

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SERVICETTE



AIC USA

Vol. 56, No. 2
September 2017

"To serve rather than to be served"

Welcome the Stranger



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

Editor in Chief Suzanne Johnson
Editor Irene Siedlarczyk
Layout & Design Joseph Garza
Executive Director Ashley Larsen

Direct all correspondence and inquires to:

Servicette, LCUSA Service Center
2816 E. 23rd St.
Kansas City, MO 64127
Email: office@ladiesofcharity.us

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**:

Deadline is October 31, 2017 at the latest. Earlier submissions are appreciated.

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.

Welcome the Stranger



Bishop David A. Zubik
Episcopal Chairman

The 14th Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles describes the first mission of Paul and Barnabas, a mission where they would focus on evangelization of the Gentiles. It has some wonderful moments, including when Paul cures a man lame from birth.

The Gentile—clearly pagan—crowd shouts out in amazement at the cure as a sign that “the gods have come down to us in human form” (verse 11). They call Barnabas “Zeus,” and Paul “Hermes,” and bring oxen from the pagan temple to offer in sacrifice.

Paul and Barnabas rush into the crowd telling them not to do this and that they are not gods. They are proclaiming instead the “good news that you should turn from these idols to the living God” (v. 15).

This wonderful speech was so well received that the crowds, hearing it as an insult to their idols, stoned Paul, dragged him outside the city and left him for dead. Which is a lesson any of us must learn very early: no good deed goes unpunished.

I have spent much of my life with people willing to dedicate themselves and their time to something more than the ordinary. To them, “Welcome the stranger” is the norm, rather than the exception. That command defines them. It defines you.

One common trait shared among these good souls is a view of life that could be summed up in one word: pilgrimage. Life is never seen as just a random series of events without meaning. It is a journey like Paul

and Barnabas to the Gentiles. A journey with purpose and a journey that lasts a lifetime.

Paul and Barnabas had to cope with those who didn’t understand the meaning and message of the Good News; who wanted to offer sacrifice to them as living gods. We sure don’t have that problem! But we do have to reach out in a world where we face the disappointments that inevitably come, and get up the next day to begin our work again.

At the heart of it all—what carries us through—is our faith in the work we do. Believers, Saint Augustine says, “strengthen themselves by believing.”

At times we can forget what drives us, forget what is at the core of what we do: our faith, our belief, our hope, all of which come together in our charity. Because charity is faith lived.

I was raised in the steel-mill town of Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The people who lived there—immigrants and the daughters and sons of immigrants—were as tough as their livelihoods. In those days, the message was the same wherever you went—love God, work hard, do the right thing.

Early in our history in Ambridge, we were welcomed as strangers. We built a community, we grew in the faith, we worked together to serve our neighbors, our community and our world. It is a story as old as immigrant America.

Welcome the stranger. You will be amazed by what that stranger will give in return.



Suzanne Johnson
LCUSA President

At some point in our lives, we have all been a stranger. Beginning at the ripe old age of five, we all left the comfort of our homes to go to Kindergarten, where we were confronted not only by new people but a new environment. I still have those memories of being afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing and hoping the others would like me. Home was a safe place – I was not too sure about school.

And the changes continued. All of our graduations saw us moving into yet another new environment and

Advocacy Connections



Hilda Barradas, a San Francisco Lady of Charity is listening to a client at the Daughters of Charity Epiphany Center. The Ladies support the mission of the Center which helps to strengthen family life by healing trauma, mental illness, substance abuse and ending cycles of homelessness and poverty through holistic client-centered care.

With federal legislation changing rapidly on Capitol Hill, the LCUSA Advocacy Committee is asking members to familiarize themselves with issues fundamental to serving the most vulnerable, i.e., immigration, health care, ending violence against women and caregiving. There are excellent on-line resources listed below to aid you and your association with updates, action alerts and ongoing education.

Voice of the Poor is the advocacy arm of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society:

<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/Programs-Tools/Programs/Voice-of-the-Poor>. Through Voice of the Poor, issues that are critical to those living in poverty and need are brought to the attention of communities and our elected representatives such that they may help develop strategies and tactics that will provide the most effective and efficient means to reduce or eliminate poverty. On-line advocacy workshop presentations and webinars, e.g., Advocacy 101, Being a Voice with and of the Poor, etc. are also available at:

<https://www.svdpusa.org/members/Programs-Tools/Programs/Voice-of-the-Poor/What-Has-Been-Accomplished>.

CapWiz© is an online system that allows Vincentian members and supporters to reach out to lawmakers when there is legislative activity that affects those living in poverty. To receive updates regarding ac-

tive legislation, sign-up at: <http://www.capwiz.com/svdpusa/mlm/signup/>. Make sure you click Ladies of Charity on the dropdown menu.

Catholic Charities (CCUSA) also has an advocacy and policy website which provides current information regarding legislative activity:

<https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy-and-policy>. Sign-up to receive the Washington Weekly, a summary of their weekly updates to advocates while Congress is in session.

A link to subscribe is on the homepage.

Justice for Immigrants, <http://justiceforimmigrants.org>, is a United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, a site dedicated to address immigration reform along with other Catholic institutions, individuals and national networks. To receive action alerts and updates, go to: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action/join-us/>.

Our national Ladies of Charity website, <http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us> is also a resource for providing members with an introduction to advocacy and systemic change as it relates to our Vincentian mission. Periodic notifications on urgent advocacy issues are also available to you by subscribing to receive email updates generated through our website.

On a local level, your association can:

- 1) Pray at your meetings specifically related to advocacy issues: either issues locally, nationally or internationally. A suggested prayer is included at the end of the article.
- 2) View the Voice of the Poor workshops and webinars at your association meetings during the year.
- 3) Familiarize your members with the purpose of current legislative acts that are affecting the people we serve, i.e., the Bridge Act, Raise Act and Care Act. More information regarding these acts will be in this issue and/or forthcoming Servicette issues.
- 4) Identify an association member to follow the issues, lead discussions at meetings and help members to take action.
- 5) Distribute this information in your local association newsletter.

Almighty and eternal God, may your grace enkindle in all persons a love of the many unfortunate people whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life unworthy of human beings. Arouse in the hearts of those who call you Father a hunger and thirst for social justice and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth. Grant, O Lord, peace in our days, peace to souls, peace to our community and peace among nations – Amen.

Copyright © 2001, Pope Pius XII "A Prayer for Social Justice."

meeting new people. As we entered adulthood, perhaps we moved to other cities, found new jobs, joined new parishes. All opportunities, but all a little fraught with the same concerns – will I fit in, will others like me? Hopefully, all of our transitions went smoothly. Hopefully, there was always someone there who made us feel welcome.

So imagine the fear and anxiety felt by those who have arrived in the United States from another country, fleeing a bad situation, perhaps, or just looking for a better life, some arriving legally, some not. What can we do as Vincentians, as Christians, to make them feel at ease in their new environment, to make them feel welcome? This was the discussion at our recent Vincentian Family meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

The gathering focused not only on our awareness of being strangers at some point in our lives and how a welcoming made us feel

included, but also on the stories of individuals who arrived in the United States and were not welcomed. These individuals, seeking asylum from their home countries, were put into detention centers where the conditions were beyond deplorable – where they were treated worse than animals. Appalling that we in the United States, the land of opportunity, where the Statue of Liberty welcomes all who come to our shores, would be so heartless and uncaring!

The question is what can we do as Vincentians? How are we to treat those seeking refuge in our country? Do we send them back because there is no room at the inn? Or do we reach out to them with a welcoming embrace – seeing the face of Christ in them and treating them as we would like to be treated? Politically, this may be a complex and divisive question. But for us, the Gospel answer is clear and lies at the heart of all we do as Ladies of Charity – "What you have done for the least of these, you have done for Me."

“Welcoming the Stranger” and the Vincentian Spirit

Sister Michelle Loisel, DC, Daughters of Charity – Province of St. Louise, Coordinator, Office Migrants and Modern Slavery

As our Vincentian Family marks the 400th Anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism, we celebrate this historic moment in our lives. We give thanks for the prophetic vision of Vincent and Louise and for the multitudes of witnesses to the charism who have followed in their footsteps, serving Christ, the evangelizer of those living in poverty.

“Welcoming the Stranger” is not only a theme of this 400th anniversary of the Vincentian Family. It is a core value for all faiths. This call is deeply rooted in all major religions. There are tens of millions of refugees and internally displaced people around the world. Every nation on earth that has been seriously affected by migration, either as country of origin or of destination. Our faiths demand that we remember we are all migrants on this earth, journeying together in hope.



“Refugees”

“The number of international migrants — persons living in a country other than where they were born — reached 244 million in 2015 for the world as a whole, a 41% increase compared to 2000. According to new data presented by the United Nations today, this figure includes almost 20 million refugees.” UN.

On this continent, a combination of political, cultural and socioeconomic factors has created a deep level of desperation in Central America. Left with few choices and resources, people are pushed to find alternatives elsewhere. This environment has created grounds for traffickers to perpetuate their crimes. Supply, demand, and impunity together have created a space in which trafficking flourishes. Economic globalization and unregulated borders have further created conditions that have allowed organized crime to flow through Central America’s borders

According to UNICEF, 300,000 children travelled alone worldwide from 2015 to 2016. With the war in Syria, which has produced more than 4 million refugees between 2011 and 2016,



“Despair”

we tend to be distracted from other tragedies such as that of Central American children crossing the Mexican border and entering the United States with no papers and only the clothes on their backs—helpless, hungry, and fearful children.



“Migrant Children”

The hazardous journeys of Central American child migrants are a most painful matter. The cause of this tragedy is the violence of gangs and drug cartels. Some mothers prefer – in a heart-breaking expression of love- to separate themselves from their children by putting them on the risky route to go to some family member established in the United States. These past 3 years, there have been 50,000 murders in the Northern Triangle: El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala. This number was reported by “Doctors without Borders” last month. This is the highest crime rate in non-warring countries. This explains why we have people leaving violence to survive and with hopes of finding a better life in Peace.

Many people fleeing conflict are now being caught up in trafficking. Trafficking in people in conflict situations is not a mere possibility but something that happens on a regular basis.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Celebrating St. Vincent and St. Louise presents us with an opportunity to reexamine the gift of a charism which is characterized by two convictions:

1. The conviction that we are part of a Movement of Charity larger than any one of us as individuals, branches, organizations, societies, or congregations. Thus we know we must work together, each group from its strength and insight into our shared charism, in our shared fight against poverty.
2. The conviction that this struggle necessarily involves us in efforts to change the very structures of society which perpetuate poverty. Therefore, we need to engage in systemic activity – be it through advocacy or projects – in activities intended to break the very cycle of poverty.

In works among the poor, systemic change has aims beyond providing food, clothing and shelter to alleviate the immediate needs of the poor. It focuses on assisting the needy to change the overall structures of society within which they live. It looks to their being able to develop strategies by which they can emerge from poverty.

There are three key phrases in St. Vincent's writings that relate today to the various branches of the Vincentian Family as we strive to see and serve the most vulnerable of our times.

1. The first phrase is that our love is to be both "affective and effective".
2. The second phrase is that we minister to the poor "spiritually and corporally". Vincent uses this phrase in speaking to the groups he directly founded: the Confraternities of Charity, the Congregation of the Mission, and the Daughters of Charity.
3. The third phrase is that we are to proclaim the good news "by word and work".



"Captive"

HOW CAN WE HELP? HOW TO PROVOKE CHANGE? HOW TO REACH OUT?

- Pray alone and together for Migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking
- Learn: "Awareness Leads to Action"
- Get involved with others working with refugees and migrants and work together
- Express your concerns to your political representatives
- Use your talents- writing, serving, organizing, speaking up, etc.
- Be hospitable to all as truly they are our brothers and sisters.

Being a Lady of Charity

Lucky Van De Gejuchte

**Inspired by the Vincentian Mission,
Inspired by a family member or friend,
As a Lady of Charity,**

I share faith – I share spiritual formation – I share spiritual growth.

My desire to serve the poor and give back in a hands-on way

Leads me to an affiliation with the Daughters of Charity.

Among other Ladies of Charity, among my friends, I pray.

We work together to minister to those members who live alone, who live in assisted living or a nursing home, who are seriously ill or have seriously ill spouses.

We say the rosary at funerals, their funerals, their husbands' funerals, their children's funerals.

We remember them in death even as we loved them in life.

Seeing and Sharing the Immigrant Face Through Service



Wall at USA-Mexico Border; Photo credit - CNS photo/Jose Luis Gonzalez, Reuters

Ashley Feasley, Director of Policy, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Migration and Refugee Services

Much attention has been given in recent months to the lowered numbers of immigrants/refugees and asylum-seekers arriving at the U.S. Mexico Border. Whether the decreases in the numbers of people arriving can be attributed to the new Administration, increased enforcement efforts in Mexico, or a change in migration patterns, people continue to come and remain more vulnerable than ever.

As the recent tragic deaths of immigrants who were trapped in the back of a tractor trailer in San Antonio illustrate, there are devastating and immoral consequences when indiscriminate immigration enforcement is increased. From my work and the work of many other Catholic service providers on the ground, we know that immigrants and asylum-seekers fleeing pernicious violence do not simply stop migrating- instead they are pushed into more dangerous routes, methods and underground networks. They become more vulnerable to exploitation and even at risk of being trafficked. With the continued politicization of the immigration debate in our country and the increasingly negative portrayals of immigrants in both the media and in official rhetoric, it's necessary to ensure that the personal experiences and stories of immigrants and refugees are also at the forefront.

Several Catholic groups working along both sides of the border are doing exactly that, recognizing the humanity of our immigrant brothers and sisters and bearing witness to their efforts to live dignified lives free of persecution and in peace with their families. This international Catholic network has always been at the vanguard in its efforts to care for immigrants/refugees/asylum

seekers. Groups like the KINO Border Initiative (KBI) in Nogales, Sister Norma Pimentel and Catholic Charities Rio Grande Valley (CC-RGV), Texas, and the Sisters of Charity who operate the Clinica Proyecto Santo Nino in Juarez and a hospital in El Paso. It is the contributions of these groups that help ensure safe and dignified treatment of migrants regardless of who's in power in Washington and what type of enforcement regime is in vogue at the border.

KBI, which operates in Nogales, Arizona and in Mexico provides invaluable education and advocacy on life at the border and the migrant experience. Led by Father Sean Carroll, KINO has long provided humanitarian assistance work in the form of a comedor in Nogales that serves two meals a day to migrants who are attempting to cross the border or those who have been recently returned. Recently, of the KBI's new direct service and accompaniment work with asylum seekers has highlighted the needs of these populations. To expand its work on educating asylum seekers of their rights, for example, KINO is partnering with Florence Immigrants and Refugee Rights Project to sponsor a legal fellow who will help provide Know Your Rights Screenings for asylum seekers. KINO's work in this area is already making a difference and recently helped save the life of one young Honduran mother who was seeking asylum and fleeing violence with her four children.

As a single mom living in Honduras, Maria was able to support her children, but when gangs began to extort money from her and threatened to kidnap her children, they knew they had to leave.

After an arduous journey through Mexico, she and her family found help at the Kino Border Institute. As she waited a decision on their asylum claim, Kino and other local organizations provided humanitarian and legal support. Fortunately, just this past June they received word that they were granted asylum and could stay in the United States.

Sister Norma Pimentel and CC-RGV are another example of Catholic faith in action that promotes the human experience of immigrants and refugees while serving and accompanying along the journey. In 2014, Sister Norma opened the Humanitarian Respite Center at Sacred Heart Church in McAllen Texas, in response to the unaccompanied child and migrant family influx/crisis. The shelter was created to help ensure that the many families who were arriving to McAllen Texas could take a shower, have a meal, and change clothes instead of languishing in a fed-



Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas touches the hands of people in Mexico through a border fence; Photo credit - CNS photo/Bob Roller

erally sponsored immigrant detention center or holding cell. The simple needs of the families were met with an equally simple understanding by Sister Norma and her staff – no judgment, just the provision of the basic necessities and acceptance.

Since 2014, Sister Norma and her team at the Humanitarian Respite Center have provided services to 43,577 individuals. Additionally, over 1000 volunteers have come to assist. Sister Norma and the Humanitarian Respite Center have been recognized around the world and by the Holy Father himself for the life-saving work they are providing. During the moments of true difficulty and negative images in the media, she provided a human and warm counterpoint. In her many public speaking opportunities, Sister Norma always manages to make sure that she shares at least one story about a family that she has served. Frequently it is the most popular part of her speeches. Her ability to amplify the human perspective has made her such an amazing voice –not only for immigrants and refugees but as an example of the type of humble leadership that so many Catholics assist migrants so often embody.

While many of the Catholic groups along the border focus on migrants, other groups provide invaluable support to vulnerable communities on and around the border. In El Paso, the Sisters of Charity operate a health clinic, Clinica Proyecto Santo Niño, in the Anapra area in Juárez and in New Mexico. The clinic assists families, primarily mothers of special needs children, and helps to ensure that mothers are supported, while their disabled children receive additional care, love and mercy. I have never been to the clinic, but I remember the first time I met Sr. Janet Gildea. during a CCHD-sponsored trip to El Paso in 2013 when we all had to introduce ourselves and talk about our mission and connection to the border.

Sr. Janet's explanation of her calling, of the wonderful children she served, and the mothers she helped to assist still resonant with me. Perhaps Sister Janet's words evoked a special feeling inside of me because of my own personal experiences: as a niece to a blind and mentally impaired aunt who had the privilege to live in the United States and still struggled to receive very good care, I can only imagine the difficulties and obstacles that some of these families face. But another reason why Sister Janet's words were so poignant and remain with me today, is because of their humanity, the human and personal elements of her words, her focus on the stories of the children served and the mothers. I do not remember the number of children served but I remember the stories of the children described that day and the sacrifices of their mothers.



Pope Francis in Mexico; Photo credit - CNS photo/Nancy Wiehceh

Sister Janet's ability to focus on the families that she served, and highlight their needs, hopes, dreams and fears, is precisely what we need to be doing today in regards to immigrants and refugees. They remind us about the human face behind the rhetoric. They urge us to look deeper and to step back and recognize our commonalities, our shared human dignity. Working in Washington, DC, one can lose sight of what it is that we are advocating for, who it is we are advocating for. When I am privileged to see the work of some of the amazing Catholic groups on the ground, like KINO Border Initiative, and Sister Norma/CC RGV or the Sisters of Charity, I am humbled to remember that it's not about talking points but instead it is about people and it must continue to be about people. Yes, we must continue to advocate to the fullest of our abilities and in accord with Catholic social teaching principles, but we must never lose sight of the people that we are serving.

References:

- www.upi.com/Top_News/Opinion/2016/11/29/How-the-US-is-outsourcing-border-enforcement-to-Mexico/7391480442487/
- abc7.com/news/9-dead-in-texas-immigrant-smuggling-attempt-gone-wrong/2243688/
- www.kinoborderinitiative.org/marias-story-update-asylum-case/



HOPE BORDER INSTITUTE
 INSTITUTO FRONTERIZO ESPERANZA
 CIUDAD JUÁREZ | EL PASO | LAS CRUCES

June 9-11, 2017

Welcoming the Stranger
 Vincentian Family Gathering

FAMVIN Gathering

Vincentian Family Gathering

San Antonio | June 9-11, 2017

Sister Claire Debes, Vincentian Family Ministry for the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise and Vincentian Spiritual Moderator for LCUSA

On June 9-12, members from over 35 organizations in North America sharing the Vincentian charism gathered in San Antonio, Texas for a Gathering. The theme for this 2017 gathering which marked the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism was “Welcoming the Stranger”. I have attended most of the Vincentian Family Gatherings since they began and this one was by far the most profound for me. The quality of the speakers, the sense of Family that was so tangibly felt, and the timeliness of the theme were particularly poignant. Certainly I cannot attempt to share all that happened, but will touch on those things that most impacted me.

We heard the voices of two immigrants. Yessenia Vasquez from Guatemala who is now a US citizen. At the age of 15 she wanted to leave a very abusive family situation. Without telling anyone she left by herself at 2 AM to come to the United States “where money fell from the sky”, she thought. Facing the perils of her three month journey yet being fortunate enough to find some kind people who helped her, she arrived in Texas as an asylum seeker only to be taken to a detention center in El Paso, a “prison-like” holding place. “Angels”, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, advocated for her, went to court with her and took her into their convent to live until she knew the language, was educated, and finally began working a job that could support herself.

Eritrean refugee, Yohannes Bahta’s testimony was similar to Jessenia’s about

the conditions in the detention centers. He was treated as a criminal, handcuffed and chained. He moved from a large detention room, to another “dog kennel like room” to a cold box where he had to hand over his jacket. Here he stayed for about a week with less food and drink from the previous detention living situations and in very cold

papers. He is now living in San Antonio to assist other immigrants fill out paper work and navigate a system that wants to make conditions so difficult that immigrants will self-deport.

At one of the break-out sessions, Edith Tapia and Andres Lopez spoke. These two young people work at Hope Border Institute



From left to right: Mary Ann Dantuono, Mary Lou Rico, Suzanne Johnson, Mary Cay Murray, Annelies Gielen, Sr. Claire Debes, S.C. and Mary Nell Williams.

conditions with only his shirt and trousers. He was separated from the other detainees in solitary confinement because he spoke on behalf of a pregnant woman who was being mistreated by the guards. Well educated and having family in Atlanta, he was able to pay for an immigration lawyer with the help of this family, and received his necessary

in El Paso. Hope Border Institute is a grassroots community organization which is just a little over one year in operation. The organization combines research, reflection, leadership development, advocacy and action at the Mexico-US border. They are bringing hope and creating change as they empower both documented and

undocumented immigrants to develop their own voice. They study, plan, and organize as they look at root causes of poverty and injustice, evaluate their reality, look at public policy, facilitate dialogue with other concerned people and take action. What impressed me was the fact that they began in a small way and now they are making a huge difference for the many immigrants of El Paso and the surrounding area. They encouraged us to be aware of the myths and alternative facts that we see or read in our news and to become educated in our areas of the needs of people who are migrating, linking with others to address their needs. (www.hopeborder.org.)

The keynote speaker on Sunday morning, Ashley Feasley, is an immigration lawyer and the Director of Policy for Migration and Refugee Services at the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB.) Her presentation was most informative about how the Church is truly behind efforts to protect those who have migrated to the US. In addition to giving us many details which resonated with the lack of welcome immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers receive at the border, she also gave some very practical and do-able recommendations. These included: act

as a citizen; fight for refugee programs, fight funding for the wall, more detention centers, and more border patrols but rather encourage instead the use of this money for more immigration lawyers; be

mobile friendly; set up meetings with your legislators, let lawmakers know you know someone who is going to be deported, be a resource for the legislators, many are not informed...do not assume your lawmakers know the accurate facts.

Some of our lawmakers have radically defined those who are criminals, including those who arrive at our detention centers who have never committed a crime but who are leaving their countries because of war, oppression, lack of food, clothing or work; find out ways to work together; be a personal sanctuary by helping to pay for immigration attorneys; recognize your own power! (www.usccb.org or google Justice for Immigrants)

I was also profoundly proud and edified by what members of our Vincentian Family at the border are doing across our country to follow in the steps of St. Vincent, asking the question, "What must be done!" and are acting and finding like-minded people to address this very challenging question.

The article was originally written for the Affiliates of the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise for their August, 2017 newsletter.

informed; get the full story; educate yourself with excellent videos on the USCCB and Justice for Immigrants, the education program of USCCB website that are



Installation of New Members in Saint Louis

Joan Stanard

The installation of new members took place during the Mass on Sunday May 7th. We had four more member who could not attend the installation at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in St. Louis. Eleven new members is a great addition to our organization!

Visit to Kansas City Symphony Designers' Showhouse.

Mary Nell Williams

Several Associations meet in Kansas City to visit the Symphony Designers' Showhouse on April 24!

This event was attended by board members and several Metropolitan Kansas City Ladies of Charity



Ladies of Charity on EWTN Live!



Suzanne Johnson, President Ladies of Charity USA

On August 2, 2017, Mary Ann Dantuono and I appeared on EWTN Live as guests of Rev. Mitch Pacwa, S.J. The invitation to appear was the result of many months of communicating with Fr. Mitch and his production staff— I think of the widow and the Judge (Luke 18: 1-8) when I think about the efforts of Mary Beth Legg, former board member and Lady of Charity in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Naturally, Mary Ann and I were a bit nervous about appearing on international television, and prayed that the Holy Spirit would be with us to guide our responses, so the audience would be more informed about the Ladies of Charity, the history of our founding, and why we have lasted for 400 years.

The program was an hour long. The first half hour we spent conversing with Fr. Mitch and viewing parts of a video “Serving with a Vincentian Heart.” (You can see this video in its entirety at www.aic.ladiesofcharity.us.) We talked about our history, our spirituality, our works, and the Vincentian Charism. The second half of the show was spent answering “Call-In” questions and audience questions, where we were able to elaborate more on our spirituality, the Vincentian Family, Junior Ladies of Charity, and LCUSA’s upcoming national caregiving project.

The Ladies of Charity USA national caregiving project will establish and maintain centers around the US for the purpose of training and hiring home care workers to work in local communities.

The program generated a high number of views to our website and hopefully will result in a renewed interest in the Ladies of Charity and growth of our membership, to enable us to continue the good works begun by St. Vincent de Paul to serve those in poverty.

Note: A recording of this show may be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6IAgiS-72g.

Many positive comments were received following the airing of this show on August 2.

“I hope your message touched the hearts of many laywomen eager to live the Vincentian charism. It is gratifying to know that the laity is carrying on his spirit in this way. Keep up the good work!” In St. Vincent, Sister Marie Poole, D.C.



Suzanne Johnson and EWTN Host Fr. Mitch Pacwa

“Congratulations Ladies on a great presentation representing the Ladies of Charity USA!!! Thank you for sharing our history and ministries with the EWTN viewers.” Lucy Saunders, Past President LCUSA

“Great program! Both of you certainly shared in a very encompassing manner....not only the Ladies of Charity, but in your explanation of the Vincentian Family. Thank you!” Sister Jane Burger, D.C., Vincentian Spiritual Advisor, Ladies of Charity, Evansville, IN.

(Suzanne Johnson is current President of the Ladies of Charity USA and Mary Ann Dantuono is Past President of Ladies of Charity USA and a Member of the Executive Board of AIC.)



L to R: Mary Beth Legg, Mary Ann Dantuono, Constance O'Brien, Fr. Mitch Pacwa, and Suzanne Johnson at a reception hosted by Constance O'Brien.

District of Columbia Ladies of Charity Parish Units Support Victims of Human Trafficking

Toni K. Gaines

When the District of Columbia Ladies of Charity Parish Units (DCLOC) was looking for a project to fund, Dr. Rita L. Robinson initially brought the idea of assisting Courtney's House to the members for consideration. Courtney's House is a safe house for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. The members voted to support Courtney's House as its 2017 charitable project. Ms. Kim Taylor, President of St. Martin of Tours LOC presented the monetary donation to Ms. Tina Frundt, Founder & Executive Director of Courtney's House. Other DCLOC members present were: Ms. Bernice Wilson, Ms Pearl Baylor, Ms. Ethel Taylor, Ms. Liza Chance and Dr. Rita L. Robinson.



District of Columbia Ladies Support Courtney's House

Goals of Courtney's House:

1. **Fearlessly searches for children** who are being forced into prostitution on the streets, in brothels, strip clubs, private homes and hotels.
2. **Embraces the survivors** and brings them into a safe environment where

they and their families can heal, recover and develop hopeful, dignified and influential lives.

3. **Trains community officials and creates awareness** of the reality of sex trafficking in neighborhoods across America to help stop the crimes from happening.

St. Mary's Junior Ladies of Charity "Dolls for Nicaragua Project"

Marian Snyder



JLOC with Boxes and Boxes of Dolls

On Tuesday August 15th, seven St Mary's Junior Ladies of Charity and five adults visited the Nicaragua Missions Donation Center in Swormsville, NY and presented Missionary Ann Marie Zon with 170 dolls, most wrapped in pastel tissue paper and ribbon all boxed up, along with 100 little silk purses that contained wish bracelets, either comb & mirror or comb & brush plus hair barrettes, head bands, elastic bands, hair pins, and hotel size soap and shampoo. Ann Marie was overwhelmed by our donation and said our boxes would go to the orphanage in Nicaragua!

We spent the morning volunteering and were put to work sorting incoming donations and packing them up for the trip to Nicaragua. We stayed for a delicious lunch, had a short tour and a presentation by Miss Peg who shared heartwarming photos and stories about the mission. It was a wonderful experience!

The JLOC used the \$150 grant money they received from the National Ladies of Charity plus almost \$100 in treasury money to purchase the supplies. All the dolls and doll clothes were donated by St Mary's parishioners and school children.



JLOC Having Fun Packing Dolls for Orphanage



St. Mary's Junior Ladies of Charity

We also just received another 35 dolls from St. Mary's which will also be donated to Ann Marie Zon for the Missions.

If you are interested in learning more about the Nicaragua Missions please visit their website: www.projectnica.com. There are many ways to help, also check out their newsletter on the website.

Some of the girls are interested in sponsoring a child to attend school. Approximately \$35 will sponsor an elementary school child for the year, providing them with a uniform, books, shoes, and lunch every day. Other opportunities are also available on the website.

UTICA, NY LADIES OF CHARITY

Sister Paula Mayer

We the Ladies of Charity in Utica, NY- were blessed by the presence of Irene Siedlarczyk and her Mother, Molly, at our June meeting! The meeting was held on Thursday, June 15, and began with the 12:10 Mass at our parish church. From there, we walked over to our parish center and had a special pizza party lunch. This turned out to be a lunch filled with a lively sharing of the members and also of hearing from Irene about her trip to Paris for the 400th Anniversary of the Ladies of Charity. How wonderful!

The meeting then followed, which began with the Prayer of Commitment by all of the members, but especially by the four newest members who received the Ladies of Charity' crucifixes and membership cards. (Irene gave out the crucifixes for us). Then we talked about the summer months where we hope to visit the older Ladies of Charity who are unable to make the meetings, as well as to send cards to them and to lonely people, too. We then formed our usual Ladies' Assembly Line where together we made over 80 sandwiches to be given out to the poor people who come each day to St. John's door for lunches. This- the making of sandwiches- is something we do at almost every one of our meetings! The giving out of diapers continues to be a part of our good works at St. John's, started by a grant that we received from the Ladies of Charity a couple of years ago and continued with donations. We have given out packages of diapers close to 225 times to over 50 families. We are grateful!

All-in-all it was a wonderful meeting, and we are so glad that Irene and her Mother, Molly, were able to be with us!



Utica Ladies of Charity at June Meeting



Utica Parish Church – Old Saint John's

Report On USCCB 2017 Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America

Irene Frechette

There were 5 Cardinals, over 150 Arch Bishops & Bishops, 300+ priests and countless religious among the 3,500 people in attendance at the first Convocation of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 100 years!

In answer to the challenge of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* to move forward on a "path of pastoral & missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are" - Catholic Leaders from across the country gathered together in Orlando, FL from July 1st to July 4th for the express purpose of affirming their unity in the joy of the Gospel, to ask for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit and under the headings of Charting the Landscape & Mission Field, Going into the Peripheries and Evangelizers Equipped for Excellence to commit themselves to work within their individual Diocesan Groups to assist in the pastoral process of "See-Judge-Act".

The Convocation breakout sessions (22 each day) were carried out through a combination of panel discussions by bishops and experts along with small group

discussions among the attendees. Breakout session subjects ranged from: Health Care, Youth on the Margins, Families affected by Incarceration, Discerning Vocations, Violence & Racism, Catechesis, Missionary Discipleship, to name only a few.



Irene Frechette Attended the USCCB 2017 Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando

Each day there were at least 3 opportunities to gather in prayer and worship including Morning Prayer Services, Holy Mass, Marian Devotions, Adoration & Reflection and on the final evening with Witness & Praise by two well-known Christian Musicians, Audrey Assad & Matt Maher.

At lunch on the final day of the convocation, each Diocesan Bishop gathered his leaders over lunch to discuss what they had learned and what changes they would like to see in their respective areas.

The convocation was extremely well organized (5 years in the planning). Many organizations had tables set up to share their mission with the attendees. I was extremely pleased to see the number of young and middle aged women & men and Catholics from diverse cultural backgrounds in attendance.

Ladies of Charity in Emmitsburg Live to Serve

Tara Dugan, Seton Shrine Intern



Sister Sheila and Resident

At the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the works of a local Ladies of Charity from Northern Frederick County, Maryland and Adams County, Pennsylvania are inspiring. Through the lens of Tina Heffner, President of this local LOC, one gets a glimpse of their selfless and humble service.

Their Chapter was founded in 2000, making them 17 years old as they celebrate the 400th anniversary of LCUSA.

Of their 12 active members, three are Daughters of Charity, Sisters Ann Adele Kelly, Sheila O’Friel and Nancy Stewart. The Ladies enjoy volunteering and attending events alongside the Daughters at the Seton Shrine, guided by the Vincentian rule, to be compassionate, loving and caring for those who are in need.

St. Vincent De Paul and St. Louise de Marillac initiated the rule and encouraged person-to-person interaction and to serve in hope under Christ. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton carried on this rule when she founded the first congregation of Sisters in the United States in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Throughout the year, the local Chapter organizes many events to help improve the lives of others around them. They focus on interacting with seniors in their local community and assisting families in economic distress. Specifically, there are two senior living facilities in the Emmitsburg area where they assist - Lincoln on the Park and Seton Village. Lincoln on the Park is a housing facility for elderly and disabled people in Emmitsburg and The Seton Village is an affordable apartment community for seniors on the Seton Shrine campus. Living at Seton Village provides the residents with a special and safe place to live where they have companionship and always feel welcome.

Tina shared details about what their chapter does throughout the year. She said they do seasonal events for both Lincoln on the Park and Seton Village. In the summer months, they host picnics, where they serve residents food, interact and spend time in fellowship. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, they have their annual event called, “Cookies and Carols”. The ladies bring the residents Christmas gifts, sing Christmas carols and enjoy holiday cookies. In January, they volunteer at the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen, cooking and serving food to many homeless individuals and families.

Throughout the year, they also organize fundraisers such as raffles and an annual free-will yard sale in the spring. At their free-will yard sale, the Chapter sells donated items to raise money for their numerous service projects.

New this year are their plans to assist the local “Getting Ahead Program”, by providing a bi-weekly meal service to participants. Then, coming up this October, the Mid-Atlantic Region Day of Reflection will be hosted at the Seton Shrine. The local ladies are discussing how they can welcome visiting Ladies of Charity to the shrine and how they can assist to make this special day a success.



Sister Ann Adele at the Piano

Tina said her favorite part about being a Lady of Charity is “giving a hand up to those in need”. She says that their LOC works hard to continue Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton’s traditions by spreading love, supporting the poor, helping others, encouraging education and carrying on the Vincentian rule. It is rewarding to be a part of a national and worldwide network of women whose mission is to serve those in need.

Lancaster, NY Junior Ladies of Charity Keeping Busy!

Marian Snyder, JLOC Moderator, Diocese of Buffalo NY

The Lancaster Junior Ladies have been keeping busy over the Spring and Summer. The girls sponsored the Annual Brunch with the Easter Bunny at St Mary of the Assumption Parish once again, attracting 135 children that were accompanied by their families on Holy Saturday. The children were greeted at the door of the elementary school by the Easter Bunny (our own Julia Rozler) and enjoyed a nutritious brunch, games, prizes, egg hunts, a coloring contest, decorating Easter cookies, photos with the Bunny and dancing, including the Bunny Hop. Months of planning went into the event and 27 JLOC were on hand to entertain the children.

The girls made both Mother’s Day and Father’s Day gifts for residents of a local nursing home and delivered the gifts in person. They also planted flowers at the grave sites of the Sisters of St Francis who were the first teachers at St Mary’s School. Elections were held in June and 4 new officers were elected: Isabelle Licata, President; Olivia Helwig, Vice President; Nicole Cassel, Treasurer and Olivia Dobiez, Secretary. The weekend long annual bake sale at St. Mary’s was a huge success, with enough money raised to fund our many projects planned for the upcoming school year. Over the summer the girls will be working

on their “Dolls for Nicaragua Project” for which they received a \$150 grant from the National Ladies of Charity. They will also volunteer at the Nicaragua Donation Center, the St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center and an inner city soup kitchen, plus a trip to the Buffalo LOC Center to help fill backpack orders for needy children.



Holy Saturday Meet the Easter Bunny

Highlights from Ladies of Charity Binghamton, NY Annual June Dinner

Helen Sacco

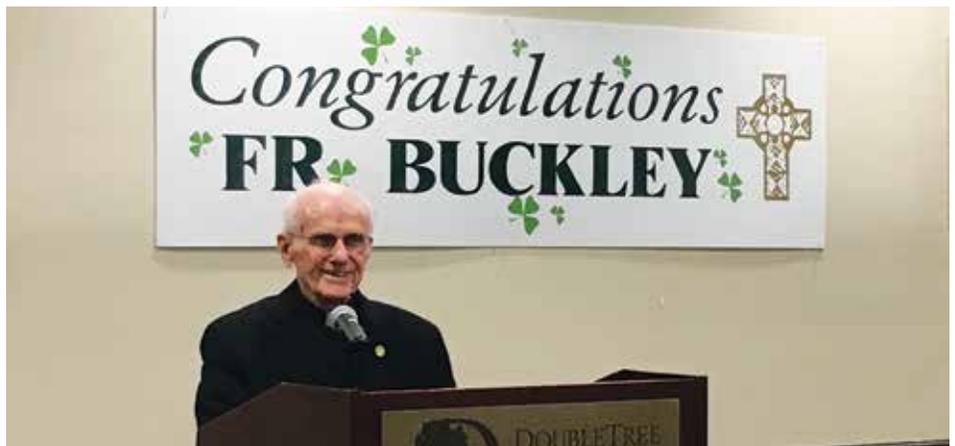
Our spiritual advisor, Fr. Gerald Buckley was recognized on his recent retirement. Fr. Buckley was our spiritual advisor for 12 years; saying Mass for us, and always having inspiring words of wisdom for the Ladies of Charity. We wish him well in his much deserved retirement. Fr. Corey VanKuren has graciously agreed to take over as spiritual advisor for the Binghamton, NY organization.

Also highlighted at the dinner were two local high school seniors who were recipients of our scholarship award. Each senior received a \$500 award to pursue a career that will reflect our organization's mission of being of service to others.

Finally, new officers were introduced and five new members were formally inducted into our organization.



Binghamton, NY Annual June Dinner



Fr. Gerald Buckley

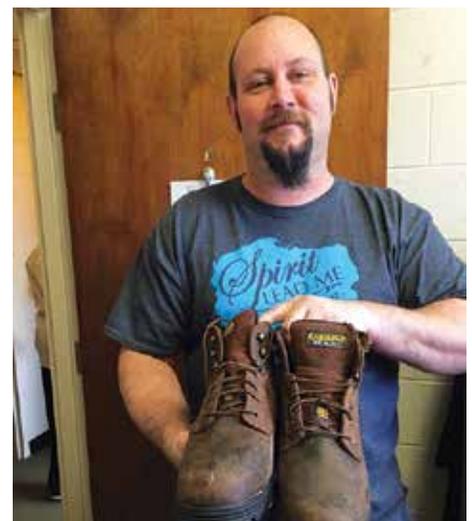
Tennessee LOC Share Story of Boots and Starting a New Life

Ann Caste

Brendan came to our Welfare Office recently and left with ample clothing and new work boots! He was about to start his new job that very evening on the night shift at a local factory in East Nashville. He is so ready now with his OSHA certified boots! Brendan was absolutely delighted that we were all here to support him in his reformed endeavor in life! Bren-

dan did express he was a bit nervous about starting over so immediately we all gathered around him and asked God for a new confidence for Brendan. It doesn't get any better than that!

Brendan says thank you to Soles4Souls as he is most grateful for the boots and for all the support and grace he can get.



Elaine Columbus with Recognition Award

Catholic Charities of Binghamton 80th Anniversary

Helen Sacco

The Binghamton, NY Ladies of Charity Association was recognized as part of the local Catholic Charities 80th Anniversary Celebration. Our president, Elaine Columbus accepted an award on behalf of the organization. The award was for "Outstanding Service for a Social Organization presented to Ladies of Charity for its dedication and support of the Catholic Charities mission of Creating Hope and Transforming Lives". Our organization was deeply humbled and honored to receive such recognition.

Holy Ghost, Washington

Ladies of Charity Share Summer Camp with Sightless

Lucy Saunders

Ladies of Charity from the Holy Ghost Association, Archdiocese of Washington, visited blind adult campers at the Lion's Camp Merrick, Nanjemoy, MD. The association over the last few years has sponsored some of the campers. This year they are celebrating 30 years of enjoying a summer break in southern Maryland. How enjoyable it was to witness the campers play 'Beep Ball'. The ball has a bell inside so it can be heard when hit; then another sound goes off that leads the blind batter to the base. What enthusiasm is shown in their faces as they score a run. Another activity enjoyed after lunch is the pool where aerobics are held as they hand-in-hand glide across the water. Many staffers volunteer their time to be guides for these remarkable & capable adults. With a talent show scheduled, some campers practice their musical talents. Their leader is an 87 year old lady who has been part of this activity since 1988. How rewarding to share a day with those who exemplify trust as they lean on another for providing them the opportunity to be themselves in a world of darkness!



Blind Campers Swim Together



"Beep Ball" at Lion's Camp Merrick, Nanjemoy, MD

Out of Town Day in Albion, New York

Kathy Roseti

The Diocese of Buffalo Association of the Ladies of Charity (LOC) began their "Out of Town Day" on June 11, 2017 with the celebration of Mass with the Holy Family Parish in Albion, New York. The Albion Ladies of Charity and their Pastor, Father Richard Csizmar warmly welcomed "sister" Ladies of Charity from the Buffalo area during a celebration of Mass marking the 400th Anniversary Year for the Ladies of Charity. Eight new members were enrolled at the Mass by Mary Ann Tillman, Holy Family Parish LOC President and Kathleen Sieracki, Diocese of Buffalo LOC President. In addition to Father Csizmar, Seminarians

Justin Steeg and Bill Papaj and Deacon James Collichio participated in the Mass. All Ladies of Charity present also took part in a "Recommitment Ceremony" led by Diocese of Buffalo Parish Outreach and Advocacy Department Director, Eileen Nowak. The Ladies of Charity participated in the day's festivities which also included a delicious brunch at the historic Tillman Village Inn and tours of the Cobblestone Museum where they were able to view 19th Century agricultural implements; in addition, three separate structures were toured including the Cobblestone Church (1834), Ward House (1836) and the School House

(1849). The ladies learned much about how Western New York led the way in the Cobblestone construction methods which took place between 1825 and 1860.

The "Out of Town Day" was one of the many activities the Buffalo Ladies of Charity have included in their 400th Anniversary Year activities.



Group photo Diocese of Buffalo Ladies of Charity with Father Richard Csizmar



Father Richard Csizmar



Mary Ann Tillman, President Albion, NY Parish Chair lady and Eileen Nowak



Sister Alice Marie Quinn Founder and Program Director of St. Vincent Meals on Wheels; photo credit Alan Braus

Sister Alice Marie Quinn

Alma Arredondo, former LCUSA President

Sister Alice Marie Quinn, Daughter of Charity and Registered Dietitian, was the founder and program director of St. Vincent Meals on Wheels. Under her leadership, St. Vincent Meals on Wheels became the largest Meals on Wheels program in America. She was past president of the Meals on Wheels Association of America. Sister passed away on June 23, 2017, leaving a big hole in the hearts of the Ladies of Charity of Los Angeles. Alma Arredondo, former LCUSA President, remembers Sister:

Joyce Clarene Quinn, Sister Alice Marie, was born in Chicago, Illinois. One of five children born to James and Alice Quinn, she was preceded in death by her two brothers, James and Gerald, a sister by the name of Alice Marie who was lovingly known as "Toots". Sister is survived by her loving sister Bridget Johnson, numerous nephews and nieces and her loving community, the Daughters of Charity, Province of the West.

She was named Irish Woman of the Year by the State of California

In 2006, she received the SILVER PLATE AWARD from the International Food Service Manufacturers Association...The first time the award was presented to a Non-Profit Organization

She was honored by the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

She was the Founder of St. Vincent's Meals on Wheels

She was on a first name basis with LL Cool J..how cool is that? Well, HE thought She was cool!

The famed chef and restaurateur, Wolfgang Puck personally organized a 75th birthday bash in her honor

She was a dyed in the wool fan of the Minnesota Twins and.....she LOVED Johnny Cash!

But, first and foremost...Sister Alice Marie Quinn was a Daughter of Charity

Nearly 63 years ago Sister answered "yes" to a call to a lifetime of ministering to the poor. Her "yes" was like the one spoken by Mary, so many years before, when she was told by the Angel Gabriel that she was going to bear a Son. No doubt, no questions, just "yes"

A "yes" that was unwavering...it was her moral compass...no turning back...no such thing as "no". Sister knew why she was called to become a Daughter of Charity...she was on her way to becoming a Servant of God!

Her relationship with God was born

from a deep spiritual life. She prayed the rosary daily, was devoted to Our Lady, always finding time in her busy schedule to feed her soul. I was told by Sister Patricia Miguel, a close friend of Sister for 36 years, that amongst Sister's things she found several books where Sister had underlined specific passages that had special meaning to her. At times she would tear out a page and carry it in her pocket. To be used perhaps during the day as a gentle reminder of who she was and who she served. She was a woman of faith.

Sister "Sam" as she was referred to by those who knew her well and worked by her side daily, was a Vincentian to the core. She lived daily the words of St. Vincent..."God demands first the heart...then the hand." This is how she came to know and see Christ in the hungry and the lonely. The hugeness of her heart and her love for Christ in the poor, the elderly and the lonely compelled her to seek out ways to feed them. Sister was convinced that not only was she on the right track...but the ONLY track that she would walk for 40 years of her life.

St. Vincent Meals on Wheels started in 1977 because Sister saw a great need among the elderly who while in the hospital were served nutritious meals and then would, in many instances after being discharged, go home to poorly prepared meals or in some cases for those who lived alone, meals that provided the minimum of the required daily nutrients. Her fervor was fueled by her trust in Providence and in believing if she were the boss ... and only she...things would get done! Perhaps that belief is what prompted her to leave her position of second in command in the Dietary Department of St. Vincent Medical Center and become "the boss" of St. Vincent's Meals on Wheels. Sister took being the boss very seriously. While visiting her office yesterday, I was shown a little picture that was on the wall. It was of a little girl leaning into a little boy and she is saying, "I'm not bossy!! I have Skills!!...Leadership skills! Understand?!" Sister was indeed blessed with those skills and so much more.

The program which started with a single pot of stew prepared in the basement of Precious Blood Church and served 83 people near MacArthur Park has grown to become a program today that serves nearly 3,000 meals a day to 1,800 of the elderly, sick and homeless in Los Angeles.

Sister would be the first to tell you she was just an ordinary person. We all know she wasn't because she did some extraordinary things. She was unstoppable in her belief that no one should go hungry, especially society's most vulnerable. Described as compassionate, kind and generous,... for Sister what was more important than the meal that was being served... was the way in which it was served.

It soon became very apparent to anyone who knew Sister and her works, that this service was not just about feeding people. Sister's philosophy went far beyond that...It was all about dignity and respect for the ones being served. It was never about just placing a tray of food in front of someone. It was always about serving the food with the special touch of perhaps a birthday greeting, a kind word, a gentle gesture and always a smile that said "I am here to serve you. You are important to God. Therefore, you are important to me." Sister lived the words of the Gospel ...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, a stranger....and you welcomed me.

Daryl Tweredoll who has worked with Sister for 23 years, described Sister with two words... compassionate and loving. She also described how The Meals on Wheels workers became a family with Sister as their mother guiding them, respecting them. She also saw to it that their souls were well fed by offering daily prayer at 8:30 every morning in front of her office. Some of these employees will tell you how she changed their life. She may have been strong and bossy but she loved them all and they knew it...She was their mother...A weaver of stories and a whimsical, quick-witted sense of humor that always managed to make things right when things went askew in their very unique family.

Being the boss is never easy especially when you are facing a budget deficit. But for Sister Sam, the larger the deficit, the deeper her belief in God's Providence. I was told of the times Sister would be called "to the carpet" because of this problem. She wouldn't worry...she prayed! And just before having to appear on the carpet, a check would arrive in the amount she needed and sometimes more than she had been praying for. There were challenges and struggles but never a moment of doubt. Lifted up by all the angels which surrounded her in her office and strengthened by

the message of the many crosses on her wall, Her trust in God remained unshakeable.

(What follows is an imaginary phone call from heaven that takes place between me and Sister)

Excuse me...Hello? Sister? Yes... Yes.. of course. Yes Sister...I'll be sure to tell them...You got it Boss!

Sister just wanted to make sure that I thank all of you for being here tonight. But more importantly, to tell you that she never accomplished anything alone. She was always the part of a team effort of donors, sponsors, volunteers, employees and her Daughters of Charity family. She wants you to know how grateful she is to each one of you for having walked this journey with her, for having been so generous with your time and your treasure.....thus....giving life to the Gospel and the mandate that all faiths dictate... and that is to love one another as He has loved you. To always respect the dignity of those you are blessed to serve. She asks that you remember her by continuing this work which was not just hers but ours as well...and never, ever slowdown.

Individuals have been quoted referring to Sister as a Saint. A title she would quickly dismiss with her one of her engaging laughs. In a recent homily, Archbishop Gomez referred to Los Angeles the City of the Angels as actually being the City of Saints because so many of them have walked

our streets in their lifetime: St. John Paul II, St. Mother Teresa, Venerable Mother Maria Luisa Josefa and Servant of God Bishop of the Barrios, Alphonse Gallegos. Now we can add our newest saint, Sister Sam.

God sent her to this earth for one purpose. That was to feed the hungry. Last Friday, her job was finished... she clocked out. And in that moment, the most incredible thing happened. Instead of the sound of bells ringing, the heavens were filled with the sound of pots and pans clanging together and for the first time in the history of mankind the heavens were empty as all those whom Sister had fed in her lifetime rushed out to meet her. They just couldn't wait any longer to have her home.

Thank you, Servant of God, Rest in peace.

Reference: www.mowaa.org/



Sister Alice Marie with LL Cool J



Ann Peffen

Debbie Chadwick

Ann Peffen, Past President of Nashville Ladies of Charity and Past President of Ladies of Charity of the United States, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2017.

Ann joined the Ladies of Charity Nashville in 1956 serving as the Nashville Association President from 1977-78. She served in many other roles over the years including Thrift Shop Chairman,

Membership Chairman, and most recently Long Range Planning Chairman and the Thrift Shop Board.

As a recognized leader in her local association, Ann was nominated to serve as a member of the National Ladies of Charity Board; she served as Southern Regional Vice President and then National President from 1988-1990. During her Presidency she was instrumental in the appointment of Reverend Richard Gielow C.M. as National Vincentian Spiritual Advisor to the Board. Her involvement on the national level remained strong as a valued advisor.

Ann became a Daughter of Charity Affiliate over 27 years ago through the recommendation of her beloved friend, the late Sister Andrea Vaughn, past Moderator for the Ladies of Charity National Board as well as the Nashville Association. Sister Andrea and Ann provided a beautiful example of St. Vincent and St. Louise's love for the poor; sharing the charism with everyone they met.

Ann's leadership shined through in good times and in tough times. A firm and decisive voice in the many roles she filled over the past sixty+ years as a member of Ladies of Charity. She brought ideas to the table that made us think outside of the box. She was committed and dedicated to serving the marginalized with a Vincentian heart.

Locally her involvement and interest extended to help others who wished to serve those in need in the Nashville community. Over the years, Ann had been an active member of change as she served the following:

- Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.
- Nashville Catholic Charities
- Catholic Charities – USA
- St. Mary's Orphanage, Inc.
- Room in the Inn
- St. Cecelia Academy
- United Way Tele-Campaign Chairman
- St. Thomas Hospital Auxiliary-Life Member
- Bordeaux Hospital Advocate-Charter Member
- St. Henry's Women's Club

Ann was also recognized locally by many organizations for her work. The awards include:

- Mary Catherine Strobel Award – Honoree
- Volunteer Activist Award
- Celebration of Service and Charity Honoree, Diocese of Nashville
- First Annual Fall Gala Service Award Recipient, Ladies of Charity Nashville

She is survived by 5 children, 9 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren.

Rest in peace, Ann. We will miss your smile and quick wit.



Ann Peffen with other Past Presidents of LCUSA;
Left to Right: Ann Peffen, Doris Hoag, Mary Beth O'Brien, Mary Ann Morovitz, Albe McGurk.



Charleen Brain

Margaret Hanson

Charleen's husband, Don, died the day before her birthday in 2009. When they married in 1948 they became partners in their belief of making a difference and, indeed, together each of them did.

Charleen, educated in accounting, invested herself and her talents in the international organization of the Ladies of Charity (AIC), locally initially in Kansas City and subsequently as a director on the

Ladies of Charity national board of directors. Don supported her and the Ladies in this endeavor, especially through his voluntarily making multiple trips transporting board members from the Kansas City Metropolitan airport to the Convent of the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Eucharist on N. Noland Road in Independence, MO. (stfraneucharist@aol.com). It was there that the LCUSA board met for several years and where Charleen, a woman of influence, exerted her talent and energy, first as treasurer, steadfastly getting the organization on a firm financial footing, in collaboration with Doris Hoag, and subsequently as national president. With her husband, Don, she never stopped being a mover and a shaker in the national organization. Their familiar presence with John and Doris Hoag at each assembly brought life to the group.

Charleen Brain of Kansas City, MO. accepted the LCUSA president's gavel from Doris Hoag two years after being elected treasurer in 1996. Charleen attended all five regional meetings in 1999. These meetings were held in alternate years. The members attended a joint biennial meeting with Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) in the even years. Having observed the duplication of effort at the regional meeting combined with the increasing desire of LCUSA to be more independent of meeting with CCUSA Charleen supported the proposal to amend the bylaws and hold an annual national assembly. At the same time she promoted the instigation

of the position of president-elect. This position gave the person selected to succeed to the presidency to observe and learn before assuming the responsibilities of the national president. Holding the assembly annually has provided the national organization with a consistent vehicle of orienting the membership and maintaining a level of enthusiasm for LCUSA.

Charleen participated both in the AIC Delegate Assembly in Assisi, Italy as well as the initial collaborative meetings instigated by the then Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, Rev. Robert Maloney, C.M., an effort to develop a closer connection between branches of St. Vincent de Paul's followers. Without these initial steps the family members would not be meeting in Rome, Italy this October 2017 and jointly celebrating with Pope Francis four hundred years of Vincentian service.

Charleen was instrumental in the appointment of Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, DD. of the diocese of Albany, N.Y. to replace Rev. Paul A. Zipfel as LCUSA's episcopal chairman.

Charleen promoted and accomplished the adoption of the reading enrichment program as the national focus. It remains so today. This program of assisting youngsters born into poverty to develop reading skills as they begin their schooling continues in the local associations today. Each year at the national assembly associations who have requested a grant to implement such a reading enrichment project in their association are awarded financial assistance to continue this significant work. It was among Charleen's favorite projects.

As Charleen, her husband and children traveled across the country and visited other parts of the world they enriched their philosophy of making a difference and that what you do in your lifetime does matter. We, members of LCUSA, participate actively as the result of Charleen's efforts. We experience them both in our local association as well as during the days of the annual national assembly as well as the influence wielded by LCUSA at the Delegate Assemblies of AIC,

Charleen, not one for going to bed early, may you rest in peace.



Lucky Van De Gejuchte

Debbie Chadwick

Lucky Van De Gejuchte (Born Electa Ann Furniss) died August 6, 2017. At the time of her death, Lucky was a member of the LCUSA National

Board of Directors serving in that capacity since 2011. During her tenure on the National Board she served as both a director and Vice President for the Southern Region. She was also the Chairperson of the Membership Committee and was devoted to exploring new ways to attract members to the Ladies of Charity and promoting the Junior Ladies of Charity. She was President of the Nashville Ladies of Charity from 2015-2016 and served on the Nashville National Assembly Committee in 2009-2010. She served in many capacities as a very active association member that included Day Chair for the Ladies of Charity Thrift Sale and Christmas Basket Chair in Nashville. Lucky was well known as a committed volunteer not only for Ladies of Charity but also of St. Stephen Knights of Columbus Kitchen Crew. She was a wonderful cook and was known to carry her special seasoning to add to the recipes the crew prepared for parish dinners and special events. She and her husband David received the St. Stephen Family of the Year Award in 2009 – 2010 and 2011 – 2012 prior to his death. She is survived by her three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Rest in Peace, Lucky. We will miss you.

400th Prayer

LORD, Merciful Father who instilled in Saint Vincent de Paul a great concern for the evangelization of the poor, now fill the hearts of His followers with that same spirit.

Today, as we hear the cry of your abandoned children, we may run to their assistance, "like someone who runs to put out a fire."

Revive within us the flame of the Charism, that flame which has animated our missionary life for 400 years.

We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, "the Evangelizer of the Poor."

AMEN



Memorials



In Memory of:

Larry Hughes
Sr. Alice Marie Quinn, D.C.
Ann Peffen

Lucky Van De Gejuchte

Charleen Brain

Scott Leahy
Max Batong, Sr.
Eleanor Warzoha
Nick Guho
Mark Guho
Leland Sparks
George Chiala
Bonnie Camisa
Judith Lanari
Herbert Merlau
Margaret Rich
Gertrude Bizyak
Bob Bizyak
John Bizyak
Lillie Jamelka

Olga Touchet
Harriet Cox
Gerry Ryan

Bequeathed by:

Suzanne Johnson
Suzanne Johnson
Suzanne Johnson
Teresa Ward
Gaethea Fleck
Gayle Johnson
Suzanne Johnson
Teresa Ward
Kathleen Sieracki
JLOC Diocese of Buffalo, NY
Gayle Johnson
Lucy Saunders
Suzanne Johnson
Teresa Ward
Gayle Johnson
Rita Rost
Suzanne Johnson
Suzanne Johnson
Suzanne Johnson
Suzanne Johnson
Teresa Ward
Margaret Fiala
Margaret Fiala
Margaret Fiala
Mary Merlau
Gaethea Fleck
Vilma Bellissimo
Vilma Bellissimo
Vilma Bellissimo
Anita Fisher
Linda Caldwell
Olga Touchet
Suzanne Johnson
Kathy & Jack Kavanaugh

Ladies of Charity
2816 E. 23rd St.
Kansas City, MO 64127
Address Service Requested



<http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us>

"To serve rather than to be served"

Marguerite Naseau

first Daughter of Charity

Carol Schumer, D.C.



Marguerite Naseau

Marguerite Naseau, the first woman to speak with Vincent de Paul about serving persons living in poverty, exemplifies well our 400-year charism. We can learn much from her self-giving and love for those she assisted. She inspired Vincent and his admiration led him to urge the first Daughters to emulate her virtues in a July 1642 conference.¹ A year later, on February 24, he addresses "The Spirit of the Company" and he again invited his listeners to follow Marguerite's example, although he does not name her. His words offer her story and impact in an eloquent, concise manner, so I quote:

"... a poor young woman from Suresnes had a desire to teach those who were poor. She had learned to read while tending cows. She had procured a primer for herself and whenever she saw someone, she would ask him to point out the letters to her; then she would spell them out ..., and when other people passed by, she would ask them to help her to form her words; on their return, she would ask if that was what they had told her... When she learned how to read, she went to live... [near] Paris. We went there to give a mission. She...told me about her plan. When we set up the Charity there, she was so attracted to it that she said..., 'I'd like very much to serve the poor in that way.'

"Around that time, because the Ladies of the Charity of Saint-Sauveur [Paris] were women of quality, they were looking for a young woman who would be willing to carry the soup pot to the sick. When that poor young woman came to see Mlle Le Gras [Louise de Marillac], she was asked... whether she was

willing to serve the poor. She gladly accepted. So, she came to Saint-Sauveur and was taught how to administer medicines and to render all the necessary services and she succeeded very well. And that's how it all began. We never thought of it. That's how the works of God begin; they're accomplished without any-one thinking of them. That poor girl had been led in this way from her youth.



Learning to Read

"Called for the establishment of the Charity in Saint-Nicolas-du-Chardonnet parish [Paris], she slept with a girl who had the plague which she caught from her and... [Marguerite] died. We were so impressed with that poor young woman that we accepted others who presented themselves and they did what she had done.

"And that ...is how God brought this work into being. Mademoiselle never thought of it, neither did I, nor did M. Portail², nor that poor young woman."³

As is evident, Marguerite, led by God, under the direction of Vincent and Louise, followed her heart and an unbelievable phenomena resulted. Let us look to Marguerite as a model of loving service and dedication to "our Lords and Masters," those who are poor.

Reflection Question:

Marguerite made a difference. How do I do so in my family and in my service as a Lady of Charity?

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 1120
Austin, Texas

Resources:

¹ Coste, *Conferences of Vincent De Paul*, 9, #12, 64-66

² Ibid., Introduction, x, Antoine Portail, first director of the Daughters of Charity

³ Ibid., #52, 472-73