

Mission and Vision

LCUSA Mission Statement

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

LCUSA Vision Statement

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

(From Manual of The Ladies of Charity of the United States of America, page 7)

Metro Kansas City Association Mission Statement (example)

To provide opportunities for faith-filled women working together to assist people living in poverty and at risk through humility, simplicity, and charity.

Metro Kansas City Association Vision Statement (example)

We strive to use our time, talents, and treasure to provide assistance to all people living in poverty and at risk with a long-term goal to break the cycle of generational poverty.

St. John's University Association Mission Statement (example)

To create, form, and establish an organization to provide charitable services to the members of underserved communities in Queens County, New York; the charitable work is provided by the "Ladies of Charity", an organization made up of members of the St. John's University community consisting of alumni, administrators, staff, and faculty; to offer aid and assistance to the poor, homeless, and the needy through the collection and dissemination of food, clothing and other items; to encourage interest, awareness, and activism in local and national political arenas with reference to the plight of needy families; to provide financial aid and other reasonable economic assistance for the ultimate benefit of all needy people; to hold, conduct, and organize meetings, discussions, and forums to consider community opinions on issues affecting needy individuals and their families.

Although the mission and vision statements are similar, the major difference is that the national mission is to provide leadership to the local associations. Local missions provide the opportunities and service to people in need.

LOC Prayer

9:00 am Monday Morning Prayer

My God, I humbly beg you
to make me an instrument of your love.

Give me the grace of performing
all my actions to help my neighbor
with charity, humility, and simplicity.

It is my hope, Lord,
that fidelity in the practice
of these virtues may obtain the reward
which you have promised
to those who serve you in the person of the poor.

The special time that has been chosen to pray for all Ladies of Charity and their works is every Monday morning at 9:00 A.M. All our National Officers certainly appreciate your prayer.

Charity

Our name is Ladies of Charity. There are three definitions of ‘charity’ in the dictionary. They are:

First – ‘An organization to help and raise money for those in need.’

Yes – *that defines our association.*

Second – ‘The voluntary giving of help or money to those in need.’

Yes – *that defines what we do.*

Third – and this one was tagged as ‘archaic’ – was ‘love of humankind’.

Yes – *that defines who we are.*

There was a list of synonyms that I would like you to think about:

- You are a lady of *compassion*
- You are a lady of *care*
- You are a lady of *concern*
- You are a lady of *warmth*
- You are a lady of *friendliness*
- You are a lady of *friendship*
- You are a lady of *kindness*
- You are a lady of *goodwill*
- You are a lady of *sympathy*
- You are a lady of *unselfishness*
- You are a lady of *feeling*
- You are a lady of *humanity*
- You are a lady with *love of humankind*
- Because You are a *Lady of Charity.*

Simplicity

One of the virtues that St. Vincent lived by is Simplicity. As Ladies of Charity we strive to serve the poor with charity, simplicity, and humility.

How are you living the virtue of Simplicity? What does Simplicity mean to you?

St. Vincent defines Simplicity as being genuine. He would tell us to:

- Tell the truth, be honest
- Be consistent in words and actions
- Be direct and free of deceit

Let us all strive to live the virtue of Simplicity each day just as St. Vincent did during his life. When you're in a difficult situation or relationship, use your virtue of Simplicity.

Humility

What the Bible tells us about Humility

Proverbs 22:4 The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

Matthew 23:12 Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interest of others.

Qualities of Humble People

- They put others first.
- They spend time listening to others.
- They don't look down on others.
- They don't make assumptions.
- They are generous.
- They learn from others.

How to be Humble

- Be aware of your own shortcomings, strengths, and limitations.
- Recognize and acknowledge the strengths of others.
- Be open to learning and adapting from your colleagues.
- Work towards putting others' needs before your own.
- Spend time listening to others and ensure they feel heard and understood.

Examples of Humility

- People who give up their own privileges in order to serve those who have less.
- St. Vincent
- St. Louise
- St. Elizabeth Ann