

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VOL. 63 NO. 3 SPRING 2023

SERVICETTE

TO SERVE RATHER THAN BE SERVED



AIC USA

Congratulations Diocese of Buffalo—Ladies of Charity
Celebrating 65 Years of Service 1941-2006
Affiliate Organization of Catholic Charities
To serve rather than be served.

• Caring
• Gifts of Clothes Thrift Store
• Support

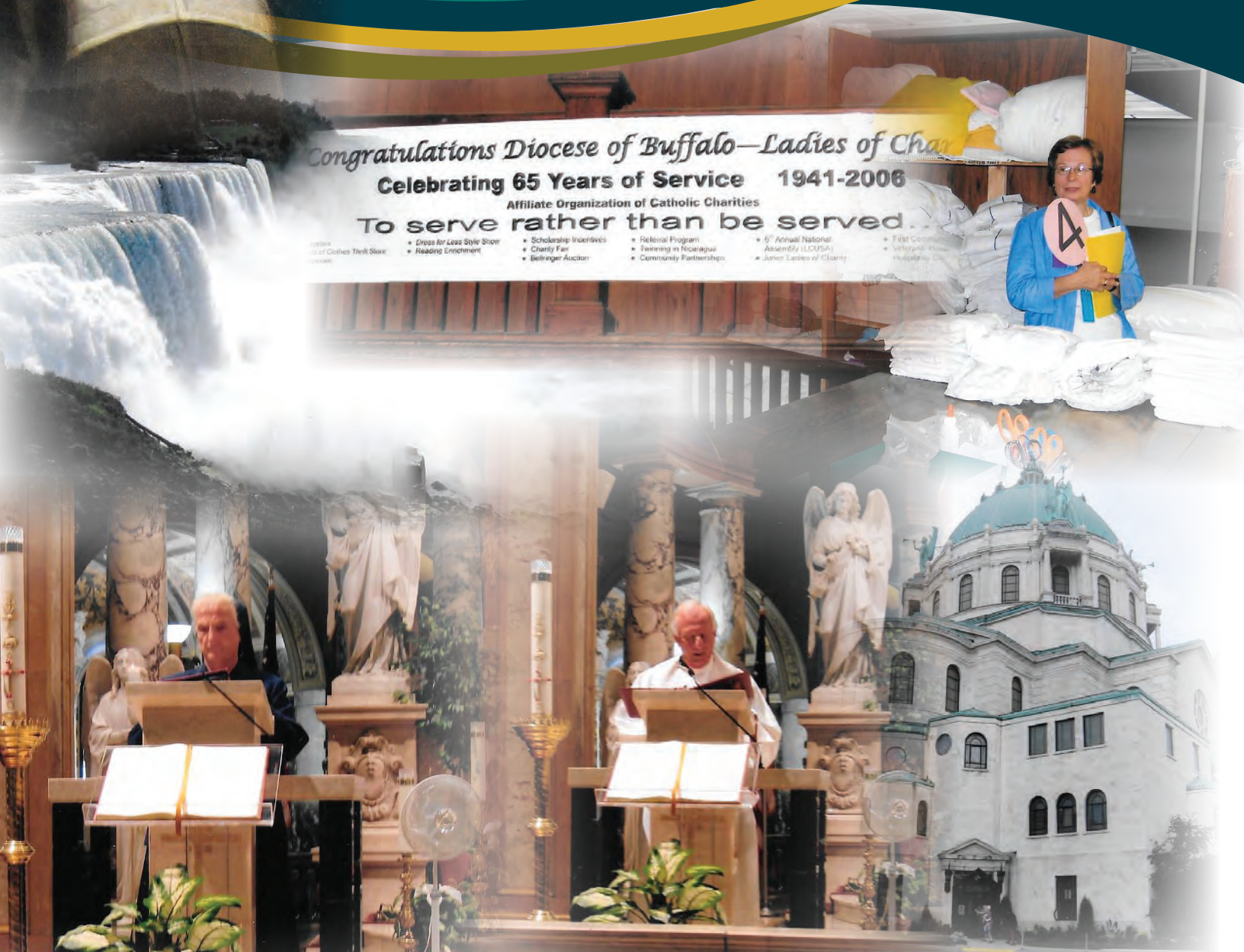
• Crops for Less Style Show
• Reading Enrichment

• Scholarship Incentives
• Charity Fair
• Beltranger Auction

• Referral Program
• Twinning in Nicaragua
• Community Partnerships

• 6th Annual National
Assembly (LOUSA)
• Junior Ladies of Charity

• First Communion
• Voluntary House
• Hospitality Club



I KNOW THAT YOU ARE COMBINING ALL YOUR EFFORTS SO THAT YOU MAY BE OF
BUT ONE HEART AND ONE WILL, AND MAY THEREBY ACT ONLY WITH THE DESIRE
OF ACCOMPLISHING THE WILL OF GOD. – ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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



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 October 10, 2023. 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 Holly Walter, LCUSA President



President's Message for New Term 2023

We begin the new year of 2023 on a note of optimism for our continued growth as an organization. We are back together again after a difficult few years to continue our work to help the poor and marginalized of our communities and nation, and to meet with each other to share ideas and resources in that effort. This year I begin a two-year term as your president and offer myself as your humble servant in order to keep alive the purpose and vision of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

I became a Lady of Charity in 2008 after a very patient leader in our St. Mary's Parish in Lancaster, and the Diocese of Buffalo, waited until I graduated from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora New York with a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry. Mary Faulhaber persuaded me to join at a Ministry Fair at St. Mary's, and come to my first LOC meeting in September of that year. After a few months of attendance, I became the parish treasurer and eventually the president of our local group.

Soon I joined our local diocesan board as the Spiritual Moderator because our Daughter of Charity, Sister Mary Grace Higgins, was transferred out of Western New York. I was elected to the LCUSA Board in 2017 at the urging of Kathy Sieracki, an LCUSA board member at that time, and an active leader in our Diocesan group. I have been on the board since then as a Director in the Northeastern Region and President elect. I have had many jobs on the board including Nominations chair and Madagascar chair.

My goals for this year are to see an increase in our membership across the country. Like all volunteer organizations, we lost many members during the COVID Pandemic, not just because of illness and death, but because of being shut down and not being together for meetings and events including our annual National Assembly held in a different region. Our first year back to an in-person assembly was in 2022 in Knoxville, Tenn., and it was a wonderful start. We all need to work at bringing back those who have not resumed their membership, and bring new members. This will be a process but we need to stick with it, and make the effort to let other ladies in our parishes and communities know of what we do and why we do it.

Another goal is to expand the organization and implementation of Junior Ladies groups. Not only are Juniors our future, but they are also our present. We have a Juniors' group at St. Mary's, and the young ladies work to help those in need in our area. I would encourage all associations to begin the process of finding leaders to recruit and advise a Junior Ladies group.

A third goal is to find ladies willing to be Advocacy representatives or liaisons for their region. Someone in this role is advantageous for finding causes, give a voice to and support LCUSA advocacy representative in the Northeast region, Marie Copeland in Albany, New York, has done an outstanding job of communicating different issues and opinions. Local and federal agencies also support those who need a voice. Every region in our organization should have an advocacy liaison to help facilitate our efforts to support those in need.

A fourth goal is to help clarify just how the National LCUSA board can help every association and parish group across the country. I find that there is often a disconnect between local and national representatives with the local groups, at times, not fully understanding just what LCUSA does, or can do to offer assistance, direction, and support for their local projects and activities. Serving on the National board is not just an honor, it is also a responsibility to help all Ladies of Charity groups recover from the pandemic and get back to full strength and purpose, and approach our projects with vigor and commitment. If any Ladies of Charity have questions they should be answered.

Continued on page 6 ►



“WE CHOOSE LOVE”

By The Most Reverend David A. Zubic

Years ago, a young man, who had been struggling in his marriage, told me with great joy about a simple lesson he had learned when he and his wife went on a Marriage Encounter Weekend: “Love isn’t a feeling, it’s a decision.” They had been so swept up in media images of romance that they were oblivious to the truth that love is the act of choosing to do the right thing. It’s about choosing to say something pleasant when you’re tempted to carp, choosing to do the dishes when you’d rather watch TV, choosing to ignore the temptation to spend time with someone other than your spouse.

When the Ladies of Charity declare “We Choose Love,” that is also what you are saying. You are choosing to offer kindness rather than criticism to the homeless person. You are choosing to pack diapers for the crisis pregnancy center rather than watch TV. You are choosing to bring your loving, prayerful presence to a nursing home rather than playing bridge or golf.

You have chosen to love. Your acts of faith stand against a tide of people who have not chosen to love. We see the absence of love in terrifying ways as people wielding weapons of war open fire in schools, churches and stores. We see it in heartbreaking ways, as immigrants seeking to build a better life for their children are locked up like criminals—even as jobs go unfilled. We see it in disagreeable ways as people who used to be friends, stop talking to each other because they have different ideas about solving the world’s problems. Instead of love we see division, derision, rejection and violence.

These are bad choices. Virtue does not lie simply in making a choice, but making the right choice. This is especially true when it is the harder choice. Our Lord tells us to choose to love our enemies, to pray for those who persecute us. He does not expect that our hearts will suddenly overflow with tenderness toward them (though that can happen when we persistently pray for our enemies). Jesus knows that it is achingly, maddeningly hard to love and pray for those who have hurt and offended us, and who may be causing us harm. Yet He tells us to make that choice because He made that choice.

Jesus chose love when he went to the cross for people who are sinners, people who ignore Him, people who commit terrible acts and promote terrible ideas. Jesus chose to die painfully for them. And then He rose to lead all of us on the path of love.

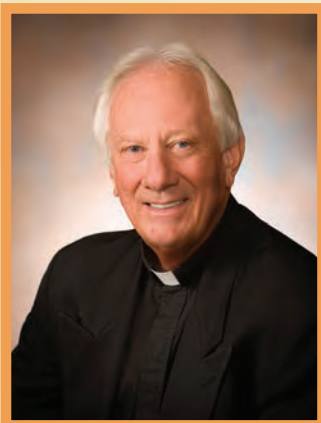
No matter who you encounter in your ministry as Ladies of Charity, no matter what they advocate or how they treat you, continue to choose love. Love is in your very name, “Charity.” When the path is difficult, when this call goes against your grain, the Lord of love will give you the grace and strength to choose love.



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

Greetings Ladies FROM THE HEARTLAND.

By Fr. Richard Gielow, C.M.



Rev. Richard Gielow, CM
LCUSA Spiritual Advisor

ASSEMBLY 2023

Dear Ladies of Charity,

Now that Easter is over, you might be thinking, “Been there, done that, now what?” We just continue to press on and move forward. One of the themes Bob and I present during parish missions is “We’re not done yet.” Sometimes we hear people say that they are retired, and of course our response is always, well not from God. Can’t retire there. He looks forward to more wonderful acts of charity the Ladies exhibit to God’s special people, the poor. We are blessed that your organization, The Ladies of Charity, exists in our world and gives us a group of dedicated followers of Vincent and Louise.

I encourage you to rededicate yourselves to Christ the Evangelizer of the poor, and continue to honor him with your involvement in the organization. And I am hoping that you will take the invitation to attend the National Assembly in Buffalo this coming September, very seriously as a way of reconnecting and enjoying the Ladies from around the country. We will have a day of prayer at the beginning at Niagara University, which will provide us with a prayerful way to begin an Assembly.

Your presence is needed and greatly appreciated, especially by Vincent and Louise.

God Bless you at this time.

THE BUFFALO COMMUNITY



In the days, weeks and months since the tragedy [The tragedy on May 14, 2022, when a gunman killed 10 people and wounded three in a racist attack at a grocery store in a predominantly Black neighborhood of Buffalo, New York.] the people of Buffalo and the Niagara Region have lived up to the “City of Good Neighbors” title. Yes, people are angry and sad, and yes they are hurting, but they are also resilient, generous, forgiving, empathetic and truly Good Neighbors.

The actions of one hateful person cannot, and will not destroy the love and respect people have for one another.

The people of Buffalo are strong and Choose Love. As Ladies of Charity, we Choose Love.

The Ladies of Charity made monetary and in-kind donations to help extend the services of the CCWNY food pantry located near the supermarket that was closed due to the tragedy.

THE 2023 BUFFALO ASSEMBLY

Kathy Rosetti and Kathleen Sieracki have selected speakers to fill the Assembly program who live their faith and can speak from the heart on their particular ministries or topic. Respecting the dignity of every human, at every stage of life was important in building their program. The keynote speaker will speak about racism given the background and theme selection. Other topics will include domestic violence, human trafficking, respect for life, and a panel discussion on the experience of immigrants in Western NY.

A Day of Reflection is being added on for Thursday, which extends the Assembly to three days, from the usual two days. The inclusion of prayerful reflection is important to the LOC organization’s charism as members of the Vincentian family.



LADIES OF CHARITY OF BUFFALO

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

By Kathleen Roseti and Kathleen Sieracki
2023 National Assembly Co-Chairs
In Buffalo, New York

The Buffalo Ladies of Charity Association (LOC) for the Diocese of Buffalo covers eight counties in Western NY. Catholic Charities of Buffalo Western, New York (CCWNY), brought the LOC association to Buffalo in 1941. Together, they have been partnered to serve the marginalized population of Western NY.

Buffalo LOC owns their "Center" at 1122 Broadway in the city of Buffalo, where they run a thrift store, and coordinate many of their programs and ministries. Director Julie Lulek is a senior manager with CCWNY, who oversees the LOC.

Kathy Roseti, a current LCUSA board member, is the current LOC president, and Kathleen Sieracki, a past LCUSA board member, serves as a Spiritual Moderator, and is also a past president of the association. Two CCWNY employees work in the LOC building providing support of all ministries and the coordinating of CCWNY referrals.

LOC is funded through requests each year for cash donations, fundraising events, raffles, thrift store receipts and occasional extraordinary donations. Their diocesan membership includes 20 parish-based groups. They also have one Junior Ladies of Charity group.

The diocesan association programs include: operating the *Lots of Clothes* Thrift Store, working with CCWNY caseworkers, who refer clients to the LOC for household goods (*Fresh Start*) and clothing for those in need, providing First Communion outfits for boys and girls, bookbags filled with school supplies to needy students, new toys, hats and mittens through the Buffalo *Holiday Partnership*, gift bags at Christmas for the Homebound, layette bags filled with new baby items through the WIC Program (Women, Infants and Children), and providing scholarships to high school students.

In addition to participating in and contributing monetarily to diocesan ministries their parish groups conduct a variety of activities in support of diocesan ministries. These include knitting/sewing items for layette bags, knitting hats and mittens, sewing walker bags, collecting cleaning or personal care items, collecting new and gently used items for the thrift store or the *Fresh Start* program.

This year the Buffalo Ladies of Charity association will host the LCUSA National Assembly in September. The Buffalo LOC also hosted the LCUSA National Assembly in 2006.

Roseti and Sieracki, together, with their committees put a lot of thought into selecting a theme for the 2023 National Assembly. The Buffalo and the WNY Community was, and still is recovering from the Mass shooting tragedy that took place May 14, 2022, which took the lives of 10 people who were simply going about their normal everyday lives and shopping in the supermarket where the tragedy happened.

These individuals are remembered:

Pearl Young
Ruth Whitfield
Heyward "Tenny" Patterson
Celestine "Stiney" Chaney
Katherine Massey
Roberta Drury
Margus Morrison
Andre Macknell
Geraldine Talley
Aaron Salter

The words of Reverend Michael Fisher, Bishop of Buffalo during the Interfaith Prayer Service for the Victims of the May 14th Mass Shooting really inspired them: "First and foremost, love of one another, and as Jesus demonstrated -- love that inspires us to lay down our lives for each other,"

he said. "It requires care and concern for those in need, those whose prospects are less, and then the discernable effort to alleviate their struggle. It requires giving a voice to those who society has ignored or discarded; speaking up and speaking out when the actions and words of some would diminish others, slandering individuals and whole communities with repulsive stereotypes and distortions.

It means demonstrating hearts of true empathy, and a commitment to doing whatever is in our power to reach out and support those whose lives have been marked by tragedy and injustice, through no fault of their own," he said.

As a result, the theme chosen was, "*Choosing to Love*," which echoed throughout the WNY community and in Bishop Mike's words. It helped bind the city together to support those most affected by the tragedy. It became the theme the Buffalo Ladies selected in memory of the 10 slain individuals. If one thinks about it, it is repeated daily by the Ladies of Charity throughout the world. "*Choosing to Love*" those who are marginalized and living in poverty is our motto. Seeing Christ in the faces of those we serve is what we do. ❖



Buffalo Ladies Of Charity

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON MOUNT CALVARY LADIES OF CHARITY ›SERVE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS‹

By Regina Barrett, LOC President

Initially I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, acknowledgements, or attended the Vigil Mass or Mass of Christian Burial on Sept. 1-2, 2022, of Pastor Rev. Everett Pearson. Rev. Pearson passed away on Aug. 23, 2022. In past years, he always looked forward to our Ladies of Charity hosting the Prince George's County Ladies of Charity March Quarterly, and always provided an inspiring homily. We miss him dearly.

Since the start of COVID 19, we reopened 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.

We adjusted distribution procedures to ensure that our ladies and volunteers were safe and had 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, handbags, home essentials, and more, for a collection company for Ukrainian refugees, and for the victims of two large complex fires in Prince George's County.

We partnered with Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies of Grace Chapter No. 47, to provide requested essentials like face masks, hand sanitizer, hygiene bags of soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other toiletries, 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 was on Dec. 17, 2022. We provided 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 who gather to pack all of the food bags, go 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 the Mt. Calvary Confirmation class candidates to carry bags to clients' cars. Our final project is to prepare 100 plus bag lunches and breakfast items for Warm Nights (Emergency Hypothermia Homeless Shelter) sponsored by Community Crisis Services.



Holly Walter, continued from page 2 ►

A fifth goal is to have Ladies of Charity work closely with other organizations, such as St. Vincent de Paul society, to better serve those in need in our communities.

In closing, I would like to say that I am looking forward to meeting as many ladies as I can, particularly at the upcoming Assembly in Buffalo, New York in September of this year. To start things off, a wonderful three days is being planned for everyone, including a Day of Reflection led by National Spiritual Advisor, Father Dick Gielow.

We sometimes forget that we are also ladies of prayer as well who work hard to meet the needs of the poor in our communities. Action without prayer is just work that needs

to be done until it is. Our work as Ladies of Charity will never be done as long as there are poor in our world. Jesus told his disciples that "the poor will always be with you." We need prayer and the support of God Our Father, Jesus His Son, and Mother Mary to continue what we do in every endeavor. St. Vincent, St. Louise, and St. Elizabeth Ann fully understood this, and developed their ministries around their undying faith in the Will of God, and the power of prayer to achieve their goals. Let us do the same.

Yours in Humility, Simplicity, and Charity,

Holly Walter
LCUSA President

LADIES OF CHARITY OF METROPOLITAN KANSAS CITY'S AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

To SEE and Be SEEN – VISIBILITY

By Catherine Powers

A new initiative of LCUSA is increasing VISIBILITY in our communities, which is the ability to see or be seen. Another synonym is AWARENESS, which is well-informed interest or knowledge of a particular situation. These are the leading goals of the Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City's Ambassador Program.

We are an association of approximately 400 members from 40 parishes in the metro-area of Kansas City, on both sides of the state line, in Missouri and Kansas. Our membership has dwindled from 800 women in 65 parishes at its peak a decade ago, mainly from aging and death. Due to this attrition in membership, a recent strategic plan was proposed in order to establish an ambassador at each parish to be the LOC liaison and contact, for future parish bulletin announcements of LOC community activities and events. This proposal of increased visibility and awareness would potentially increase LOC membership, support and fellowship, which would help increase LOC service and volunteerism in the community.

Our LOC organization is active in Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy, with beneficiaries at Seton Center (inner city food and clothing center), Christo Rey (high school prep for inner city teenagers), Villa St. Francis (senior living center for poor and sick), Duchesne Clinic (for poor and sick), as well as tutoring for children in low socioeconomic areas. Our association puts high priority on prayer for our membership, living and deceased, with a PRAYER SUPPORT group for the sick, as well as frequent ROSARIES before funerals and general meetings. We value social interaction among the members with our regular meetings, as well as special gatherings for hospitality, dinner theatre and at Christmastime.

Other membership goals of the AMBASSADOR PROGRAM are to promote diversity in age and generations, races and ethnicities across the metropolitan Kansas City area. Eventually, each parish LOC group will feel strengthened and empowered to offer additional support for individual parish needs, such as respite for homebound and social-justice needs of their community. It has reconnected women to bond in basic projects of knitting hats and plastic sleep-mats for the homeless and others. An individual parish LOC group of women is hosting "coffee" for socialization and networking, as well as area-groups of parishes combining for social interaction and membership solicitation with LOC videos and presentations to parish and community women's groups.

Our Ambassador Task Force has met frequently since 2021, establishing the process and script for this program. Initially, we provided information on LOC history and services, then met personally with the priest and staff members of high-membership parishes, in order to increase visibility and awareness with parish leaders. Our next phase is to deliver packets of LOC information to the other parishes with few or no LOC members, simply to make contact with concise information about LOC history in the Kansas City area and internationally.



Metro Kansas City LOC Ambassador Program at a coffee meeting.

Please contact me with any questions or feedback:
capowers@kc.rr.com.

FIVE LCUSA MEMBERS ATTEND AIC CONFERENCE



By Holly Walter

From March 21-24, five LCUSA members attended the LCUSA-AIC Conference held in Rome, Italy. Suzanne Johnson, LCUSA-AIC representative, was joined by Holly Walter, LCUSA president, Margaret Hanson and Frances Simkulet from the Northeast region, and Viola Johnson-Robinson from the Middle Atlantic region. We met many women from around the world, including representatives from as far away as The Republic of Cameroon and Madagascar in Africa, Peru and Argentina in South America, Switzerland and Poland in Europe, Lebanon, and Ukraine.

We enjoyed warm sunny weather most of our visit, and learned about the many projects undertaken by our Vincentian counterparts worldwide to help those in need. Mass was celebrated every day, and led by Vincentian priests from different nations. Our hosts from Italy provided delicious meals, and plenty of fellowship for us to enjoy. One of the highlights of our trip, was a bus ride to see the Vatican and a Papal Audience with Pope Francis. We had a chance to visit St. Peters Basilica, and take pictures of St. Peters square, including a group shot of everyone attending the conference.

One of the nights, the five of us from the United States sang "God Bless America" as our contribution to the talent show that evening. As you can see from the picture, we were all decked out in our red, white, and blue for the event. The real purpose of the conference was to share ideas on the different ways our Vincentian community assists those who suffer from poverty and marginalization around the world.

It was a very good learning experience, and would be for anyone who wishes to attend the conference. The next AIC conference will be held in Peru.

BUFFALO LADIES OF CHARITY

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR AND SERVICE DAY

On November 16, 2022, Ladies of Charity observed World Day of the Poor at the Russell Salvatore Food Pantry and Outreach Center in Lackawanna. Holly Walter began the day with a prayer service for approximately 45 ladies in attendance. Following the prayer service, 600 gift bags were assembled to be distributed by Catholic Charities to the homebound. Included in the gift bags were several personal items, small blankets, word search books and many homemade items by our Ladies of Charity. The Enchanted Taste Catering of Depew served a hot breaded chicken lunch with salad and dessert. Many thanks to all the workers, especially Carolyn Stewart, Julie Lulek, Kathy Roseti, Janice Ferguson and Marion Snyder for planning, purchasing and setting up the products and assembly line for the gift bags. There was a spirit of friendship and service for the poor felt by all.

ST. MARY'S JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY SPREAD JOY AT EASTER

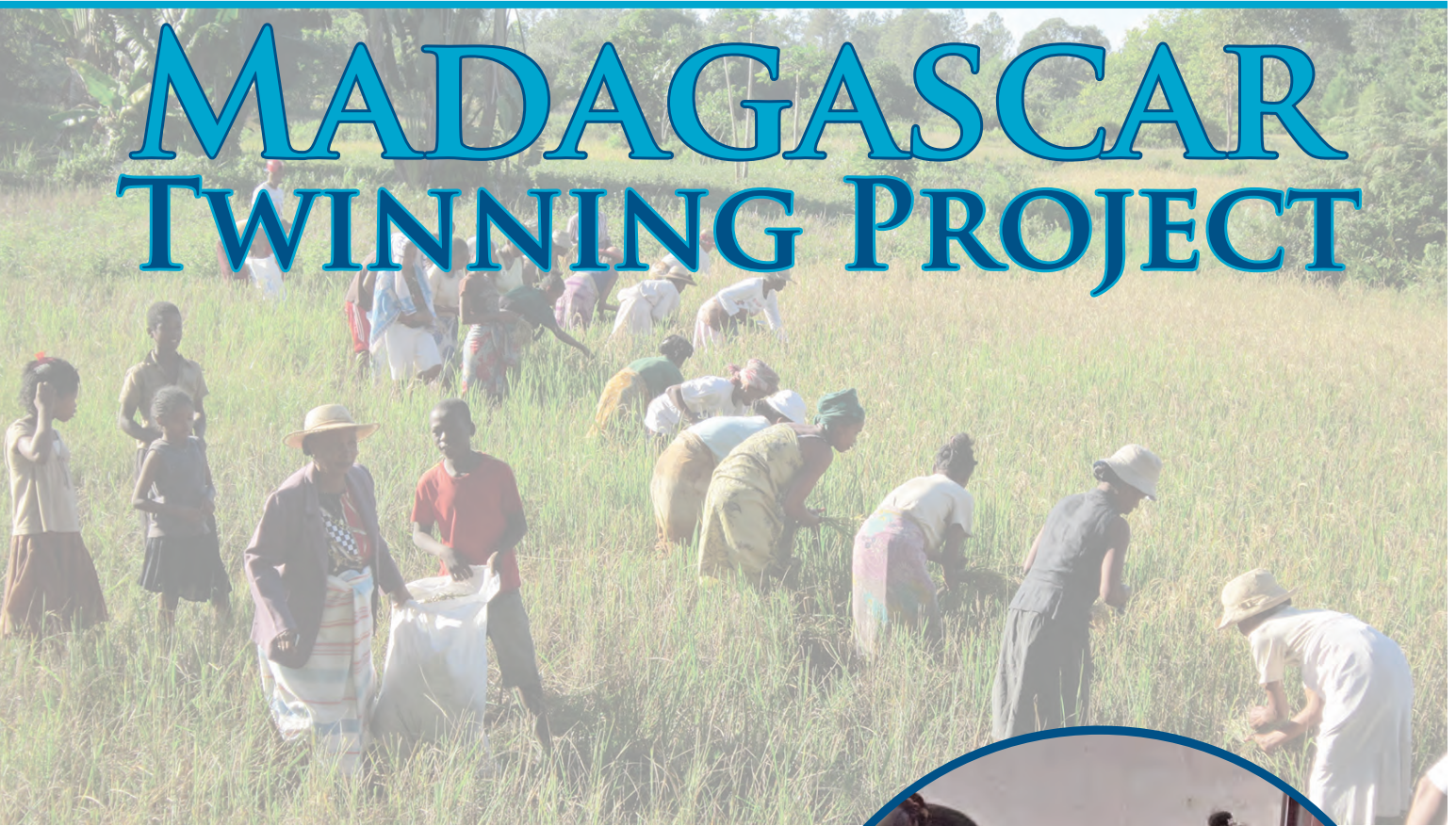
By Holly Walter

St. Mary's Junior Ladies of Charity, in Lancaster New York, helped the residents of an assisted living facility enjoy the Easter season by coming to Symphony Manor with treats and a special appearance of the Easter Bunny. The girls have been helping out at the facility for many years, and bring treats and activities for the seniors at every major holiday.

The girls are hard-working and very dedicated to helping those in need. Please consider starting your own Junior Ladies group in your area. Information on Junior Ladies is available from our national office, and they will be a part of our upcoming National assembly in Buffalo New York in September.



MADAGASCAR TWINNING PROJECT



Madagascar By Holly Walter

Please consider renewing your donations to our LCUSA-AIC Twinning Project in Madagascar. The women and children of this impoverished island are still in great need. The women of Madagascar are striving for independence and financial autonomy through agriculture, small businesses, and new housing. The children of Madagascar will thrive with educational opportunities, expanded resources, and proper nutrition. They will have the ability to seek higher education all the way up to the college level and will be able to graduate and become productive citizens.

Much of the funding we have donated in the past three years has been used to rebuild homes destroyed by the typhoons that frequently ravage this island nation off the African Coast. Support for the women and children of Madagascar will pay great dividends in the future, and fulfill our Vincentian promise to help those in need around the world.



**Please be as generous as you
can and send all donations to:**

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

*Please put Madagascar in the memo line of your check.
Thank You for your generosity. Holly Walter, Madagascar Chair.*



SISTER MARTINA VÁZQUEZ GORDO, D.C.

CREATIVE, COURAGEOUS MARTYR

Carol Schumer, D.C.

Sister Martina Vázquez Gordo, D.C., is not a typical martyr. She was unconventional in her methods, straightforward in her communication and inclusive in her ministry. Famous all over Spain for her service of people living in poverty, she was friends with the wealthy and the impoverished. Hence, her martyrdom on October 4, 1936 was shocking since it was at the hands of the same soldiers she had served so faithfully.

Sr. Martina, born in 1865, entered the Daughters in her 20s. Her many apostolates included superior of a school; head of a school-hospital; founder of a soup kitchen, a consultation center for nursing mothers, a center for the transient people who needed help with employment and a creator of a charitable board, made up of a group of wealthy families, who assisted with a nursing home and hospital for the elderly, plus she taught courses in the school. With all these endeavors, one wonders when she slept. She also served for five years on Spanish Provincial Council. After this, she moved to North Africa to nurse the wounded Spanish troops. Sr. Martina did everything she could to serve the soldiers, even cleaning floors. At one point, a truck overflowing with wounded soldiers came and there was no more room in the hospital for them. An officers' club nearby would work well, but one of the high-ranking officials refused. Sr. Martina didn't accept his answer. She went to the war minister. Not only did he allow the use of the club as a temporary hospital, but he appointed her as Captain General of the military, perhaps the highest title in the Spanish Army, which gave her the authority to do whatever it was she wanted.

After three years later, at the end of the war, she returned to Spain. Ten years later, trouble began. Around 1936, Sr. Martina became suspicious of the new government and its movement against the Church. One day, fearing a takeover, the Sisters consumed all the hosts and prepared to be forced out of the hospital. On July 27, the militia came with pistols drawn and threw the nuns into the street. They stayed with a former graduate of their school until October until one night, the soldiers returned for Sr. Martina. She was sick in bed. They went straight to her room, demanding, "Get up, get dressed, and come with us..." She went downstairs and embraced her sister and said, "Good-bye. See you in heaven." The men took her into the yard and tied her to a tree. Sr. Martina refused to turn her back to them, saying, "I want to see the face of those who kill me because you are the same ones that I have fed to kill your hunger. I want to die facing you like Christ and like Christ, I forgive you." After blessing herself, she said, "You can shoot now." They shot and, in typical strong Sr. Martina fashion, the two shots in her neck and face didn't kill her right away. With the strength she had left, she yelled, "My God, have mercy on me!" and her body slumped to the ground. She was 68 years old and had been a Daughter of Charity over 30 years.

Sr. Martina was one of 30 DCs, 54 priests of Congregation of the Mission, 14 lay Vincentians (Association of the Miraculous Medal and Children of Mary (VMY)) and 5 diocesan priests, who were killed as a result of the hatred of the Catholic faith. They were beatified between 1987-2022. Let's pray with/to them.



Martina Vázquez Gordo, D.C.



Martyrs Civil War, 1936-39

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Source: <https://famvin.org/enarchive/2012/12/14/billiards-humility-courage-and-martyrdom/>





Ladies of Charity

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"TO SERVE RATHER THAN TO BE SERVED"

Save the Date!

Ladies of Charity National Assembly 2023 We Choose L♥VE



Buffalo, New York ~ September 7-9, 2023

Location: Hyatt Regency Buffalo, 2 Fountain Plaza, Buffalo

For information on the Buffalo and Niagara Region visit:

<http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com>

<https://locbuffalony.org>