

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON LADIES OF CHARITY NEWSLETTER

"To Serve Rather Than To Be Served"
In Humility, Simplicity & Charity

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2023

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON LOC ATTEND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN KNOXVILLE, TN



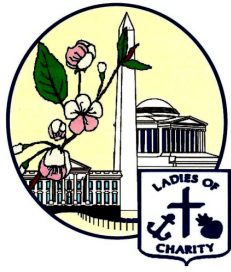
Pictured l to r: Diane Harley, Bertha Guerra, Irene Jamison, Lucy Saunders, Peggy McKelly, Debbie Self, Mary Hand, Kathy Temple, Viola Johnson-Robinson and Regina Barrett

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy Holidays! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are enjoying the holiday season. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birthday and the spirit of giving let's think of ways we can give in simplicity, humil-

ity, and charity. Take time to call and check in on someone during this season when so many are fighting battles in silence. Add someone to your daily prayers or volunteer your time. Take time to have a conversation with a stranger the next time you go out. Be mindful of the small things you can do that will make a big difference in someone's life.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all even more in the New Year. Please invite me to your meetings, fundraisers, and service events. I am eager for you all to get to know me and for me to learn how I can serve you.

In Vincentian Spirit,

Jamila Stone

Jamila Stone
2022 - 2024 President
ADW LOC Board of Director

GRACE AND PEACE



As we enter another new year each one has its share of both anxiety and hope. We can be anxious about what we don't know lies ahead or hopeful at what the year may bring. The Christian response is always based on hope and the confidence that God, who has brought us this far, will not leave us but remain with us! St. Vincent de Paul has said: "God allows us to give rise to the practice of two beautiful virtues: perseverance, which leads us to attain the goal, and constancy, which helps us to overcome difficulties." As people of faith and as Ladies of Vincent de Paul these two practices are good ones to begin the year with – perseverance to achieve the goal we set out and constancy, to overcome the setbacks or difficulties we encounter. Each year holds its blessings and its challenges, but we offer them all to God confident in His good guidance. I wish you each blessings for the year ahead.

Fr. Michael Barth, S.T.
ADW LOC Spiritual Advisor



LAST REFLECTION AND FAREWELL



*Sr. Claire Debes, D.C.
ADW LOC
Vincentian Spiritual Moderator*

January is a time when we are called to reflect on the year now ending, and our plans for the year about to begin. New Year's resolutions are a common undertaking with self-made promises, to do more volunteer ser-

vice, to be more charitable to people we encounter, and to pray more frequently. Often these promises are short-lived and do not significantly change our lives.

We are often drawn to move in many directions in our daily lives not all of them good for us. We haven't always stayed on the road we intended to take and it can be helpful to reflect on where we have strayed from the road we want to travel.

This holiday offers us the opportunity to also look at our spiritual selves, to realize that Jesus offers us a new beginning and in that beginning is Jesus, who has been one with the other Persons of the Trinity since the beginning.

We can't change our histories, or where and when we strayed from the right path on our journeys. But we can try to be aware of the distractions, the times when we hit bumps that have thrown us off the path and readjust our focus and realize that Jesus will be revealed to us along the way, if we ask Him to walk with us.

Elizabeth Ann Seton whose feast we celebrate in January knew Jesus walked with her and knew that she would **meet her grace** in good

times and in bad. She allowed the Trinity to reside in the recesses of her heart and reflected frequently on this Truth – God with us. Let us strive to do the same.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for all the ministry you do on behalf of persons living in poverty. You have inspired me with all that you do to serve the underserved in the Archdiocese. Over my years of being with you as the Vincentian Spiritual Advisor for the Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity, I have felt so privileged. I will no longer be serving in the role as I am retiring from active ministry at this time. I encourage you to serve as Vincent, Louise, and Elizabeth Ann did. They saw Jesus Christ in those they served; they saw Jesus crucified in each individual. My hope is that you strive to contemplate this same Jesus in the wounded people you serve in whatever way this is possible. May you bring hope to our country, indeed to our world where there is now so much hate. Thank you for the pleasure of working with you over these past years. I will miss you all!!!



TRIBUTES TO SISTER CLAIRE DEBES, D.C.



The Ladies of Charity of the Archdiocese of Washington have been blessed to have had Sister Claire Debes D.C. as our Vincentian Spiritual Moderator. Sister's supportive and caring nature has provided us with Love & guidance along with her many words of inspiration and wisdom. May God be with you as you continue the path he has chosen. You will be missed. Thank You Sister, **Farewell!**

Debbie S and Jackie B

Giving to others seems to come so naturally to you, but I know it doesn't happen by accident. You go the extra mile, take the extra time, give the extra thought and it really makes a difference. **THANK YOU**, for being such a wonderful Vincentian Spiritual Moderator to the Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity and an example of God's love to us all. Enjoy your retirement Sister. You will be missed.

Toni K. Gaines

I would like to thank Sister Claire Debes, DC, for her extraordinary service as Spiritual Moderator to the Ladies of Charity (LOC) Archdiocese of Washington (ADW). Her beautiful reflections at the start of the meetings and her guidance and patience with the Board's deliberations, were helpful and will be sorely missed. God bless and keep you, Sister Claire.

**Mary Hand, President
St. Jane Frances de Chantal, LOC**

Even though I have not been a member of the ADW LOC Executive Committee for very long, I want to thank you for being our Vincentian Moderator. I was very inspired by your readings, prayers and words of wisdom. I wish you peace and happiness.

**Kathy Temple
President, Ladies of Charity Calvert County**

All of my memories of Sister Claire are peaceful and spiritual. Whenever she spoke, you always knew a blessing was coming. Her prayers always were calming, motivating and heartfelt. It may be a little something to others, but when I talked to her after her presentation at National Assembly and thanked her for all the years. I asked her if she had copies of her opening and closing prayer and she said no, but you can have my copy. I had her to sign it and I will keep it.

**Regina Barrett
President, Mount Calvary LOC**

NEWLY ELECTED PGCLOC PRESIDENT SPEAKS



*Regina Barrett
President, PGCLOC*

***“If God
brings you to it,
He will
bring you through it.”***

I prayed very heavily before stepping into the position as President of Prince George’s County Ladies of Charity (PGCLOC). It was breaking my heart that a virus that was taking lives, could also take away the mighty works of many. To even think we may not have PGCLOC, without SOMEONE stepping up to say “I will”. Then I thought that I often say “Sometimes, the someone is YOU”, so here I am answering the call. Planning to give my very best, and rely heavily on guidance from those who have paved the way before me. I am so grateful that two others did not let me stand alone, Veronica Neal-Formey (Vice President) and Erusa Onukwubiri (Treasurer).

Getting off to a slow start, I have been super impressed and encouraged at some of the awesome projects and activities that our Ladies are doing in their units. I truly believe that once you have accepted to be a Lady of Charity, it becomes part of your DNA, always helping and reaching out to be of service. I have reached out to get information from Presidents. I have visited two units: one by ZOOM at St. Matthias that was extremely organized and informational; and, an in-person meeting and Holiday social at St. Ignatius, so warm and welcoming. I am convinced that “together we are stronger” and we are going to make it and the world is going to be better for it. I will send each President a listing of the activities of all units in our area.

At least 5 of our units have Food Pantries and prepare Thanksgiving and/or Christmas Food

baskets. Several offer rent assistance, Food Gift cards, Angel Tree, Food Drives, School Supplies, operate Religious gift store, SHARE, SOME, collected items for a Parish in Liberia, and many, many more that are done “To Serve Rather Than Be Served”.

Two Spiritual Moderators, both at St. Matthias – Arlene Taylor and Florence Nwonye-Nwoko.

Donations and support to St. Ann’s, Sacred Heart Home, UCAP (Shepherd’s Cove), Spring Grove, Forestville Pregnancy Center, Carroll Manor. St. Margaret houses the ADW Archives. Mr. Bolden with Carroll Manor very graciously thanks St. Ambrose, St. John Baptist de la Salle, St. Ignatius and Mount Calvary for Gift bags to residents.



***Christmas Gifts
for the residents of Carroll Manor***

Pictured: (left to right)

*Regina Barrett and Laurie Green, President St. Ambrose LOC
and PGCLOC Chairperson for Carroll Manor*

We are also very proud to have two PGLOC members elected as Directors of the LCUSA Mid-Atlantic Region – Viola Johnson-Robinson (St. Ignatius) and Deborah Self (St. Matthias) at the National Assembly in Knoxville, TN August 2022.

Submitted by:

**Regina Barrett, President
Prince George’s County Ladies of Charity**

OLPH CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

Submitted by: Toni K. Gaines

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) LOC sponsored its Annual Christmas Giveaway on Saturday, December 17, 2022. Turkeys, gift cards and toys were distributed to approximately 100 needy families. The weekend prior to the giveaway, the parish held an “Ugliest Christmas Sweater Party” sponsored by the OLPH Stewardship Committee. At the event, the participants were asked to bring a toy for a needy child. The generous donation of toys for the Christmas Giveaway was very much appreciated by the LOC, on behalf of its clients.



*Pearl Baylor and Doris Savoy
Preparing to give
Christmas baskets to clients*



*Bernadette Smith
Sorting toys for
the Christmas Giveaway*



*Doris Savoy
Checking names off the list of
persons who requested
a Christmas basket*

ST. ANN'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE & CHRISTMAS PARTY



On December 5, 2022, Debbie Self attended the Annual Open House and Christmas Party held at St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families. The event was a joyous and festive occasion.

Debbie was able to capture a photo with His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory, who serves as the seventh Archbishop of Washington. A good time was had by all in attendance.

Submitted by:
Debbie Self
LCUSA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

MOUNT CALVARY LOC SERVE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

Submitted by: Regina Barrett, LOC President



Pictured l to r Pantry Volunteers: Regina Barrett, Jane Gacek, Lavone Smith, Stephanie Davis, Gladys Joyner and Diane Harley

Initially I would like to thank everyone that sent cards, acknowledgements or attended the Vigil Mass or Mass of Christian Burial on September 1-2, 2022 of our Pastor, Rev. Everett Pearson. Rev. Pearson passed on August 23, 2022. In the past years, he always looked forward to our Ladies of Charity hosting the PGCLOC March Quarterly, always providing an inspiring homily. We miss him dearly.

Since the start of COVID-19, we re-opened our Food Pantry to not only serve our local Community, but as Partners with the Capital Area Food Bank, made the Pantry open to anyone with a Maryland address.



*Pantry Volunteers preparing Holiday Giveaways
Diane Harley & David Eucare*

We adjusted distribution procedures to insure that our Ladies and volunteers were safe and have limited contact. We extended monetary donations to include World Central Kitchen (Jose Andres), St. Ann's, UCAP (Shepherd's Cove), Sacred Heart Home and Building Fund, Catholic Charities, Spring Grove and Forestville Pregnancy Center.

Our Lenten project this year was to collect and provide clothing, shoes, hand bags, home essentials, etc. to a collection company for Ukrainian Refugees and for the victims of two large complex fires in Prince George's County.



*Volunteers Preparing Holiday Giveaways
Pictured L to R: Joe Snyder, Joyce Lofy and Diane Harley*



Volunteers: Stephanie Davis, David Eucare, Gladys Joyner, Carolyn Green, Diane Harley, Joe Snyder and Janyce Ferguson

We partnered with Knights of Peter Claver Ladies of Grace Chapter #47, to provide requested essentials like face masks, hand sanitizer, hygiene bags of soap, lotion, toothpaste, brush etc. and various snack items to Little Sisters of the Poor in Washington, DC.

Our mission continues to partner with Mount Calvary Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary providing Thanksgiving Food Baskets to families in need taken from calls to church, names from Ministry members and some of our Pantry clients. Our annual Christmas Basket Drive is on

Saturday, December 17, 2022. We provide food for a holiday meal and extra general staples since children and others are often home during the holidays. We are blessed to have food donated from the Parish, awesome Ladies of Charity and men and women volunteers that gather to pack all of the food bags, do shopping for items not donated and all coordinated by LOC Diane Harley and Janyce Ferguson. On the day of distribution we have volunteers from Bishop McNamara High School and Mt. Calvary Confirmation class candidates to carry bags to cars of clients. Our final project is to prepare 100+ bag lunches and breakfast items for Warm Nights (Emergency Hypothermia Homeless Shelter) sponsored by Community Crisis Services.

INSTALLATION OF THE 2022-2024 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LADIES OF CHARITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Pictured l to r: Arlene Taylor, Erusaku Onukwubiri, Rev. Anthony Anokete, Deborah Self, Veronica Neal-Formey and Regina Barrett

On Saturday, August 20, 2022, the Ladies of Charity (LOC) of Prince George's County installed its newly elected Board of Directors for the 2022 – 2024 term. The installation took place at Mount Calvary Catholic Church in Forestville, MD. Rev. Anthony Anokete and Arlene Taylor, Lay Vincentian Spiritual Moderator presided over the ceremony. Deborah Self, Past-President of the Archdiocese of Washington LOC Board of Directors and I were in attendance.

The newly elected officers are: Regina Barrett, President from Mount Calvary Church; Veronica Neal-Formey, Vice President from St. Ignatius of Loyola Church; and, Erusaku Onukwubiri, Treasurer from St. Matthias the Apostle Church. Thank you for your support over the years. I pray for all Ladies of Charity, that you may continue God's work with humility, simplicity, and charity.

Submitted by:

Marie Turgeon, Immediate Past-President
Prince George's County Board of Directors LOC

LADIES OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA PROVIDING THRU COVID



Pictured l to r: Fr. Jason Catania, Rebecca Michalco, Diana Gritz, Linda Wilkinson and Hazel Hill.

As 2022 ends we at St. Ignatius look back at the successful drives that we have sponsored this year.

In February, we had our annual baby shower to help the new moms at the Forestville Pregnancy Center. With the parish's participation, our sewing group, and all our members we were able to contribute to Forestville with much needed clothing and baby supplies.

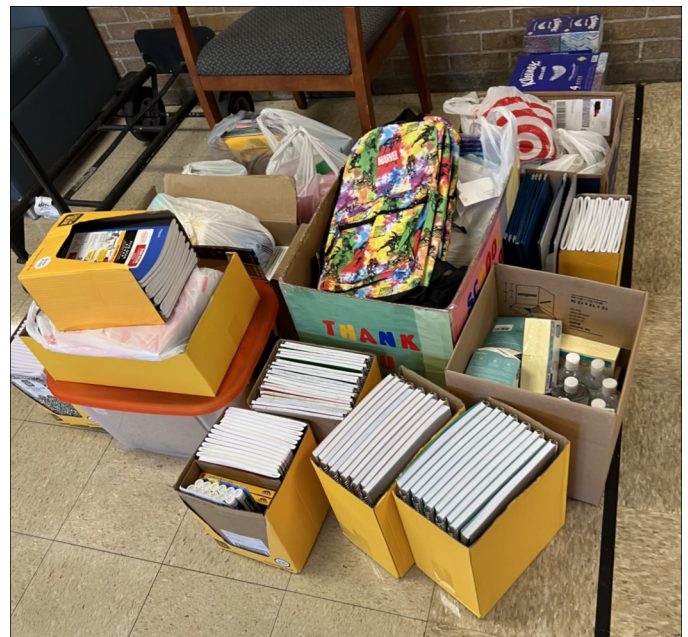
In July we celebrated our patron saint, St. Ignatius of Loyola by having a virtual food drive. The money for this drive went to- five of our local food pantries: St. Stephan's, Fort Washington food pantry, Interfaith Community Action Council (ICAC) - aka Oxon Hill Food Pantry, Homeless Outreach, Project Futures, and Holy Family Church in Hillcrest Heights.

St. Ignatius normally host the August birthday party at Sacred Heart Nursing Home. This year, due to COVID restrictions on volunteers, our president met with one of the sisters to deliver many handmade shawls and lap robes for the seniors and the money to cover the cake.

In August, we also did our annual school drive for one of the area schools. Once again, our parish came through for us and we were able to deliver an abundance of much needed school supplies and uniforms for the children in our neighborhood.

In October we held our Thanksgiving food drive a little early so that the food pantries would have funds for the coming holiday season.

For December we did our second annual Christmas basket raffle to raise money for the nursing homes and other charities. Our basket contained a handmade Christmas afghan, a \$100 gift card and other Christmas goodies.



Assortment of school supplies

With the help of all our members, including our three new members, we hope to continue the good work the Lord guides us to do.

Submitted by:
Diana Gritz, President
St. Ignatius of Loyola LOC

WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS SUPPORT OLPH FOOD PANTRY THANKSGIVING TURKEY GIVEAWAY



Wegmans

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. The Ladies of Charity at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (OLPH) were able to provide its food pantry clients with turkeys for Thanksgiving. Thanks to the generous donation of turkeys from Wegmans Food Markets at the Woodmore Town Center in Lanham, MD.

Previously, Wegmans partnered with the OLPH food pantry by donating a generous supply of plastic bags to aid in its weekly distribution of food to the families that come to the pantry. Below are photos of the Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ - Pastor, Pearl Baylor (Weekly Pantry Chairperson & Lady of Charity) and parishioner Alicia Palumbo volunteering to provide turkeys and other non-perishable food to clients.



Submitted by:
Toni K. Gaines, OLPH LOC



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF ST. MARY OF THE MILLS



Yes, we have all had a challenging couple of years working through the impact that COVID-19 has had on our Prince Georges County Ladies of Charity units. Many found a way to not let anything stop them from moving forward on their Mission of Ladies of Charity to help our sisters and brothers in need. Many have lost members that may not return, due to health concerns and safety measures around COVID, flu and RSV. Understanding this, we work with what we have and do our very Best! We have been having our Solemn reception of new Ladies of Charity at our home churches and by ZOOM. What better way to say “Welcome” to the new Prince Georges County Ladies of Charity President, than to receive a call from **Tara Linn**, who is the President of St. Mary of the Mills Unit to say:

Regina I want to arrange an induction of **11**, new Ladies of Charity. Wow! Tara informed me that on Monday evening **November 14, 2022** they had over 50 Ladies in attendance for the Mass and Induction. Father Mattia Cortigiani was the Celebrant. Welcome:

Marie Valentine Afambo	
Maria R. Ellis	Yetunde Onyekweli
Emily Foppe	Justine Pompei
Beth Fromm	Nenita Richardson
Valri Lightner	Virginia Terech
Philomina Ogordi	Jennifer Willett

Submitted by:
Regina Barrett, President
Prince Georges County Ladies of Charity

CELEBRATING A RENEWED SPIRIT OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

Submitted by: Arlene Taylor

St. Matthias the Apostle Church of Lanham, MD Ladies of Charity has continued to be active and grow over the past 12 months in spite of the many challenges confronting our society. Although we have met on Zoom regularly for meetings, our members have continued to maintain our mission of service by operating a successful food distribution program, granting financial assistance to other church ministries, individuals, and community organizations and providing monetary support to the Academy of St. Matthias when requested.



On Thursday, June 9, 2022, we held our first regular in-person meeting since March, 2020. It was also our final meeting before “summer break”. (We continue services but do not meet in July and August.) We started the day with attending Mass together at the church. Afterwards we were most fortunate to be the audience to Brother Loughlan Sofield, ST, who is a Missionary Servant of the Most Holy Trinity and former Senior Editor of **Human Development** magazine. His presentation was informative. He expounded on

the meanings of **Sympathy, Empathy and Compassion**. Through each of us, God works his will and provides for those in need. We enjoyed his meaningful stories spiced with whimsical and quirky vignettes. He included time for small group interaction, questions and comments. Brother Loughlan was very personable with a divine sense of humor and strong spiritual knowledge base.

Our time with Brother Loughlan was truly appreciated. He left us with a renewed sense of purpose and energy. Our group has “adopted” a wonderful prayer that he shared with us and we in turn will pass it on to you.

“Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila”

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world.
Yours are the feet with which He works to do good.
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.**

**You are His hands.
You are His feet.
You are His eyes.
We are His body.
Amen.**

LOC OF ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CELEBRATE A CENTENARIAN



The Ladies of Charity of St. Margaret of Scotland Church celebrated Ms. Evelyn Poole's 100th Birthday on September 3, 2022. Ms. Poole has been a Lady of Charity for over forty years. She has served as President and Correspondent Secretary several times over the years. Currently, she is serving as the Correspondent Secretary for the Prince George's County LOC Board of Directors. It should be noted Ms. Poole is a member of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality and participates in a senior's group at St. Margaret's as well. Attending daily Mass is one of her routine practices. You can always find her in attendance for meetings and other events within the parish. Yes, even at 100 years of age.



May God continue to bless her with every grace and blessing, as she continues to provide service to all those in need.

Submitted by:
Evelyn Nichols, President
St. Margaret of Scotland LOC

SHARING MESSAGES FROM THE HEART



Always exploring new and needed ways to further serve those in our church community, the Saint Matthias Ladies of Charity initiated the **Cordial Communicator**.

The **Cordial Communicator** is a bi-monthly message board comprised of short written submissions from parishioners to parishioners. Messages may include, but are not limited to: birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings, notes of appreciation and upcoming events, get well wishes, condolences and notices of deaths. Each publication contains from 10 to 20 submissions printed on cardstock and inserted in the Sunday bulletin. The idea was initially a fundraiser for LOC to maintain regular monetary support for the remarkably busy food pantry and the ever-growing number of requests for financial aid and assistance from individuals, families, church-based and community organizations. However, the incoming donations have not proven to be sufficient. Yet, the many positive responses received from not only fellow parishioners, but also visitors and extended family members have been encouraging.

Since our first printing in May of 2022, we have printed over 5,000 issues! In addition to the general content for submissions, LOC has invited parishioners to write messages acknowledging specific themes and holidays.

For instance, in May - Mother's Day; in June - Father's Day and Graduations; in July and August - St. Matthias Church's 60th Anniversary; in October - Power of the Rosary; in November - Being Grateful; and, in December - Our Gift to God.

As proposed, The **Cordial Communicator** is a Ladies of Charity group supported program that has a one-year trial run. In May of 2023, we will revisit the project and determine whether to continue. Regardless of that decision, it is apparent that this spiritually motivating publication is having a wonderfully positive bonding impact on our Saint Matthias church community.

Submitted by:
Arlene Taylor, President
St. Matthias the Apostle LOC

ARCHDIOCESE LOC ATTEND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN KNOXVILLE, TN



Attendees representing LCUSA Mid-Atlantic Region

The Ladies of the Archdiocese of Washington attended the LCUSA National Assembly held from August 25—28 2022, in Knoxville, TN for its first in-person assembly since COVID-19. Everyone was extremely excited to actually see each other again.

The Assembly began with a Meet and Greet Reception with a theme of Jeans & Pearls which was attended by practically every attendee that arrived on Thursday, August 25. The “Official” opening of the Assembly began on Friday, August 26 with the Rosary and Opening Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church, adjacent to the Host Hotel followed by Opening Ceremonies and workshops throughout the day. The Silent Auction was opened each day for attendees to make their “bids”. Throughout the Assembly there was an Exhibit Hall of vendors and Showcase of Projects from various LOC units, including: LOC of Chattanooga, Layette Program; English Language Learners-Access Cultural Diversity; Sustainable Food Pantry for University Students and Volunteer Ministry Center.

The following Workshops covered concerns of National Interest:

1. Widening the Frame: Expanding Perspectives on the impact of Poverty
2. A Vincentian Response to Homelessness in America
3. Being Vincent DE PAUL: A Primer
4. Who is my Neighbor? Systemic Racism and our response

Also, there were information sessions on the Junior Ladies of Charity and “Are you being Called”, Lay Vincentian Moderator Formation. For the Junior Ladies of Charity, there are funds available for local associations to begin their own Junior LOC group; links are provided on the National website that gives lots of information about establishing and growing Junior LOC. For the Lay Vincentian Moderator Formation, the training is open to ALL LOC. Participation helps to become more acquainted with the LOC beginnings and to learn more about the Vincentian patron saints and history.

(cont'd on next page)

On Saturday, August 27, there was the Business meeting at which the President and Treasurer made their final reports, elections and presentation of 2023 Assembly in Buffalo, NY. The Closing Mass was held at The Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Bus transportation was provided to the Cathedral. After Mass there was a Cocktail Hour followed by a Banquet, Installation of New Officers and Presentation of Lay Vincentian Moderator Certificates. There were 2 ADWLOC winners of Silent Auction Bids: Debbie Self and Viola Johnson-Robinson.

Additionally, Viola Johnson-Robinson was elected to the LCUSA Board as a Mid-Atlantic Region Representative.

The come away from the National Assembly: All LOC members are encouraged to attend the National Assemblies. You will learn to grow in what it means to be a Lady of Charity.

Submitted by:
Bertha Guerra, President St. Gabriel LOC



NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Submitted by: Lucy Saunders, Former LCUSA President



In anticipation of Human Trafficking Prevention Month and the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita on February 8th, you are invited to pray the novena. She is the patroness of survivors of human trafficking and we invoke her intercession for all those involved in human trafficking

and for an end to this societal ill.

Throughout these nine novena days, we will learn about human trafficking, share her inspiring words, and offer prayer for a particular intention, concluding with an Our Father, Hail Mary and a Glory Be. A theme will be provided for each day. Go to the following link to pray the novena [Microsoft Word - Bakhita final \(catholicsocialjustice.org\)](https://www.catholicsocialjustice.org/microsoft-word-bakhita-final) Also, a YouTube

video has been created for each day. They will be released one a day, beginning on January 1, 2023. You are welcome to use these resources as you like. Here is the link to the YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@OCSJM>

Thank you for praying with us. To learn more ways to participate in the mission to end human trafficking, visit the **Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry** resource page at: <http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org/human-trafficking.html>

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (**888-373-7888**) is confidential and serves victims, survivors and the anti-trafficking community **24/7**. Call to report tips, seek services, ask help or receive information and statistics related to human trafficking.

(cont'd on page 19: "Her Life Story")



In Loving Memory of



<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>	<u>PARISH UNIT</u>
Glarnice	Holmes	September 28, 2022	St. Margaret of Scotland
Zelma	Winchester	July 22, 2022	Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian
Ann Marie	Dorsey	July 15, 2022	Holy Redeemer
Jean	Gaskins-Broady	July 4, 2022	St. Matthias the Apostle
Dorothy	Taylor	June 16, 2022	Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian
Diane	Greene	June 6, 2022	Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen*



DAUGHTERS
of CHARITY
PROVINCE of ST. LOUISE

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF

Sister Frances Ryan

WHO DIED AT SETON RESIDENCE

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

August 29, 2022

84 YEARS OF AGE; 66 YEARS OF VOCATION



This information is provided by the Human Trafficking Task Force of the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford in honor of the feast of St. Bakhita. Since 2018, the HTTF has worked to end the injustice of human trafficking through education, awareness and partnership with other activist groups.

St. Josephine Bakhita

Human Trafficking Task Force
Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry

Her Story

- Feast Day: February 8
- Born in 1869
- Died in 1947
- Canonized in 2000
- *Bakhita* means "fortunate" in Arabic
- Spent her remaining days as Canossian Sister with the name Josephine Margaret Fortunata
- Known for her gentle voice and smile
- Patron saint of Sudan and human trafficking

A Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

St Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child

And endured untold hardship and suffering.

Once liberated from your physical enslavement,

You found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery.

Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity.

Amen.

(School Sisters of Notre Dame, 2013, USCCB)

St. Josephine was born in Darfur, Sudan in 1869. Her father, a semi-nomadic herdsman, was a well-respected member of the Daju tribe. Widowed when Josephine was only two years old, he provided her with a happy and relatively prosperous childhood. During the family's migration within Sudan, Josephine, then about nine years old, was captured by Arab slave traders, and subsequently, her life of bondage began.

In captivity she was forced to walk barefoot for 600 miles and was sold several times in the course of 12 years. Some owners treated her well. Several did not, one owner beating her severely and scarring her for life. Her path to freedom and safety began the day a Turkish general sold her to an Italian Consul serving in Sudan.

When the Consul planned to return to Italy, Josephine dared to ask him to take her along. Consenting, he did so, and in time gave her as a gift to be a nanny for the daughter of an Italian friend. As a nanny, she accompanied the daughter to a school conducted by the Canossian Daughters of Charity. During her mis-

tress's absence on a trip, she was placed in the custody of the Sisters. Upon her mistress's return, Josephine refused to return to the family and remained with the Sisters. Providentially she was granted freedom by an Italian court of law.

As a child, Josephine had reveled in the beauty of the natural surroundings of her home. She had often wondered who created such magnificence. In Italy in the company of the Sisters, she found her answer: God. "Bakhita", the name ironically given to her by her captors, in Arabic

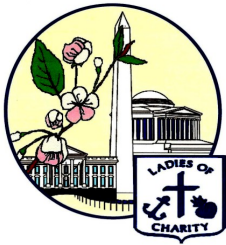
means "the fortunate one". Having experienced God's mercy to her, she could thank her captives, for had she not been kidnapped, she might not ever have come to know Jesus Christ nor have entered the Church. After years of enslavement, she was unable to remember her original name. In 1890 she was baptized Josephine Margaret Fortunata.

Josephine entered the Canossian Sisters in 1893, serving as cook and doorkeeper for 42 years. Known for her gentle voice and smile, when asked how she was, now as a "slave" of Christ, she would answer, "As the Master desires." At the close of her life, she re-lived the sufferings of her enslavement and was heard to cry out repeatedly, "Please loosen the chains . . . they are heavy". Josephine died on Feb. 8, 1947, was canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II, and proclaimed patron saint of Sudan and trafficking.

(Written by Human Trafficking Task Force)

"Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a grace it is to know God!" – St. Josephine Bakhita





Ladies of Charity
 Archdiocese of Washington
 P.O. Box 313
 Brentwood, MD 20722

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**2023 UPCOMING
 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
February 4	ADW LOC Board Meeting Reflection 10:00 am	ZOOM
February 8	Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita Novena to End Human Trafficking	YouTube
March 11	DC Parish Units Quarterly Meeting 10:00 am	Conference Call
March 12	Prince George's County Quarterly Meeting 2:00 pm	TBD
May 6	May Day Crowning of the Blessed Mother & Feast of St. Louise Luncheon 10:00 am Mass in Chapel	St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth & Families Hyattsville, MD
June 3	ADW LOC Board Meeting Mass 10:00 am	ZOOM
June 10	DC Parish Units Quarterly meeting 10:00 am	Conference Call
June 11	Prince George's County Quarterly Meeting 2:00 pm	TBD

**ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
 LOC NEWSLETTER:**

News Deadline:

The deadline to submit articles and photos for the July 2023 issue of the ADW LOC Newsletter:

- ◆ Deadline is **June 15, 2023** at the latest. Earlier submissions are encouraged and appreciated.

Newsletters are issued twice a year (January and July). Please share information about your LOC unit projects, fundraisers and other activities with fellow LOC members. We would like to hear from you.

Articles and photos can be sent via email to: tkgaines@msn.com indicating as the subject, "**Newsletter Submission.**"