Holly Walter of the Diocese of Buffalo will be President-Elect. Holly is president of her parish LOC group, is the Vincentian Spiritual Moderator of the Diocese of Buffalo Ladies of Charity, and has served four years on the national board as Nominations Chair, Chair of the Madagascar Twinning Project, and is a member of the Advocacy Committee.

Mary Nell Williams of Indianapolis has eight years' experience on the national board as director and regional vice president for the North Central Region, and will now begin serving as secretary.

Claudia Van is the treasurer from Pittsburgh, who is retired from a career as an accountant and controller and serves on the diocesan board for LOC.

Debbie Chadwick, the immediate past president, will offer her counsel as past president.



Mary-Nell Williams

Mid-Atlantic Region: Karen Radu will continue as regional vice president for the, with directors Nancy Bianculli and Deborah Self.

Southern Region: Also continuing are Annelies Geelen, vice president, Marlyss Giles and Susan Unbehaun as directors.

Western Region: Rosa Avina will remain as vice president and Chris Young continues as a director.

Northeastern Region: Irene Siedlarczyk will return as vice president, along with Natalie Boone as a director. Kathleen Roseti will join the board as a director. She is currently president of the Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Buffalo and is retired from the Internal Revenue Service.



Debbie Chadwick

Three new board members will represent the North Central Region. **Mary Pat Sullivan**, current president of the Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City, will serve as regional vice president. She is a nurse and spent most of her career in obstetrics. **Rosemarie Vohsen** is retired from the insurance industry and is president of the Ladies of Charity of St. Catherine Laboure Parish in St. Louis. **Sharon Terwelp** is a member of the LOC association of Quincy, Illinois. Since her retirement as an elementary school teacher, she has volunteered at Ladies of Charity, in a literacy program and at a nursing home. Thank you to all these women who have agreed to be servant leaders for LCUSA.



Kathleen Roseti



Mary Pat Sullivan



Rosemarie Vohsen



Sharon Terwelp



Claudia Van

JEANNE-ANTIDE THOURET, DEDICATED TO SERVICE

By Carol Schumer, D.C.

Formally, a Daughter of Charity for only 5 years, Jeanne-Antide Thouret (Joan-Antida in English) was clearly imbued with the Vincentian charism of ministry to persons who are poor. Living during the French Revolution, when all religious communities were suppressed, she was forced to return home without making her vows. In spite of this unforeseen circumstance, she exhibited a deep-seated spirit of Daughterly service throughout her life, to the those on the margins of society.

Born on November 27, 1765, the fifth of eight children into a farm family in Sancey-le-Long, in southeast France, Jeanne had five brothers and two sisters. Her mother suffered from poor health so her dad's sister came and took over. This aunt was a nasty boss and, after only a year, made Joan quit school, to work in the fields. In 1781, Jeanne's mom died and, at age 15, Jeanne was put in charge of her widowed father, her younger siblings and the entire household.

Secretly, Jeanne yearned to enter religious. When she was 21, she inquired into a local congregation. Her father opened her reply and was furious. As a result, he tried, unsuccessfully, to find her a suitable husband. Ultimately, he gave permission and she entered the Carmelites, but realized quickly, "This is not for me." Her parish priest then suggested the Daughters of Charity, remarking "It's a good place for country girls."

In addition, Jeanne wanted a group who combined prayer, community living and ministry to poor people. "The Little Company" was an ideal fit.

During her first year, as a Postulant, she ministered as a nurse, a cook and the laundress in a hospital. In 1787, she was sent to the Seminary in Paris. As a young Sister, she was greatly challenged especially in one of her local missions where the Sister Servant was addicted to alcohol and her stand-in treated Jeanne much like her domineering aunt. These experiences as a Daughter laid

a solid foundation for the rest of her life.

Sadly, after only five years, when the community was disbanded, she began the long journey home, stopping in Besançon where nurses were needed. In spite of the dangerous times, she taught children, helped hide priests and gathered Christians for prayer. In 1793, she had to flee France, escaping into Switzerland, where she joined an itinerant religious community. She accompanied them for two years of wandering, into Germany, through frightful conditions. Deciding to return home, she began the 375-

mile trek alone, on foot, with no passport, through unknown places at the risk of her life. On her travels, she met exiles from Besançon who asked her to return there and take in young girls who she could train as she was. She accepted this challenge and in 1799, she opened a school, a soup kitchen and a dispensary for those who were poor. Thus, a new congregation was established which became known as the Sisters of Charity of Besançon. Their Rule of Life was based on what she learned and remembered about the rule of St. Vincent.

In 1810, the Sisters were invited to minister in Naples, Italy. At the same time, due to conflicts with the archbishop of Besançon, Jeanne was forced to leave the Motherhouse. The Sisters in Besançon were forbidden to contact members in other countries. This caused Jeanne much personal suffering. As a

result, Jeanne moved to Naples where she served in the hospital for incurables and visited those who were sick and poor in their homes. On August 24, 1826, she died of a cerebral hemorrhage. The formal re-unification of the Besançon Sisters and those in Italy took place in 1957. Jeanne was canonized in 1934. In 1985, she was added to the Vincentian calendar with her feast being May 23. (Some celebrate August 24.)

Reflection: How have my life challenges enhanced or hindered my service to poor persons?

For more information: http://www.famvin.org/wiki/Joan_Antida_Thouret; <https://famvin.org/en/2019/05/23/journey-st-joan-antida-thouret/>; <http://famvin.org/en/2015/10/19/connect-and-learn-sisters-of-charity-of-saint-jeanne-antide-thouret>



Jeanne-Antide Thouret



*Jeanne-Antide Thouret
with child*



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"

THE LADIES OF CHARITY USA INVITE YOU TO THE
FIRST VIRTUAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FALL 2021 (DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED)



Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and out of respect for our members traveling to the Assembly, LCUSA has decided to postpone the Assembly for one more year.

SO GATHER WITH US SAFELY ONLINE,
JOINED IN THE VINCENTIAN CHARISM!

*Following Vincent with Humility,
Simplicity and Charity*