

CHARITY CHAT

"To serve rather than be served with humility, simplicity and charity"

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

May 2023

Important Dates

May 16, 2023 6:30 PM
New Member Installation
Holy Family Chapel

June 9, 2023 6:00 PM
Capuchin Walk for the Hungry
Lakefront

July 18, 2023 6:00 PM
LOC Board Meeting
Roets Residence
5554 N. Diversey Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI
General Membership Welcome

September 7-9, 2023
LCUSA National Assembly
Buffalo, NY

September 16, 2023 9:00 AM
Opening Mass and Breakfast
St. Francis of Assisi

October 17, 2023 6:00 PM
LOC Board Meeting
Westlake Residence
11453 N. Riverland Road
Mequon, WI
General Membership Welcome

Presidents' Message

Spring is here and with it our hopes and excitement for the days ahead renewed. Although we are entering the quiet time for our Clothing Center, as our hours of operation close with the end of the school year, we look forward this summer to moving into the adjacent garage. Our hope is to create a much-needed area for storage and sorting and relieve the tight quarters in the Center. Garage plans call for lots of shelving and tables for working, allowing a reconfiguration of the "back" room. Our volunteers are excited to help make this happen and we thank them, always, for their willingness to help and commitment.



Mary Roets and Susan Westlake

Since last fall, we have had the opportunity to gather for prayer and fellowship at two very special occasions, our December holiday gathering and our recent Lenten Evening of Reflection. Many thanks to Mary Johnson and her team for making these events happen. We were inspired by Father Joe Laramie's words—"One Coat, One Child, One Heart" as we reflected on his message to "Abide in the Heart of Christ". How fortunate we are to share these experiences with each other and to share the privilege of being Ladies of Charity.

We look forward very much to our new member installation and reception to be held Tuesday May 16 at 6:30 PM at Holy Family. We welcome all members who have become Ladies of Charity since last May, as well as anyone who has been unable previously, to participate in this ceremony. We also invite all of our members to join us in welcoming our new members. Please join us for this meaningful and fun evening.

We encourage you to consider attending this year's LCUSA Assembly to be held September 7-9 in Buffalo, NY. Several of us are making plans to attend and invite you to "shuffle along to Buffalo" with us.

We close with a thank you for your prayers for our members and their families who are dealing with health issues. We know that it means a great deal to them as they cope with the challenges involved. We bring those requests to you out of our trust in the power of your prayer and intentions for them.

Mary and Susan



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Rising Star Tutoring
(Claire Wycklendt)

Social and Digital Media
(Paulette Pecard)

Parish Liaison
(Jude Schubert)

See our new website locmilwaukee.org for full listing of opportunities.

Generosity
changes everything

UPDATES

Membership News

Please welcome and embrace our newest Ladies of Charity who are to be installed May 16: Regina Bergner, Helen Broder, Janet De Toro, Jennifer La Macchia, Mary Mulcahy, Mary Nold-Klett, Sarah Pandl, and Therese Pandl.

In addition, please welcome our new Membership Committee members, Barb Dineen and Sarah Pandl, who join Kathleen Valusek and myself on the team. And, we heartfully thank Anne Rice for her many contributions to the Committee over

the past years. If you would like to participate in recruiting new members, please contact us.

We hope to see you at our new member installation and reception on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 PM at Holy Family Parish. If you have not been able to be formally installed, please let us know so you can be included.

– Tracy Hobbs

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS Chapman Basketball Academy

We received cartons and cartons of Bombas socks (10,000 pair!) since the holidays, as well as many, many donations of new and used clothing from holiday giving trees and parish clothing drives, and from individual members, who quietly drop off bags and bags of needed items. It is simply AMAZING! Here is the story of one such donor. Over the past several years we have benefitted greatly from the generosity of the Chapman Basketball Academy, which is owned and operated by Joe Chapman and his wife Carolyn Onopa Chapman. For about the past five years the Academy has hosted a Holiday Camp and clothing drive for the Ladies of Charity. Participants who make a clothing donation receive a discount on their camp registration fee. As 75-100 kids attend the camp each year, this has resulted in quite a lot of donated clothing. If the name Joe Chapman sounds familiar to you, you may recall that he played basketball at Marquette University for four years before playing professional overseas in eight different countries over a span of 11 years. Joe and Carolyn started the Academy after he retired in 2017. The Academy, based in Ozaukee County, consists of camps, leagues, training, and club teams. More information about the Chapman Academy can be found on their website www.chapmanbasketball.com. Thank you to Joe, Carolyn, and the Chapman Basketball Academy for their devotion, kindness, and charity to the Milwaukee Ladies of Charity and the children and families we serve.

– Jane Beyer



CHAPMAN BASKETBALL
Holiday Camp

DECEMBER 27-29
K5-2ND GRADE 10:00AM-11:15AM

- ★ LOWERED HOOPS, GAMES, PRIZES & FUN
- ♣ CO-ED
- \$60/ATHLETE- \$40 OFF WITH CLOTHES DONATION
- 📍 THE FACILITY
- 👕 T-SHIRT INCLUDED

Ladies of charity Clothing center gives out clothing to over 1,000 children yearly. They accept gently used pants, tops, hats, gloves, & coats-from sizes 3t-18. We will be collecting the first day of camp December 27th. use code:GIVE at checkout



Ladies of Charity National Assembly “We Choose Love” September 7-9, 2023 Buffalo, New York

Consider attending this year’s Assembly, along with other Milwaukee LOC members, for three days of faith-filled presentations, prayer, and reflection. The event also offers the chance to build camaraderie and develop relationships with national LOC members, along with the opportunity to take in some of the sights, sounds, and tastes of Buffalo (think Buffalo wings!) and the surrounding Niagra Falls region. Please see <https://locbuffalony.org/2023-national-assembly> for information about hotel accommodations, travel logistics, and costs. Please let us know if you are interested in attending. Members who have attended an annual Assembly in the past have found the experience personally rewarding and enriching on many levels.

– Jane Beyer



The Clothing Center

Though the pandemic has subsided (hopefully), the Clothing Center is still feeling its effects. Our numbers are down but not our spirit as Ladies of Charity. Faithful volunteers opened wide our Clothing Center doors for the 2022-23 school year and interacted directly with the awe-inspiring people who entered. Last year at this time we served 933; this year we are at 712. Each Wednesday and Thursday plus one Saturday a month our doors are open to meet the clothing needs of school-age students.

In order to address the lower numbers this year, LOC volunteers called all Milwaukee Public School social workers. We thank Paulette Pecard for organizing this effort and Gail Proite Adams for hosting our brain-storming session. We have seen an increase in our numbers as a result of this outreach campaign, Yea! We will continue to identify strategies to increase our numbers and welcome your input. Please contact Gail with your ideas.

As you can imagine, our racks are kept full, thanks to generous member donations, Giving Tree donations, and Lost and Found items. One member observed how generous the boys of Milwaukee have been to this last source of clothing. The Bombas socks we have received, some 15-20,000 in the past few years, have really helped us to provide each child with seven new pairs of socks. We want to see our clothing “fly off the racks and shelves”!

The Ladies of Charity mission statement, “To Serve Rather Than Be Served” with humility, simplicity, and charity, is at the forefront of our work. How grateful we are to have this opportunity to serve such courageous people. Indeed, we thank God. Blessings to you all.

– Francie Shea



MISSION OUTREACH

Rising Stars Tutoring Program - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Rising Stars Tutoring Program, Inc. is an Affiliated Ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The Rising Stars program offers support to help at-risk students succeed in the classroom. Tutors are placed based on their subject and grade level interest and expertise. School assignments and schedules are flexible.

I have been a volunteer with the program for over 6 years. During that time I have been able to support a group of 6th grade students at Blessed Savior in math, tutored a 4th grade math student from Messmer St. Rose during the pandemic, and am presently working with individuals or small groups of 1st and 2nd graders at St. Agnes Butler in areas as needed.

Rising Stars offers an orientation and on-going support, The program builds relationships with teachers who are very welcoming and aims to meet each student at the stage where they most need assistance.



Interested? Check out the website Risingstarsmilwaukee.org for more information or contact Laura Harvancik, Executive Director and SSND Associate at risingstars@ssndcp.org or call 262-787-1018

– Lilane Koehn Mace

Laundry of Love

After a three-year hiatus, Laundry of Love resumed its mission of serving the underprivileged of Milwaukee. The Ladies of Charity, along with the laundromat owner and Milwaukee Archdiocese, combine to provide free washes, detergent, laundry bags and friendship to low-income families. Fun fact, almost every state has established a Laundry of Love chapter. Check out the website; www.laundrylove.org. If you are interested in helping, we meet on the third Monday of each month, from 8:00 AM-the last load goes in at 10:30 AM. Come and make some new friends, or drop off some detergent or snacks for the clientele. We meet at Your Laundry at 801 E. Capitol Drive.

– Jan Zolten



Capuchin Walk for the Hungry 2023

Please consider joining the Ladies of Charity team for the walk to raise money for Capuchin Community Services at the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal Program. We have had a team for many years. The walk will be held Friday, June 9th at Summerfest grounds, in conjunction with Polish Fest. You may register to walk at the lakefront or to walk in your own neighborhood or choose to make a donation only. Your registration includes entry to Polish Fest for all three days of the festival, as well as a colorful t-shirt. Early Bird registration by Friday May 19th is Adult \$30 Child \$20; after that, registration is Adult \$40 Child \$25. You may also register at the Main Gate on the day of the walk. Please go to the website (capuchinwalk.org) for further information and to register. Be sure to go to the FIND A TEAM box, then "find an existing team to join" and type in Ladies of Charity Milwaukee. You may phone or text Adele Eklund at 414 507-0254 with any questions.

– Adele Castillo Eklund

CAPUCHIN COMMUNITY SERVICES
Milwaukee House of Peace St. Ben's Community Meal

CAPUCHIN WALK
FOR THE HUNGRY

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

POLISH FEST
SPONSOR

JUNE 9, 2023

capuchinwalk.org

EVENT NEWS

Opening Mass and Breakfast



I'd like to share with you a little history about my involvement with planning special events for our chapter. As many of you know, I have been a member of Ladies of Charity for a pretty long time. Going back over 15 years, Mary Domer and I worked as a team to plan a number of LOC events. In 2014, Mary Domer and I as co-presidents, with the guidance of Sister Claire

Debes, worked to host the Ladies of Charity National Assembly here in Milwaukee. That demanded a lot of effort from our membership and helped create a bond among all involved who made it a successful event.

Over many years and to this day, our members have joined together to support three special events each year: the Fall Opening Mass and Breakfast, the Christmas Luncheon, and the Lenten Evening of Reflection. Again, these events require time and teamwork from members. In December, 2022, with the support of Mary Domer's membership at the University

Club, members and guests enjoyed the spectacular view from the 6th floor room overlooking the lake, culminating with a joyous musical performance of the Wisconsin Dickens Carolers. Fast forward to March 16 2023 for the Lenten Evening of Reflection at the Milwaukee Catholic Home. We were delighted to have Father Joe Laramie, SJ, National Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, celebrate mass and provide an inspirational Lenten reflection about how the heart of Christ can be an essential influence in our daily lives. We thank Claire Wycklendt and her daughters Katie and Alice for recommending Father Joe.

I especially thank every LOC member for volunteering to help plan and execute these events. I also want to thank all who attended. Please let me know if you want to get involved; all help is appreciated. As my mom, Ann Hurley (a past president) would say "many hands make light work". Our next event, the Fall Opening Mass and Breakfast will be held September 16th at St. Francis of Assisi. Please join us!

- Mary Johnson



MEET OUR HONORARY LADY OF CHARITY

FATHER MIKE BERTRAM



I recently had the opportunity to speak with Father Mike Bertram and learn about him and his life. Father Mike grew up on a farm in St. Peter, Wisconsin, in Fond du Lac County, near St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt Calvary. He and his sister were the middle children

between an older and younger brother. Father Mike attended residential St. Lawrence Seminary High School, where he entered the Capuchin Formation Program. He recalls going there as a young child with his mom, who did laundry for students. He remained in the Program through his college years at UW-Oshkosh, where he graduated with a degree in secondary education, with a major focus in social studies. He then left the Program and did “a normal life” for several years, teaching seventh and eighth grade. But, he was drawn back again to the Capuchins and along the way obtained a music degree in piano and organ from Wayne State University. He took perpetual vows as a Capuchin in 1986 and studied for the priesthood at Chicago Theological Union. He was ordained a priest in 1988.

Father Mike has been Pastor at St. Francis Parish for 19 years and also serves as Pastor of St Benedict the Moor Parish. In the past year he has become the Director of Capuchin Community Services and is now responsible for the St. Ben’s Meal Program and the House of Peace. When I asked what enabled him to keep expanding his duties, he immediately responded: “It’s the people I have to work with. They are great individuals, and I couldn’t do it without them”. As for the major influences in his life, he credited the Capuchins, but particularly the “healthy faith” of his parents, who lived their faith throughout their life and served as a powerful example for him through their actions and practice. His mom is a healthy 94-year-old woman, who recently spent Easter with him at St. Francis.

Other interesting notes—Father Mike enjoys cooking and traveling as hobbies when time allows. Tiramisu is one of his signature dishes. He also enjoys returning to his music. Fun fact—he and singer/cantor Patty De Graff used to do music for weddings in their teen years and occasionally can be heard together at St. Francis liturgies. And, did you know, the name Capuchin is derived from the Italian word “cappuccino”, meaning long hood, with the Capuchins wearing the long-pointed hood, distinctive among Franciscans.

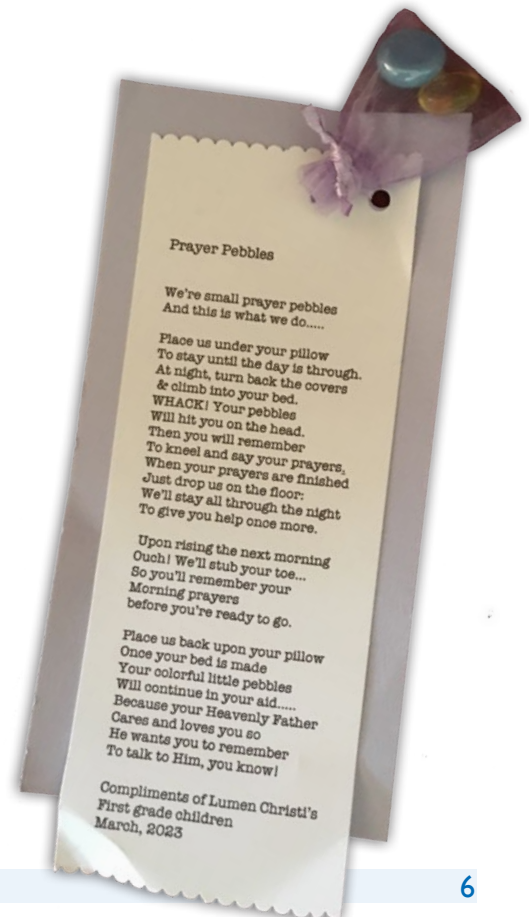
Thank you, Father Mike, for allowing us a glimpse into your life and for all you do to support Ladies of Charity. We think you make a great honorary Lady of Charity!

– Susan Westlake

In Memoriam

Please remember our deceased Lady of Charity Kay Zacharias and her family in your prayers. Kay died last October 30. Kay is especially remembered for her work with special needs students at Milwaukee Public Schools and her volunteer activities with the Special Olympics.

Ladies of Charity memorial cards may be used to honor an individual or in memory of a loved one. Names will be added to our Memorial Book and remembered in the Masses, prayers, and good works of Ladies of Charity throughout the year. Memorial cards are available at the Clothing Center, Ladies of Charity events, or from Cathy Onopa (conopa@icloud.com).



Prayer Pebbles

We're small prayer pebbles
And this is what we do....

Place us under your pillow
To stay until the day is through.
At night, turn back the covers
& climb into your bed.
WHACK! Your pebbles
Will hit you on the head.
Then you will remember
To kneel and say your prayers,
When your prayers are finished
Just drop us on the floor.
We'll stay all through the night
To give you help once more.

Upon rising the next morning
Ouch! We'll stub your toe...
So you'll remember your
Morning prayers
before you're ready to go.

Place us back upon your pillow
Once your bed is made
Your colorful little pebbles
Will continue in your aid....
Because your Heavenly Father
Cares and loves you so
He wants you to remember
To talk to Him, you know!

Compliments of Lumen Christi's
First grade children
March, 2023

Cathy Liska Reflection



Vincentian Tidbits

As a result of the French Revolution in 1789, charitable services to the poor and vulnerable through the Confraternity of Charity were disrupted and not formally reestablished until 1840 by the Archbishop of Paris. This paved the way for women to regain a pivotal role in providing these services. One of these women was Catherine Laboure, born in Burgundy, France in 1806, the ninth of eleven children, who entered the Confraternity of the Daughters of Charity and was known to be devout and a bit of a romantic. She reported a vision of the Blessed Mother, displaying herself inside an oval frame, standing upon a globe, wearing many rings of varied colors. On the margin of the frame the following was inscribed: "O, Mary, conceived without original sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." The frame included a circle of twelve stars, a large letter "M", and the stylized sacred hearts of both Jesus and Mary. Thus the devotion commonly known as the "Miraculous Medal" owes its origin to Sister Catherine, recipient of three separate visions from the Blessed Mother while in her Paris motherhouse. Catherine lived her remaining years as an ordinary sister, revealing just before her death that she was the woman to whom the Blessed Mother had given images for the medal. Subsequently, upon careful investigation, medals based on the instructed design were made, blessed, and within a short time were distributed; a devotion rapidly ensued. Catherine Laboure was canonized in 1947 and November 27 became her designated feast day. And so we note, members of our Vincentian family are continuing the ministry of St. Vincent de Paul to serve others with humility, simplicity, and charity. We are so thankful for the gifts and direction he has given us.

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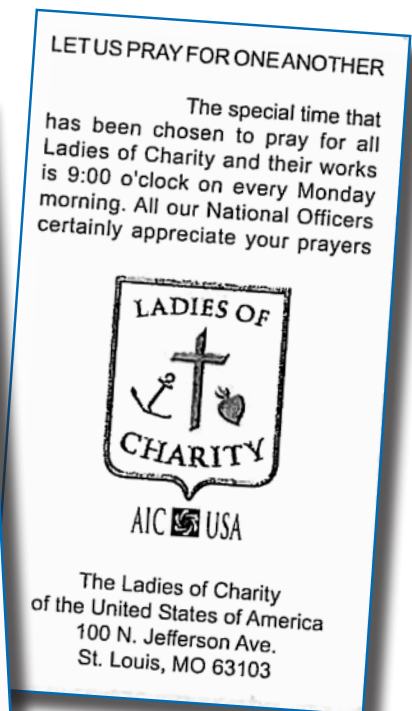
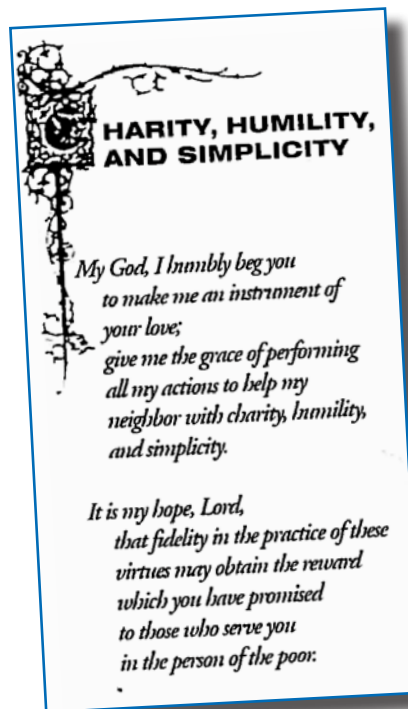
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*"To limit your desires and your hopes is to misunderstand God's infinite goodness."
— St. Therese of Lisieux "The Little Flower"*

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