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## Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity

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

### Message regarding our new President



I am proud to introduce Viola Robinson-Johnson as 2016-2018 President of Archdiocese of Washington, Ladies of Charity, taking over the responsibilities of Mary Louise Hand. Thank you Mary Louise for the great job you've done and congratulations Viola! *Jackie Bates*

### Read further to learn more about Viola!

Viola A. Johnson-Robinson is a native Washingtonian born at Freedman's Hospital and educated in the public school system of the District of Columbia. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Malone College (now Malone University) in Canton, Ohio. She taught briefly in the District of Columbia school system followed by twenty plus years at the Drug Enforcement Administration as a contractor with the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Information System. Viola graduated from Howard University School of Social Work in 1996 and began her professional life work of advocating for the needs of others.

Her career as a social worker has taken her from foster care to advocacy; to medical social work, advocating and assisting clients in clinics and hospital discharge planning; to service former members of the military as a contract social worker at the Armed Forces Retirement Home; to now advocating for clients in the aging network and assisting families.

Viola is currently a licensed social worker in Washington, DC, and Maryland and a member of the National Association of Social Workers-Washington, DC, Chapter. She has served on committees addressing the needs of the elderly, hospital and nursing home clients, and participated in various professional workshops and conferences.

As a Lady of Charity, Viola just completed a two-year tenure serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity. She served as the chair for our organization's 2015 Fall Assembly/Retreat Planning Committee. Viola also served as former Co-President of the St. Ignatius Ladies of Charity and attended planning meetings for the Ladies of Charity of the United States National Assembly held by the Archdiocese in 2012.

During her formative years Viola attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church where her paternal grandparents were original members. She later joined St. Vincent de Paul and became active as a lector, youth leader, and a member of the parish council. She has since attended St Ignatius of Loyola Church and joined the Ladies of Charity.

Viola is married to James Robinson and has two adult daughters who live with them in Fort Washington, Maryland.

*Message from the Immediate Past President*

On June 4, 2016, Father Philip Simo, Ladies of Charity (LOC), Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) Spiritual Advisor, installed the Executive Committee for the 2016-2018 Board of Directors. Viola Johnson-Robinson, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for 2014-2016, was installed as Board President for the 2016-2018 term. With this tradition, I moved into the role of the Immediate Past President, after a busy and eventful two years. I want to offer some thanks, highlight my activities,

and end with an appeal.

**Thanks:** I thank Viola for her support to me while I was the Board President and congratulate her on her installation as President, Board of Directors, and LOC ADW. I also want to thank Gloria Lessington for serving again as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Toni Gaines for staying on as Board Treasurer. I wish to also express my appreciation to Mary Ann Tretler who served as ADW Board Secretary for the last four years. I am sincerely grateful to Dr. Rita Robinson and Lucy Saunders for their mentorship. Importantly, I wish to extend a special



thanks to the dedication and faithful service of our spiritual leaders, Sister Sandra Goldsborough (whose first Board meeting as the new LOC ADW Spiritual Moderator was in June 2014), to Father Carl Dianda who served as the Spiritual Advisor during my first year, and to Father Philip Simo, OSB, who graciously assumed the Spiritual Advisor role nearly a year ago when Father Dianda's health precluded his continuing to serve us after 37 years! Further, I want to especially acknowledge the county Presidents: Susan Wilson, Calvert County; Peggy Campbell, Charles County; Bertha Guerra, District of Columbia; Maryann Rooney, Montgomery County; Beverly Motley, Prince Georges County, and Theresa Cullinane, Providence Hospital. It was gratifying for me to visit each of the county meetings during my two years. I was impressed with how professionally run their meetings were, the dedicated and talented women I met, and the numerous service projects in which the counties are involved. I was reminded how important the work of the LOC ADW Board is because it provides support to these groups! Examples of the support the Board provides are its LOC ADW Newsletter, published semi-annually owing to Jacqueline Bates' editorial work as Newsletter Chair; the LOC ADW Website maintained/updated by Toni Gaines; and the LOC ADW Archives, cared for and overseen by Board Historian, Ms. Gloria Rose.

**Activities:** In addition to expressing my appreciation, I would like to highlight my activities as Board President these last two years. Anything accomplished as an ADW was because we worked together: the LOC ADW Board members, with the LOC ADW's support. In the last two years I attended two National Assemblies, the 2014 Assembly in Milwaukee and the 2015 National Assembly in New Orleans, convened eight Board meetings in 2014-2016, and (as a Board) planned and implemented the three recurring Archdiocesan events:

- **Fall General Assembly:** For the first time in November 15, 2014, and then in October 31, 2015, the ADW Fall General Assembly was convened as a one-day Retreat devoted to Vincentian Spirituality with some reporting on the Ladies of Charity United States of America General Assembly (LCUSA).
- **St. Louise de Marillac Communion Brunch:** The Communion Brunch in honor of St. Louise was held on March 14, 2015, at St. Mary of the Mills Parish in Laurel, MD (Prince Georges County); and on March 19, 2016, at St. Jane de Chantal, Bethesda, MD (my home parish).

Continued on page 3

- May Day at St. Ann's home for Children, Youth, and Families: The LOC ADW May Day Celebration and Crowning of the Blessed Mother was held on May 2, 2015, and on May 7, 2016, at St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth, and Families, Hyattsville, MD. The LOC ADW received a great honor last December when St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth, and Families formally recognized our organization for its many years of support to St. Ann's. His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, ADW, presented a beautiful plaque to the LOC ADW at the lovely ceremony also presided over by Sr. Mary Bader, D.C., CEO of St. Ann's.

*An appeal:* Despite all you do as LOC ADW, there are still leadership needs and opportunities that go unfilled. If we are to continue as an organization, we need more of you to step up into leadership positions on the LOC ADW Board and the LCUSA Board, and to continue your fine efforts to grow the LOC ADW organization. It has been a privilege to serve as Board President and I thank you all for your support. While being Board President is a busy job, I believe St. Louise hears all of our prayers, including mine these last two years.

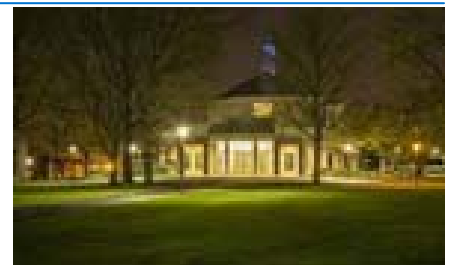
May God bless you all for your goodness,

Mary Louise Hand  
Immediate Past President



New York, New York

*Ladies of Charity of the  
United States of America*  
**36th National Assembly**  
“Ladies of Charity: Women of Mercy”



St Thomas More Church, Saint John Campus

Hosted by the Ladies of Charity of St. John's University and the Northeast Region

Attendees will be staying at The Courtyard by Marriott at NY LaGuardia Airport which is a non-smoking facility located within minutes of LaGuardia Airport and 10 miles north of Kennedy Airport. Nearby attractions include the National Tennis Center, City Field—Home of the Mets, Queens Zoo, World's Fair Marina, Museum of the Moving Image, and much more. Manhattan is accessible by cab or public transportation.

This year if you are planning to go, you may wish to travel by bus. Roundtrip bus transportation will be provided leaving from Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Church on Thursday, September 29th at 6:00 am (*sharp*) and making a pick-up stop at St. Hugh of Grenoble Church in Greenbelt, MD before heading to LaGuardia, NY. Return trip will be on Sunday, October 2nd leaving LaGuardia, NY at 12:00 noon and arriving at St. Hugh at approx. 8:00 pm with final destination at OLP Church.

The cost of the bus is **\$85.00** per person. **A deposit of \$42.50 is due by July 25th and the remaining balance of \$42.50 must be paid in full by August 25th.** All checks should be made payable to **Ladies of Charity** and sent to the ADW Treasurer - Toni Gaines at 3301 Spriggs Request Way, Mitchellville, MD 20721. We will be traveling on a 55-passenger bus and seats will be sold on a first-come first-served basis



## ***Saint Louise Feast Day***

The Ladies of Charity of the Archdiocese of Washington held their last March 15<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Feast Day of St. Louise at St. Jane de Chantal in Bethesda, Maryland (held March 19<sup>th</sup>). As our guest speakers we invited representatives of Ladies of Charity Diocese of Pittsburgh Board to address us at the luncheon. Their task was to provide us with a brief overview of the Ladies of Charity in Pittsburgh, specifically how they functioned at the Diocesan level, the local level and the parish level. They discussed the need for organization for each level with a different set of responsibility at each level. Their Diocese level which is equivalent to our Archdiocesan Board, is responsible for building and supporting leadership, recognizing people with skills, grooming others to elevate to leadership positions, communicating with all the Presidents through a monthly letter, convening a mandatory leadership meeting biannually, supporting Catholic Charities, and sponsoring an Annual Day of Reflection. The Pittsburgh Ladies and Sister Moderator also discussed how they approach the issue of growth and change at the Diocese level, and in general. The president said it is importance to be open to new idea and approaches. The Pittsburgh representatives also noted that their Diocese's next level of responsibility includes the Newsletter, the annual Investiture Mass which is held once a year with the Bishop attending, the August (Presidents') Workshop, Cemetery Sunday, Society of the Unclaimed Dead, Emergency Trust Fund, Junior Ladies of Charity and the Nursing Home Network. The Local Level Parishes provide various services such as the Wake Service for the deceased members of the Ladies of Charity, Nursing Home Visits, needle work groups, Anointing Masses, Bereavement Mass, Service Projects, Merger (Soup & Bread) Meal, Food Bank, Sharing Tree, and Reading Programs. They also have a separate committee which is responsible for recruitment and the Junior Ladies of Charity.

I was impressed from the moment we became engaged with planning the St. Louise Brunch presentation last observation in March, with the organization and commitment to growth of the Pittsburgh Ladies of Charity. And now the next St. Louise Feast Day effective for the Ladies of Charity, Archdiocese of Washington in 2017, will be celebrated on a different month/day: May 9. Change is difficult but does the day we observe the Feast Day change the fact that almost 400 years ago St. Louise heard the call of St. Vincent to start the Ladies of Charity? While it's very difficult to adjust to change we can be inspired by the Pittsburgh Ladies of Charity. For us, as Ladies of Charity, I believe that change in the organizational structure and growth will help to ensure that the organization survives another 400 years.

Let us do as St. Louise and pray that Jesus will show us, as He did St. Louise, how to show humility as we follow guidance from the Superior General of the Vincentians who is trying to have St. Louise added to the Liturgical Calendar which; would provide more recognition for the Ladies of Charity and the Vincentian family. And though hard, sometimes change can be good as for example, we may now be able to purchase books at the Shrine book store and receive greater recognition about our patron saint.

We have formed a Planning Committee with Susan Wilson, President of Calvert County as our Chairperson. The Planning Committee has already discussed several options for how the LOC ADW will celebrate the St. Louise de Marillac Feast Day beginning in 2017, with the (2016) change in the Feast Day from March 15 to May 9. The Committee under Susan's leadership will develop a plan for finalizing options for celebrating St. Louise de Marillac's new Feast Day and for getting input from the parish associations, going forward.

**Viola Robinson-Johnson**  
**President, ADW, LOC**

## WHERE DID SHE GO?



From March 15, turn the calendar two pages and look at May 9. There she is! Who changed the date and why?

Since 2009 the Community of the Daughters of Charity has petitioned the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments to have the feast of St. Louise included in the Universal Calendar of the Church.

The same Congregation asked the Congregation of the Mission to review the Vincentian liturgical calendar in order to bring it in line with new norms. The Procurator General, Father Shijo Kanjirathamkunnel, CM presented the list of Saints and Blesseds celebrated by the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity. We were then asked to reconsider the date of the feast of St. Louise deMarillac because we celebrate it on March 15, therefore during Lent, and it is preferable not to celebrate solemnities during that liturgical season. Father Gregory Gay, Superior General, and his Council and Sr. Kathleen Appler, Superioress General, and her Council chose May 9, the anniversary of her beatification. We couldn't use the date of her canonization because that also falls in Lent.

We are all hoping that this change in date might positively influence a response to our request to have her included in the Universal Calendar of the Church. This change may further the cause.

God is inviting us to change something dear to us. Recall Angel Gabriel inviting Mary to change her whole way of life! Recall the many changes Louise faced on her journey to the Lord. Let us approach this change for us in a positive spirit, seeing it as a challenge to be met joyfully and not an obstacle to our Spirituality.

**Reflection on St. Louise's change of date**  
**Sister Sandra Goldsborough, DC**

## In Loving Memory of Margaret D. Callaghan



Margaret transitioned on Sunday, July 10, 2016 after a lengthy illness. Our beloved Margaret was a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Ladies of Charity for over forty years. She served as President of the Board of Directors for the Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity (LOC ADW) from 1984-

1986. However, she was most noted for her dedicated service as Treasurer of the LOC ADW Board of Directors for twenty-five years serving from 1986-2011. Margaret was a true Lady of Charity always generous with her time, talent and treasure. She will truly be missed.

## 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As we prepare to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism, as well as the beginnings of the AIC, let us pray that through the intercession of Sts. Vincent, Louise, and our Holy Founders, we may experience a new birth in our zeal for the evangelization and service of persons living in poverty, our Lords and Masters. Celebrating the Year of Vincentian Collaboration Rev. Joseph V. Agostino, CM, Coordinator, Vincentian Family Office

By Fr. Joseph Agostino

### Save the Date for a Celebration

Lucy Saunders has secured October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for our **Mid-Atlantic Regional** trip to Emmitsburg. Lunch will be provided on site, accommodating 150 people.

More information to follow including price of the trip.

## Welcome St. Anthony's New Ladies of Charity

On Saturday, March 5, 2016, St. Anthony's of Padua (North Beach, MD) welcomed 6 new members to their Ladies of Charity unit as well as welcoming their new Pastor, Father James Stack. They are so proud to have these wonderful ladies as well as Father Stack who supports the mission of the Ladies of Charity in their ministry to the less fortunate. Before the induction, several of these ladies had been very active volunteers in supporting the Ladies of Charity fund raising activities, pantry operations, and the Giving Tree project. The induction occurred during morning Mass, followed by a lovely reception in our Pantry House.

By Kathy Temple



*Pictured from left to right, Barbara Coker, Cheryl Gilmer, Marie Thomas, Peggy Vieth, Father James Stack, and Jean Sebold. Mary Kovac (not pictured)*



Visit our website <http://ladiesofcharityadw.org/>  
This website is designed to keep you informed  
about events in our Archdiocese.

**SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22,**  
9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.,

WASHINGTON RETREAT HOUSE  
ADW GENERAL ASSEMBLY/RETREAT:

“LADIES OF CHARITY, WOMEN OF MERCY”



## 2016 May Day Celebration at St. Ann's

**LADIES OF CHARITY  
JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON**

**Crowning of the Blessed Mother**

On May 7, 2016, the Ladies of Charity of the Archdiocese of Washington (LOC ADW) gathered at St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families (St. Ann's) to celebrate May Day and the Crowning of the Blessed Mother. This year, Carmen Kosko of St. Matthias the Apostle Church had the honor of crowning the Blessed Mother. Rev. Philip Simo, OSB – LOC ADW Spiritual Advisor was the Mass celebrant and homilist. Sister Mary Jean Doyle, DC provided the inspirational music during the celebration of Mass. The ladies enjoyed the buffet luncheon and desserts. As always, the raffle of gifts was a big success. Sister Mary Bader, DC – CEO of St. Ann's thanked the ladies for the many gifts, layette supplies and monetary donations provided to the children and families of the Center. Mary Louise Hand, President of LOC ADW thanked the ladies as well for their many acts of kindness. Kudos to Gloria A. Lessington, 2nd Vice President of the LOC ADW Board of Directors, and the entire May Day committee who help make this event a great success! A good time was had by all.

**By Toni Gaines**







## Golden Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, June 11, 2016, the Ladies of Charity at St. Matthias the Apostle Parish celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church organization. More than 30 guests which included LOC members, husbands and other invited guests gathered at the Hughes Center located at St. Matthias for a gala social and dinner. Elegantly printed programs prepared by Jackie Bates promised a memorable occasion. Co-president, Debbie Self, opened the event with words of gratitude and pride for what has been accomplished over the years. Debbie also read a memoriam list of members. Father Milton

Jordan, pastor at St. Matthias, gave an appreciative message that was also an inspiration to the LOC to continue its good works. After Father blessed the food, all enjoyed a delicious dinner and dessert prepared by caterer Laurie G. Williams of Kingdom Catering. During dinner Arlene Taylor shared a slide presentation which included over 150 photos highlighting past and present day LOC events. Kathy Dowell, archivist, further enhanced the focus of the celebration by reading a history of St. Matthias Ladies of Charity. The evening was filled with music, food, conversation and laughter. As dinner came to a close, group photos were made and guests lingered. In her closing remarks, Co-president, Terry Poyner said, "... We (St. Matthias LOC) look forward to the next 50 years!" It was a wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

By Arlene Taylor





### St. Anthony's HeartF.E.L.T. Program

The HeartF.E.L.T. (Feeding Empty Little Tummies) Program was formed, when the Ladies of Charity at St Anthony of Padua in North Beach, MD was asked if they could provide school children with extra food for the weekend. There was no hesitation by the Ladies of St. Anthony to put a plan together and act. Working with a local elementary school, the Ladies are sending home backpacks full of food for eleven children each week. Volunteers gather every Tuesday evening to fill the backpacks. The backpacks are delivered to the school on Thursday. The empty backpacks are picked up on Monday and the cycle begins anew for the following week.

In mid-September of the 2015/2016 school year, the program began; and, it will continue until the last week of school in June. Working with the school guidance counselor, we have been able to extend the benefits for five of the school children through the summer.

Each backpack contains two breakfasts of cereal, milk and cups of fruit. There are two lunches with crackers and small cups of peanut butter, a single serving of tuna and soup. Also in the pack are three dinners, which include a seven ounce canned meal like lasagna or beef stew and cups of vegetables. Two juices and seven snacks complete the backpacks.

All food items are single servings and pre-packaged. There is a weight limit of six pounds for pre-K through second grade. It increases to ten pounds for third through fifth grade. Bonus food items, such as a large jar of peanut butter and jelly or a box of macaroni and cheese with a six ounce can of tuna or chicken are added to the backpacks for the older children to share with their family.

The food is purchased from the Maryland Food Bank or donated by neighboring Catholic Schools and the PTA of the school being served. The children enjoy the selection and quantity of food and their parents are very grateful for the support given to them through the HeartF.E.L.T. Program. The Ladies of Charity are so grateful for the dedicated volunteers who give of their time and donate food to this much needed program. May God bless them all!

By Kathy Temple



### Student Receives Service Award



On June 10, 2016, Ms. Shelby Smith graduated from the Washington School for Girls (WSG) located at THEARC campus in Washington, DC. She was the recipient of the Kathy Shorter Service Award. The award is named after a founding faculty member who made her life the work of a strong WSG. The award is given to a student who, during the course of their enrollment at the school, served their peers and made the school better.

Mr. Joseph Kitchen, Director of Out-of-School-Time Learning and Volunteer Service at WSG presented the award to Shelby Smith. In his remarks, he said, "I am proud to present this award to an eighth grader who saw opportunities for improvement as an opportunity to serve."

Shelby saw a need to serve others when she noticed a group of fifth graders from The View, another campus of the WSG, coming to THEARC daily to wait for the bus to take them to their after-school program and needing help with their homework. In wanting to assist others, she volunteered to be their tutor. Also, when WSG established a bus service to transport students from The View campus to THEARC campus, the leaders of the school were concerned about ensuring the safety of the students between campuses. Again, Shelby stepped up and volunteered to be a chaperone for the students. Shelby has always been concerned for the welfare of others. When given an assignment in science, she developed and designed her own Extended Day Club for sixth graders. The club's vision is to promote self-esteem, positive behaviors, and team work among the students.

In the Fall of 2016, Shelby will attend Bishop McNamara Catholic High School in Forestville, MD. We wish her well and know that she will continue to apply the virtues exhibited by her parents and grandmother, Linda Jenkins a member of the Ladies of Charity at Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian Catholic Church in Washington, DC by knowing it is better, *"To Serve Rather Than Be Served."*

**By Toni K. Gaines**  
**District of Columbia Parish Units**

### Elizabeth Ann Seton High School Student Working in the Community



During spring break, Ms. Tiffany Richardson contacted a member of the Ladies of Charity at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church to offer her services to help in their food pantry. Tiffany is a junior at Elizabeth Ann Seton High School located in Bladensburg, MD. The high school is operated by the Daughters of Charity. Although she needed to earn community service hours as part of her curriculum at Seton High School, Tiffany really does enjoy volunteering throughout the community to help others. She engages in community activities as an Ambassador in the Girl Scouts working on her Gold Star Award; she donates blood to the American Red Cross on a regular basis as a way of helping those in need; she is a member of the International Club at Seton High; and, on the Lacrosse Team. The Ladies of Charity are extremely grateful to

Tiffany for stacking the shelves and packing bags of food for the needy in the community during her Spring break. She truly exemplifies the Vincentian Spirit, *"To Serve Rather Than Be Served."*

**By Toni Gaines**





### Young Ladies Continued to Serve St. Margaret of Scotland

After going on to college and graduating from the Junior Ladies, these young ladies choose to come back and serve their community; they went to lend a hand during their spring break, helping with the Easter festivities.



By Gloria Rose

### District of Columbia LOC March 2016 Quarterly Meeting



On March 13, 2016, the District of Columbia Parish Units met at Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian Church for their quarterly meeting. Mary Hand, the President of the Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity (LOC) Board of Directors, was in attendance. Sharon Graham, President of the Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian LOC Unit, introduced four (4) members inducted as new members into their unit (Juanita Middleton, Jackie Brooks, Zelma Winchester and Ruby Robertson). She mentioned these ladies were very active with the LOC before joining. Ruby Robertson took the liberty of developing a newsletter for the group, and she was also our designated photographer for the day. Several issues were discussed during the meeting, especially the upcoming National Assembly in Queens, NY, scheduled to be held from September 29 – October 1, 2016. The ladies were encouraged to attend.

By Toni Gaines

## Holy Comforter - St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church LOC WINTER 2016



Officers for 2016 L to R: Daphne Giles, Linda Jenkins, Sharon Graham, Juanita Middleton and Ellen Mayo

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy the HCSC Ladies of Charity continue making every effort to serve God and the human family. The Christian servant works to enhance the lives of others, and in serving others faithfully, the LOC volunteered a total of 3,169 hours serving the parish and the community in 2015.



**Cakes - Pies - Cookies - Love**  
Another successful bake sale on December 20<sup>th</sup> to begin another year of servitude! Parishioners were well pleased and well fed.

**A Career of Service**



**Congratulations to**  
Bettye Mayes on receiving the National Black Veterans Award in February. We thank you Bettye for your years of military service.



**For charity is the one thing we will take with us to eternity.** These ladies busy making a conscious effort to work on the things needed in the community, whether it be for food, money for transportation or utility bills, visiting the sick, tutoring, or parish work.







***“To Serve, Rather than to be Served in Humility, Simplicity and Charity”***

**Prince Georges County  
Ladies of Charity**

**Inductees: Sunday, June 12, 2016  
Saint Jerome Catholic Church**



**Left to Right Maggie Smith, Betty Albanesi, Heather Benz, Millie Stengel, (Beverly Motley PGLOC President) Lee Estill, Mary Pastore, Jeannette Davis, Jean Gaskins and April Woodward!**

**St. Matthias Catholic Church**

**Jeannette Davis  
Jean Gaskins**

**St. Mary of the Mills Catholic Church**

**Betty Albanesi  
Heather Benz  
Versalee Estill  
Mary Pastore  
Maggie Smith  
Millie Stengel  
April Woodward**

**By Regina Barret**

## Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity Board of Directors Officers Duties

### President, LOC ADW

- Chairs four Board meetings a year; adheres to the Bylaws—prepares agendas; Coordinates with Executive Committee
- Oversees/presides at three Archdiocesan meetings (the LOC ADW continues to hold three annual Archdiocesan-wide events as part of their decades-long tradition: Fall General Assembly/Retreat; St. Louise de Marillac Feast Day celebration—May 9<sup>th</sup> new Feast Day (TBD); May Day at St. Ann's Home for Children, Youth, and Families.
- Prepares letters to members through Presidents to announce plans for three Archdiocesan gatherings and dues changes
- Contributes articles to *Servicette*
- Communicates with Spiritual Advisor and Spiritual Moderator
- Coordinates with LCUSA
- Supports/attends general Assemblies
- Assembles Annual Report for LCUSA with Mid-Atlantic VP
- Contributes articles to *Servicette*
- Visits county Board meetings
- Assembles and submits material for Archives for each two-year term
- Ensures Boards financial books/reports are reviewed/audited for every two year term

By Mary Louise Hand

### The position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Archdiocese Board

The most important job is being aware of the President's position and maintaining a united front. It doesn't mean you agree with everything but, if you discuss it together and pray about it you can maintain a consensus regarding matters.

The duties as listed in the bylaws are to:

1. Chair meetings in the absence of the President,
2. Represents President at Archdiocese Meetings,
3. Coordinate with the President the General Assembly/ Retreat Committee and the St Louise de Marillac Brunch.
4. Other duties as assigned which may include writing articles for the Archdiocese Newsletter, writing articles for the *Serviette*. Chairing committees and meeting with Catholic Charities representatives.

Working closely with the President and learning about the Ladies of Charity through national Meetings, county meetings and local meetings has helped me grow as a Lady of Charity.

The support of those whose shoes I am now filling also has been inspirational in motivating me to be worthy of the position I now fill.

Viola Robinson-Johnson

### Second Vice President

As the Second Vice President of the Ladies of Charity of the Archdiocese of Washington, my primary responsibility in this position is the coordination of May Day at St. Ann's. Into my second term in this position, it has been very fulfilling for it has brought me closer to our "St. Vincentian cousins", the Daughters of Charity and the love and work that they share to the neediest throughout the world.

Gloria A. Lessington  
Second Vice President

### Recording Secretary

- Attend and record all meetings of the LOC ADW.
- Send copies of the minutes to all members of the Board of Directors within three (3) weeks.



**Toni K. Gaines**  
**Treasurer/Website Manager**  
**ADW LOC Board of Directors**

In 2010, I came to the ADW LOC Board of Directors as the newly elected President of the District of Columbia parish units. In December 2011, I was appointed the interim treasurer for the Board by Maryann Rooney, President ADW LOC. In June 2012, I was elected as the treasurer. My duties include, but are limited to, providing the entire Board of Directors with an annual budget, monthly treasurer's reports, fiscal year end annual report, final expense reports on the May Day, Annual Communion Brunch, and Annual Retreat which includes a listing of attendees and participating parishes; remits dues and roster to LCUSA; prepares an annual membership directory which includes board members, 2-year calendar of events, brunch rotation schedule, list of unit presidents; writes correspondence and develops/produces programs for the May Day/Patron List and Annual Retreat.

In 2012, the ADW website was developed and launched. I serve as the website manager writing articles and posting photos; writing articles for the ADW newsletter and LCUSA Servicette newsletter; maintaining a perpetual enrollment of all deceased ADW LOC; maintaining a list of all new members; serving on the archive committee developing compilations, such as presidential terms; liturgical ministries and religious leadership; and acting as information/communications liaison for the membership using email.

### Catholic Woman in American History



Margaret Mary Nicholson (1899-1984) earned an A.B. (1922) and M.D. (1925) degrees from The George Washington University and was a pediatrician and professor of medicine in Washington, D.C., from 1928-82. Born in Charlottesville, Virginia on November 26, 1899, she began her education at St. Ann's Episcopal School, coming to Washington at about age ten. From

that time on she was educated and lived her adult life in Washington, DC.

Dr. Nicholson proudly opened her private practice in Washington in 1928. True to her orientation toward the disadvantaged, she became Chief, Department of Pediatrics, at Gallinger Hospital in Anacostia, where

conditions were far from adequate. She worked with the D.C. Public Health Service for over forty years. Children's hospital, where she was Chief of the Department of Cardiology, was probably the focal point of her career. She also practiced at Columbia Hospital for Women, Washington Hospital Center, Sibley Memorial, Providence, Arlington, and Fairfax Hospitals. As a pediatrician and an authority on congenital heart disease in children, she joined the teaching staff of both The George Washington University and Georgetown University.

Honors came to her from every direction. She was the first woman recipient of The George Washington University's Medical Society's Award of Merit. She was also the first woman to chair the Pediatrics Section of the American Medical Association. In 1974, Georgetown University selected her for the university's Senior Pediatrician's Achievement Award. Providence Hospital awarded Dr. Nicholson a gold-headed cane, the highest honor possible for a physician-teacher.

In 1979, Margaret Mary Nicholson received the papal honor "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice". She was a member of the Third Order of Carmelites for over a quarter of a century and a member of St. Joseph's Church all her life. Trinity College asked her to serve on the Board of Trustees and awarded her an honorary doctorate of humane letters in 1982. She founded the Federated Catholic Physician's Guild and was very active in The Christ Child Society.

Professional organizations on all levels, from International to local, benefited from her contributing membership. She received special recognition as diplomat of the American Pediatrics Board and as a delegate for the American Medical Association to International Pediatric Congresses in Zurich and Havana. During and after World War II, Dr. Nicholson personally provided numerous care packages to European families in need; their responses to her generosity provide an interesting insight into the times. In semi-retirement, at the close of her life, Dr. Nicholson continued to demonstrate her love of children. By her own testimony, it was the motivating force behind her work in her profession and the church.

Margaret Mary Nicholson died August 26, 1984. NB This sketch was written by Sharon Galperin in 1984.

**PS** This Catholic Lady in American History actually was instrumentally in saving my pastor (Rev. Milton Jordan), life as a child.

**By Jackie Bates**



Ladies of Charity  
Archdiocese of Washington  
5523 Center Avenue  
Lanham, MD 20706



**Ladies of Charity**  
Archdiocese of Washington  
*To Serve Rather Than Be Served*

### Parish Service Program

The Parish Service Program (PSP) is designed to assist parish groups create or enhance ministries of service at the parish. This could be a wide variety of programs including but not limited to: Food pantries, substance abuse programs, ESOL classes, programs for those with different abilities, and ministry to the elderly. What are the needs in your parish?

Viola Johnson-Robinson met with Deacon Jim Shanahan, Laura Yeoman, staff of Catholic Charities. The Parish Service Program was discussed and ways that the Ladies of Charity and Catholic Charities could collaborate and promote the initiation of Ladies of Charity groups in parishes that currently don't have this organization. There was also discussion at this meeting about leadership development and assisting with leadership training. Possible follow-up to the meeting included scheduling a meeting with Debbie McDonald, Deacon Shanahan's counterpart on the Archdiocesan level, to obtain support from the Archdiocese to make pastors more aware of the Ladies of Charity with the approval of the Cardinal.

### Who do I contact with questions?

Deacon Jim Shanahan, the Parish/School Program Manager for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, is happy to talk to you about any aspect of the program. You can reach him by phone at 301-674-4091 or email at [jim.shanahan@catholiccharitiesdc.org](mailto:jim.shanahan@catholiccharitiesdc.org).