

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON LADIES OF CHARITY NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2019

LCUSA MID-ATLANTIC REGION CELEBRATE NEW ASSOCIATION IN NORRISTOWN, PA



JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY SUPPORTING HUMANE SOCIETY



St. Anthony JLOC presenting donation to the Calvert County Humane Society.

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Members of the Board of Directors for the Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity traveled to Norristown, PA to celebrate the newest Association in the LCUSA Mid-Atlantic Region.

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- Tribute to Dr. Rita L. Robinson
- Welcoming the New ADWLOC Spiritual Advisor
- Induction of New Members at North Beach
- Upcoming Events



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Vincentian

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Message From The President



Last summer, I volunteered to be on the LOC ADW nominating committee along with two other Ladies of Charity. We all made many calls to the Ladies, sent emails and talked at meetings in which we were able to obtain a Treasurer, Maryann Tretler (St. Hugh) and 2nd Vice President, Jamila Stone (OLPH). Donna Fisher (St. Margaret) stayed on as

Recording Secretary. So, I decided to take the Presidents' position to allow the LOC Executive Board of the ADW to stay together. So here I am, a member of St. Matthias LOC in Lanham for 20 years.

When I was invited to become an LOC at my parish, I was elected the President. I knew nothing about the organization, but I had a few other LOC to help me learn and I did over the many years. Leadership is a difficult role for some and that is something we all need to try and overcome. When being the leader, you are not alone. There are experienced LOC always there to support you. Please think of this when there is a need for Officers.

Being a Lady of Charity has allowed me to focus on being prepared to help those we serve. There are so many less fortunate in this area, each parish takes on what they can do. Whether I work at my food pantry or feed the hungry at a Community Café, I always leave the places feeling so humble.

As I close, my primary goal as President is **communication**. At the LOC ADW meetings, I share with your Presidents what is happening here and nationally. If not mentioned at your meetings, please ask them or email me.

Much gratitude to all,

Deborah Self

Deborah "Debbie" Self
2018-2020 President
ADW LOC Board of Directors

Ladies of Charity ADW Welcome New Spiritual Advisor

On Saturday, February 2, 2019, Rev. Michael Barth, S.T., celebrated Mass, as the newly appointed Spiritual Advisor for the ADW LOC, in the chapel at St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families prior to the ADW Ladies of Charity Board Meeting held there.



Father Mike was born in Berwick, PA but grew up mostly in Buffalo, New York. His journey to priesthood began when he was just a boy. "As long as I can remember," he reflects, "I wanted to serve God and be a missionary. I can remember being in elementary school and hearing a talk about vocations. That talk inspired me to write several missionary congregations who advertised in The Catholic Messenger. Much to my parents' surprise, all sent priests to my home to speak with me. It was one of our Missionary Servants, Father John McSpirt, who really caught my attention. Thanks to his inspired words, I entered our seminary in 1966 and was ordained a Missionary Servant priest in 1979. In between those years, I earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master's degree in Theology."

In May 2015, Fr. Mike was elected the General Custodian of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity. This leadership role is to ensure that the Congregation stays true to the vision and spirit of Father Judge. In 2014, he was appointed director of the Shrine of St. Joseph in Stirling, New Jersey. Previously, he pastored missions in Cleveland, Ohio, and Camden, Mississippi. Besides serving on many non-profit boards, Fr. Mike served as Vicar General of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity from 2003-2011.

On behalf of the entire membership of the Association of Ladies of Charity for the Archdiocese of Washington, the ADW Board of Directors welcome Fr. Mike as their new Spiritual Advisor.

Submitted by:

Debbie Self
President, ADW LOC Board

TRIBUTES TO DR. RITA LAVERNE ROBINSON



A true Lady of Charity, Dr. Rita LaVerne Robinson transitioned to her heavenly reward after a long period of illness.

As a Lady of Charity she lived the virtues of **visiting the sick**. She was involved and passionately advo-

cated for the Ladies of Charity Caregiving Services which started in Pittsburgh this past September. Rita served on the National Committee and was advocating bringing the service to the Archdiocese of Washington. She not only used her gifts of leadership and knowledge in serving the sick, she was an active participant.

She **fed the hungry**, she and her sister Carolyn also took food to people who were unable to come to the food pantry at her parish Our Lady of Perpetual Help. **"I was naked and you clothed me"**, Rita was involved in providing clothes to those less fortunate through her parish and Catholic Charities. **"Imprisoned and you visited me"**, Rita and her sister Carolyn were involved in the prison ministry helping those returning home adjust to life not being locked up.

If, you read her funeral program you would find out that she was a natural leader and she inspired her siblings and family to attend college and find their gifts in life. She was so proud of her children and her husband, John who was her rock. Rita sat on many boards. All these things shaped who she became.

God has a plan for all of us. We may not have a Doctoral Degree or be an officer in our units, but we all can take serious the vows we took; when we were consecrated as Ladies of Charity to visit the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the imprisoned. May her life continue to be inspiration to others who serve as Ladies of Charity.

Submitted by:

Viola Johnson-Robinson
Immediate Past President ADW Board



My attendance at Rita Robinson's funeral liturgy on January 18 was a special grace for me. During the course of the liturgy I kept realizing that in Rita I found a likeness to Blessed Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity who lived during several revolutions in Paris in the 1800s, a time of serious political and social strife, working in one of the most destitute neighborhoods of Paris all her life as a Daughter of Charity. In those 51 years Sister Rosalie, along with her community untiringly cared for, fed, visited, consoled and soothed others. She fought against injustice and poverty, awakened the conscience of those in power or those with money, she worked toward the education of the children and the youth of poor families. She studied the abilities of those she served, their level of instruction and found work to help them out of their difficulties. **Rita grew up in South East Washington and chose to remain there. Her roots were there. Her gifts could be used.**

Both petite women not only had deep faith in their God but their faith moved them to action, their faith who called them to make a difference. They did this with trust and resourcefulness, courage and freedom. With energy and drive, both lifted people up beyond their expectations.

When I listened to the testimonies given at Rita's funeral liturgy and read the narrative about her in the program at her funeral, I was astounded by the many other avenues of social justice, commitment to education and mentoring the young, challenging others especially the young to be the best they could be in addition to her service as a Lady of Charity. **She put her time and determination into everything she did as did Sister Rosalie.** They each used their personal gifts of intelligence, creativity, insight and boldness of character.

Blessed Rosalie saw needs and, gifted with a keen sensitivity, she once said; "There is something that is

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choking me and takes away my appetite... the thought that so many families lack bread..." Sister Rosalie knew what she was called to do (I was hungry and you gave me to eat.) and this conviction grounded her and directed her actions.

That was Rita. She was who she was. She was grounded in her beliefs, comfortable in her own shoes and as a woman of faith compelled to act.

During the liturgy, I recalled the dream Sister Rosalie shared toward the end of her life with Armand de Melun, a friend and collaborator, who later became her first biographer. "One night I dreamed that I stood at the judgment seat of God. God received me with great severity and was about to pronounce my sentence when, suddenly, I was surrounded by an immense crowd of people carrying old boot, shoes, and hats. The crowd of people presented Sister Rosalie's gifts to God saying: She was the one who gave us all these things. Then Jesus Christ turned toward me and said: "because you gave all these second-hand clothes in my name, I open Heaven to you. Enter for all eternity.

I suspect that Rita would not have feared that God would have treated her with severity, but I do believe that God said to Rita as she entered the pearly gates: Rita I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, I was naked and you clothed me. (Mathew: 25)

Rita, you took the gifts that I gave you and became

the first-generation college graduate in your family. You took your education seriously. Through sharing the fruits of your education, you inspired others, mentored others. You raised the standards of education in the schools you administered and taught other teachers and counselors to do the same. You taught young people to believe in themselves and to use the gifts that God gave to them.

You used your influence in political, social, and cultural circles. Come, Rita, let's celebrate with all other likeminded people who are now receiving their reward in heaven. And by the way, I want to introduce you to Sister Rosalie Rendu who is up here with Me. She was in so many ways just like you. Come receive your reward.

Blessed Rosalie once said: A Vincentian follower must be like a milestone on a street corner where all those who pass by can rest and lay down their heavy burden. **May we, Vincentian followers, also be like milestones on a street corner where all who pass by can lay down their heavy burdens.**

I encourage each of you to take some time to determine the gift that Rita personally gave to you. What did you admire in her? What one of her qualities challenges you to be a better Lady of Charity?

Submitted by:

Sr. Claire Debes, D.C.

Vincentian Spiritual Moderator ADW LOC



*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
Washington, DC*

Dr. Rita L. Robinson will forever be remembered as a member of the Ladies of Charity (LOC) at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church (OLPH). Rita joined our association in 2002. In 2007, she stepped up in the leadership role as OLPH LOC President serving from 2007-2010. After serving at the unit level for several years, she was asked to join the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) Ladies of Charity Board of Directors as 1st Vice President in 2010. In 2012, Rita lead the ADW Board as President serving from 2012-2014. She continued in her leadership role with the LOC by serving as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President from 2012-2016 whose position has a seat on the National Board, commonly known as Ladies of Charity of the

United States of America (LCUSA). Rita served on several committees for the LCUSA Board, most notably Advocacy Against Human Trafficking; Co-Chair for the 2012 National Assembly held in Washington, DC; and, LCUSA Caregiving Services, Inc. Aside from being very active in the LOC organization at all levels, Rita was a loyal and active member of OLPH Church all her life. She shared her talents as President of the Parish Council; Evangelization Committee; Welcoming Home Ministry; OLPH Women's Ministry; Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality; Cursillo Movement; Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion; all while working tirelessly with the Food Pantry; Feeding the Homeless; and, Annual Christmas Project of the OLPH LOC. I'm sure Rita was met with open arms at the Gates of Heaven by Our Lord and Savior for all her shared time, talent and treasure done in HIS name. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Submitted by: Toni K. Gaines

ST. ANTHONY JLOC - NORTH BEACH, MD

Susan King, JLOC Moderator and Karen Macken, Assistant

"COOKIES FOR THE CRUISERS"



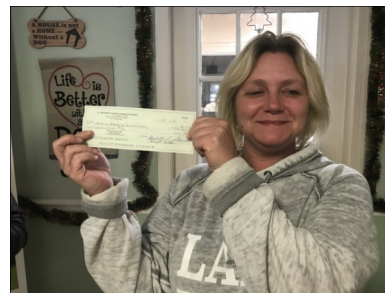
The Junior Ladies of Charity at St. Anthony of Padua Church, North Beach located in Calvert County, MD presenting cookies to troopers at the Maryland State Police Barrack in Prince Frederick, MD. The girls also presented cookies to the Calvert County Sheriff's Department on the same day. It was called "Cookies for the Cruisers". They did it as a way of saying thank you for their service in our community.



Submitted by:
Susan King
St. Anthony JLOC Moderator

JUNIOR LOC SUPPORT THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF CALVERT COUNTY

The Junior Ladies of Charity at St. Anthony of Padua in North Beach raised funds for the Humane Society of Calvert County. The girls made and sold homemade dog biscuits as a fund raiser in support of the much needed care the Society gives to the animals. Below are photos of the juniors visiting the Society to present the check.



Submitted by:
Susan King
St. Anthony JLOC Moderator

INDUCTION OF NEW JLOC AT NORTH BEACH

Submitted by: Jean Sebold

We are happy to introduce the new Junior Ladies of Charity (JLOC) of North Beach, MD. Six young ladies were inducted at 9 am Mass held on September 8, 2018 at St. Anthony's of Padua.



Photos Courtesy: Jean Sebold

Pictured (from l to r): Susan King, JLOC Moderator, Natalie Bozman, Kelly Regan, Christina Scott, Veronica Dolan, Claudia Dolan, Deacon Ed Baker. **Not pictured:** Karen Macken, JLOC Assistant and Tessa Hunt.

LOC and JLOC, along with their families, celebrated afterwards in the St. Anthony's LOC food pantry. Some of the upcoming projects for the girls are helping the LOC at our parish with dinner and dessert that they provide to our local homeless shelter once a month, going to the senior citizen's home and giving manicures to the ladies, making and selling homemade dog biscuits and donating the funds to the local humane society. The girls did a flower bed cleanup project over the summer at the nun's home in our parish.





Photo Courtesy Peggy McKelly

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AT NORTH BEACH

On April 21, 2018, ten Ladies of Charity were inducted into our chapter at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in North Beach, Maryland. The induction was conducted during a Mass officiated by Father James Stack, the Pastor of St. Anthony's. The names of the new members are: Allene Chriest, Natalie Hnatiw, Barbara Hoff, Melissa Knott, Dolores Marinaccio, Maureen McCarthy, Michelle Pierpont, Karen Remington, Jeannemarie Smirolodo, and Debbie Wheeler. With the induction of this group, our chapter membership stands

at 96. This is the largest induction group we have ever had! Several of the new members belong to other Parishes in Calvert County. The new members had already been very active in our Food Pantry and Heartfelt ministries. Welcome new Ladies!

Submitted by:

Peggy McKelly, Secretary
St. Anthony of Padua LOC

MID-ATLANTIC REGION CELEBRATE NEW ASSOCIATION IN NORRISTOWN, PA

On the 1st Sunday in November (November 4, 2018) Sister Claire Debes, National & ADW Spiritual Moderator along with Debbie Self Mid-Atlantic Director and ADW President and I traveled to Norristown, Pennsylvania to witness the induction of the first group of Hispanic Ladies into the Ladies of Charity USA in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The Mass was in Spanish and the Ladies were not fluent in English, but the love and happiness shared among them was felt by all who attended. Other members of the board who were present included Mid-Atlantic Vice President Karen Radu; Mid-Atlantic Director Nancy Bianculli; Northeastern Vice President Kathy Kavanaugh; and, Northeastern Director Natalie Boone. Their goal is to show hope and faith to others they meet monthly and are involved in providing food to the homeless.



*Inductees and their families at reception with
Sr. Claire Debes, D.C.—ADW Vincentian Spiritual Moderator
and Karen Radu, LCUSA Mid-Atlantic Region VP*



Photos Courtesy LCUSA

After the Mass at St. Patrick Church in Norristown we attended a reception with a variety of dishes from their culture. The teenagers were fluent in English and able to explain the dishes to us. It was a beautiful fall day with faith that the Ladies of Charity will grow in diversity of cultures.

Submitted by:

Viola Johnson-Robinson
Immediate Past President ADW Board

ST. ANN'S MAY DAY CELEBRATION AND CROWNING OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

This year the Annual May Day and Crowning of the Blessed Mother will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families located at 4901 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD. Sr. Mary Bader, D.C.—CEO of St. Ann's will be our gracious host again this year.

Please watch for my letter about this fundraising event which will be coming out in a few weeks. The letter will be sent to you via email. The donations for the Patron's List has a due date of April 15, 2019. Also, Ms. Jamila Stone, Vice President of the ADW LOC Board of Directors has obtained a listing of items from Sister Bader to be donated, for your advanced planning. The needed items include:

- Diapers sizes 3, 4, 5,
- Similac Formula Pro Advance
- Pull-ups sizes 3T, 4T, 5T
- Baby wipes
- Laundry detergent



A full and final list will be included in my letter formally announcing this annual event.

Submitted by:
Debbie Self, President
ADW LOC Board of Directors



Prince George's LOC Quarterly Meeting will be held Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 2 pm at St. Hugh of Grenoble Church in Greenbelt, MD. Ladies at St. Hugh Church started planning for this event at their monthly meeting. After the Benediction service and installation of new members by Fr. Walter Tappe, Pastor, members will be invited to a luncheon and program in Grenoble Hall.



Pictured l to r: Mary Ann Tretler, Helen White, Barbara Hamilton and Mary Jo Dorsey

St. Hugh LOC member and local expert, Donna Peterson, will do a presentation/reenactment on "Religious Figures in the Civil War". Also, a LOC member from St. Benedict the Moor will have bags to sell from the "Christ in the Garbage Project". This project supports women in third world countries that hand make the bags to sell to help provide for their families. The bags range from \$20 (large bags) to medium/smaller bags for \$15, \$10 and \$5.

We will also be making members aware of a new effort at the September PG Quarterly meeting to collect monetary donations for the "St. Ann's Children's Fund Project" to support the work at St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families.

Submitted by:
Mary Ann Tretler
President, St. Hugh of Grenoble LOC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Ladies of Charity Hoe Down



Sunday, April 7, 2019
4:00 to 8:00 pm

OLPH Panorama Room
1600 Morris Road, SE Washington, DC 20020



Music by DJ: J-BLADE Mr. John Dorsey

Wear your western outfits!!!

Donation \$25.00
Refreshments will be served!

Toni Gaines, Ticket Chairperson, 301-218-0188
or Contact ANY member of the Ladies of Charity for tickets.

NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL SPONSOR OUR FEED THE HOMELESS AND
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROJECT OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES
IN THE COMMUNITY.

HOLY GHOST LADIES OF CHARITY LOYOLA DAY RETREAT



LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC RETREAT HOUSE, FAULKNER MD

THEME: MARY: SIMPLE WOMAN, SEAT OF WISDOM

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019 9 AM – 3 PM COST: \$40

RSVP: NANCY ROACH – NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2019

NANCYLAREAU@COMCAST.NET or 301-259-2152

SAVE THE DATE!!

**LCUSA National Assembly
September 19—22, 2019
Salt Lake City, UT**

STORY OF CATHERINE HARKINS FIRST LADY OF CHARITY IN THE U.S.



Born in Ireland and brought to New York by her parents, Catherine Harkins was the first American Lady of Charity. Catherine was a 23-year-old wife and mother married to Captain Hugh Harkins, a Mississippi steamboat owner. They settled in St. Louis MO and became members of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish established in 1842.

Shortly after their move to St. Louis, Mrs. Harkins had a vivid dream of St. Vincent walking through snow-covered streets and gathering neglected children under his cloak. Vincent was speaking to Catherine through her dreams revealing the need to work for those less fortunate. When the dream had been repeated three times, she decided to mention it in confession. The priest told her it was more than a dream; it was more like a vision. He directed her to return home and pray for enlightenment and to come back to the same confessional the next day.

Catherine did as she was directed but found a different priest in the confessional. He was Fr. Urban Gangnepain of the Congregation of the Mission. He encouraged her to repeat her story, listened with interest and promised to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for guidance, while directing her to continue her prayers. He later directed her to gather some assistants to form a society for the care of the poor, adding that if the inspiration was not from God, the work would not progress. However, the work of caring for the poor did continue thus was formed on December 8, 1857, the first association of Ladies of Charity in the United States (240 years after St. Vincent formed the Ladies of Charity in 617). There were 12 members with Catherine elected as the first president. There was a depression going on and many hungry

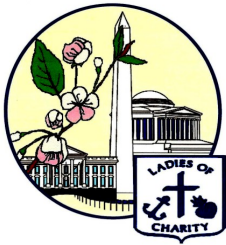
poor in St. Louis and the new organization found its services to be much in demand. Besides visiting the poor sick in their homes, the Ladies of Charity assisted the Daughters of Charity, who came to the parish in 1859. They came to staff the House of the Guardian Angel for orphaned girls. In 1859, Fr. Gagnepain was transferred to New Orleans. However, he continued to direct the St. Louis Ladies by mail, sending letters and instructions full of tenderness and wise Vincentian guidance. He formed a second Ladies of

Charity in 1860 in St. Joseph Parish in New Orleans. Many associations of the Ladies of Charity were begun without knowledge of the existence of other associations or of a worldwide organization. As they learned of the International Association they began to apply for patents of affiliation from canonical center of the Motherhouse of the Priests of the Mission in Paris.

Reports on file reflect how the services provided by the Ladies changed to meet the needs of the times, Depression years show records of coal deliveries, jobs procured, rent paid and visits to sick families. In one-year the Baltimore association made 1197 visits. Services included the spiritual as well as material. This spirituality continues today with many Ladies of Charity serving as Eucharistic Ministers and others are leaders in CCD, serving as ministers of the word and helping with youth ministries.

As Ladies of Charity, let us always keep Catherine Harkins in prayer to thank her for bringing the Vincentian Spirituality to all of us through her extraordinary dedication to follow a dream. Thank you, Catherine, for following your dream as we make it the dream of all of us as Ladies of Charity in the Archdiocese of Washington to continue with the help of the Holy Spirit the mission of the basic objective that never varies – the fight against poverty and for the HUMAN, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL WELFARE OF THE POOR.

Submitted by:
Lucy Ann Saunders
Vincentian Lay Spiritual Moderator
ADW Ladies of Charity Board of Directors



**Ladies of Charity
Archdiocese of Washington
3301 Spriggs Request Way
Mitchellville, MD 20721**

**PLACE
STAMP
HERE**

Archdiocese of Washington LOC Newsletter:

News Deadline:

The deadline to submit articles and photos for the July 2019 issue of the ADW LOC Newsletter:

- Deadline is **June 15, 2019** 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's 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"**. Articles and photos should be sent separately and not within the narrative or text document. Please contact us for information.

Articles and photos can be sent by regular mail to: Toni K. Gaines, 3301 Spriggs Request Way, Mitchellville, MD 20721. Be sure to include your telephone number with the mailed copy. Photos will be returned upon written request.