

CHARITY CHAT

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

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

Spring 2024

Important Dates

June 15, 2024
Clothing Center
Move Scheduled

July 16, 2024
6:00 PM
LOC Board Meeting
Location TBD
General Membership Welcome

August 1, 2024
Opening Day
Clothing Center Scheduled

September, 2024
Opening Mass and Breakfast
Date and Location TBD

September 5-8, 2024
LOC National Assembly
St. Louis, MO

October 17, 2024
6:00 PM
LOC Board Meeting
Location TBD
General Membership Welcome



Presidents' Message

A New Year, a new beginning and I am the new President of Ladies of Charity. I am eager to serve in this role and am humbled to tread on the heels of Mary Roets and Susan Westlake. They have done an outstanding job for the past two years.

I have been a member of Ladies of Charity since 2016 when Jude Schubert recruited me. I have served as a Clothing Center volunteer, where I have come to know many of you. I am also a member of the Events Committee. You may recall sending your reservations to me for the Opening Fall Breakfast, Holiday Event, and Lenten Evening of Reflection. I am a retired Executive Assistant and enjoy my four grandchildren. Ever since I moved back to Wisconsin from Illinois in 2000, I have been a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish. I am so happy to have two Co-Vice-Presidents, Judy Moran and Kathleen Valusek, who have been so supportive.

It only took a little over two weeks to find out what leadership is all about. I will never forget arriving at the Clothing Center on January 17th only to find the heating pipes had frozen, resulting in damage beyond my imagination. A leader needs the support of the people. I am so blessed to have your support during this difficult time. Without knowing for an extended period of time whether the building was to be repaired or demolished, our hands were tied and the children's clothes were locked up, causing heartfelt anguish. But, we determined we would not stand still and that we would move forward. A planning team was formed to explore options and determine necessary next steps. The result of that tremendous effort, and lots of prayerful energy, is that we have found a new home for the Clothing Center at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.

In all things, praise God. He spared all the clothes at the Center, and helped guide us to find a new location when the Capuchin Province determined not to repair the building.

Prayer is essential in our mission. Please join us each month as we gather for morning Mass at one of our member parishes. Each month you will receive an e-mail notice of the date, time, and location, and we hope to have you participate in this opportunity for prayer and fellowship.

As we move through Spring, let us pray that all our efforts will lead us to new birth and new beginnings.

Marlene



Marlene Kollmeyer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Social and Digital Media
(Paulette Pecard)

Parish Outreach
(Jude Schubert)

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

Generosity
changes everything

UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal forms were sent out at the end of January, with a follow-up e-mail sent the end of March. Thank you to all who submitted their 2024 renewal forms. We are pleased to welcome Lisa Nimmer as our newest member. Our next member installation will be held in Spring 2025. If you are a member and were not officially installed, please contact Kathleen Valusek (kvalusix@gmail.com). The installation is a nice opportunity to meet other members as well as a chance to learn more about the core values of Ladies of Charity, “to serve



rather than be served with humility, simplicity, and charity”. Please remember that we are always looking for new members to share our mission to help those in need.

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

A special thanks to deceased LOC member Sue Seewald's daughter Jane who collected PJs at her West Allis school in memory of her mother. She wrote:

“Ladies of Charity holds a special place in my heart. My mom, Sue Seewald, dedicated much of her time to many different charities. Ladies of Charity was one organization that she

was passionate about supporting. So for me this donation is twofold. First, I am proud of the Walker Elementary Student Council for organizing this event. Second, this donation is to honor all of my mom Sue Seewald's charitable work. I hope to continue to contribute to the Ladies of Charity in the future. God Bless”.

PARISH OUTREACH

Plans have been on hold this spring given the closure of the Clothing Center since January. We look forward to moving ahead with efforts to reach out to local parishes to increase awareness of the mission of Milwaukee Ladies of Charity and of the opportunities for membership.

Be sure that you are not depriving your poor of anything. Always look to their needs so that you can give them the best you have, because it belongs to them.

– St. Louise de Marillac

PRAYER INITIATIVE

In February of this year, under the guidance of Mary Roets, we began an initiative for Milwaukee Ladies of Charity to meet each month at one of our local parishes for morning weekday Mass, providing an opportunity for prayer and fellowship. In May we chose to attend a farewell Mass for Bishop Jerome ListECKi at Lumen Christi and were delighted when he recognized Milwaukee Ladies of Charity in his closing remarks. Please see the photo on the right and join us for these meaningful prayerful opportunities. Mary will send an email each month with information about the date, time, and location.



MISSION OUTREACH

CAPUCHIN WALK FOR THE HUNGRY

The days are longer, the birds are nesting, trees are budding, spring has arrived and it's time to think about summer and fun times outdoors! Please consider joining our chapter of the Ladies of Charity for the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry. This year's Walk is once again a one-or two-mile walk at Polish Fest on the Summerfest grounds, on Friday evening, June 14, at 6 pm. Register online (capuchinwalk.org) for the Ladies of Charity Milwaukee team by June 5th to have your T-shirt

delivered or receive at the Main Gate if you register there on the evening of the Walk. Registration is \$40 for adults and \$25 for children. All proceeds benefit Capuchin Community Services at the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal. If you are unable to join us, consider making a donation to Capuchin Community Services. Contact Adele Eklund (414 507-0254) for further information or assistance with registration.

LAUNDRY LOVE

Our ministry, supported by Urban Ministries, is working smoothly. We see our favorite customers each month and others ask when the next date will be. It is rewarding to see how the ministry serves so many each month. Our supply of detergent and dryer sheets is more than enough. However, we would like a few more volunteers! Our hours are 8-10:30 the third Monday of the month. No need to be there for the full time and no need to come every month. Please consider joining us at Your Laundry, 801 E. Capitol Drive.

– Jan Zoltan, janetzoltan@me.com



RISING STARS TUTORING



RISING STARS TUTORING PROGRAM



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Mission Statement

The Rising Stars Tutoring Program, an affiliated ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, endeavors to strengthen reading and math skills of at-risk students.

Please call for information

Laura Harvancik

O: 262-787-1018

C: 414-322-0505

E-Mail: Risingstars@ssndcp.org

<http://bit.ly/risingstartutors>

THE CLOTHING CENTER

What a year! The Clothing Center was on track to have the most successful year to date in terms of the number of students clothed and having racks and bins bursting with items generously donated. Volunteers were excited about the possibility of exceeding previous years' numbers and thought that the changes made to the Clothing Center schedule would help achieve our goal. For the 2023-24 school year the Clothing Center was open two days a week (Wednesday and Thursday) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. as well as the second Saturday of each month.



Research on possible Central City sites affiliated with various parishes resulted in four possibilities, with site visits made to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each. Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish was selected and plans currently are underway to configure the leased space we will have there and to prepare for the move. Along the way, we were advised by the Capuchins that they were not going to repair the St. Francis building.

Despite a challenging year, members remain hopeful and give thanks to all who have shown up to work, washed clothes, collected, sorted, and marked clothing. Thanks to St. Mónica, Our Lady of Good Hope, Sts. Peter and Paul, and Holy Family parishes for Giving Tree designation and specific clothing item drives. We are grateful.

Please stay tuned for further information about the new home for our ministry and about the opportunities to continue your commitment to the Milwaukee Ladies of Charity.

– Francie Shea

By January 10, 2024, we had clothed 757 students just 61 students less than the total number served the previous year. HURRAY! We were excited! Then the fateful news came. When the January cold spell hit Milwaukee the Clothing Center radiators malfunctioned and we were closed. Volunteers received the news from the pastor of St Francis Assisi who told us that we could not enter the Clothing Center premises until further notice. Marlene Kollmeyer, LOC President, kept in constant contact with Fr. Javier hoping that the problem would be easily remedied, and the Clothing Center would reopen its doors.

Given the uncertainty about that location, a group of LOC members met on March 26th to discuss options of staying within the St. Francis Assisi parish community where we had been happy for the last ten years or of looking elsewhere. The discussion resulted in the decision to begin to look elsewhere. Members initiated this process by:

1. Writing the Capuchin Provincial General to ascertain their decision relating to the future of the Clothing Center building. (The Clothing Center building is not owned by St. Francis of Assisi Parish but by the Capuchin Province located in Michigan.)
2. Contacting various parishes within the Central City to see if there would be any space available to house the Clothing Center. (Approximately 2000 sq.ft. is needed to house clothing racks, processing center, storage space and adequate space for clients. The space could be a large space or several rooms in close proximity to each other, on a bus line if possible, adequate parking and relatively safe.)





EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Ladies of Charity celebrated the beginning of the Christmas season at our annual luncheon held at the Wisconsin Country Club on December 2nd, 2023. The venue was beautifully decorated and the staff welcoming and attentive. The menu featured a special cocktail made with champagne, triple sec, and cranberry juice, a hearty Wisconsin salad with chicken, and key lime pie for dessert. Father Javier from St. Francis of Assisi Parish joined us for this event and guided us in an Advent reflection. Beginning with anecdotes from his childhood, Father gave us ideas of how to ready ourselves and our families for the observance of Christ's birth. Our LOC Historical Committee (Cathy Onopa, Ali Faber, and Adele Eklund) prepared a wonderful video presentation and commentary highlighting the people, places, and stories of our Milwaukee chapter. A joyful spirit filled the air as attendees made their way home.



LENTEN EVENING OF REFLECTION

The Milwaukee Catholic Home was buzzing with the lively voices of nearly 50 Ladies of Charity and their guests on Tuesday March 19th for our annual Evening of Reflection. A 5 pm Mass started the evening with Father Javier, Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish as our celebrant. He told us on this Feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph that St. Joseph is a beloved saint of the Capuchin order. Father's homily focused on Joseph's qualities of listening to God's voice and trusting in God's plan even in times of difficulty. Joseph serves as an example of how we can live out our faith with conviction and trust. Following Mass, we enjoyed a delicious dinner together. Then we returned to the chapel for a special one-hour presentation by Janet Peterson from the Acacia Theater Company. The presentation, "The Handmaid of the Lord", featured the story of Jesus through the eyes of his mother from the time of His conception through His death and resurrection. With minimal costumes, props and a thought-provoking script, Janet took us through the significant event from Jesus' birth to adulthood. The audience was enthralled and at times tearful as the dramatic story unfolded. It was an experience that will linger for a long time in the hearts and minds of all who attended.



LADIES OF CHARITY

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Vincentian Family consists of all of the Associations and Congregations whose mission is dedicated to the service of the poor and destitute as given to us by Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac. The following are branches of the Vincentian Family.

The Ladies of Charity -1617- St. Vincent founded the Confraternities of Charity in Chatillon, France by organizing the lay women in the parishes to honor Our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy Mother and to assist the sick and the poor in body and spirit.

-1857- the Ladies of Charity were founded in the United States at St. Vincent's Parish in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Congregation of the Mission (C.M.) -1625- St. Vincent founded his community of Priests and brothers.

-1818- the Congregation of the Mission (CM) arrived in Perryville, MO. Joseph Rosati, CM was the first Bishop of St. Louis

The Daughters of Charity (D.C.) -1633- St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac co-founded the Daughters of Charity.

-1828- the Sisters of Charity from Emmitsburg arrived in St. Louis and began their ministry at Mullanphy Hospital, later named DePaul Hospital.

The Sisters of Charity (S.C.) -1809- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, using the Rule of St. Vincent, founded the Sisters of Charity at Emmitsburg, Maryland.

-1850- the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg joined the Daughters of Charity in France. The Sisters of Charity of several other cities and states as well as Canada formed separate Congregations.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul -1833- Frederic Ozanam, together with his companions, founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

-1845- the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in the United States at the Old Cathedral in St. Louis.

Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY) -1835- the first Children of Mary Association was organized. The purpose of this lay youth group is to form members to live a solid faith following Jesus Christ the Evangelizer of the poor.

-2004- this organization now called "Vincentian Marian Youth", was established in Perryville, MO.

The Association of the Miraculous Medal (AMM) -1847- the Association of the Miraculous Medal was formed at the Motherhouse of the Congregation of the Mission in Paris. The members of the Association wear the Miraculous Medal and they spread devotion to Mary in the model of Christian living.



Vincent de Paul



Louise de Marillac

-1918- the AMM was established in Perryville, MO -1927- the Central AMM began in Philadelphia, PA.

Vincentian Mission Corps (VMC) -1985- the Vincentian Service Corps was established by the Daughters of Charity in St. Louis. **-2012- the Gateway Volunteers of the Vincentian Priests joined the Vincentian Service Corps, and the named changed to Vincentian Mission Corps.**

The mission and common thread of the Vincentian family is to find Christ in the poor by enfoldng the world in a network of charity. We are proud that Ladies of Charity is an international organization. It is the first and oldest association of the Vincentian family.

Adele Eklund Cathy Onopa Ali Faber
Historians for the Ladies of Charity of Milwaukee



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CATHY LISKA REFLECTION

Vincentian Tidbits

Vincent de Paul's Strategy in the 21st Century

St. Vincent was a transformational saint who had a profound effect not only on his generation but also generations beyond. What has been discovered about St. Vincent is the "secret sauce" for this transformation. Although it seemed like any other day, Wednesday, August 23, 1617, marked the beginning of all the transformational ministries set in motion by Vincent. On that date he called a meeting of seven women in a small French community. He suggested and they agreed to form an association to take care of the sick by taking turns doing what needed to be done. The first Ladies of Charity (then called the Confraternity of Charity) was born. Often overlooked is that this organization was the "pioneer beginnings" of the oldest still functioning group of women in the church. (Today that's US)! Plus, it was actually the suggestion of a lay woman! Vincent lent his support and organizing genius. He realized firsthand that women were an untapped ministerial resource in the church. This was the first of many institutions he set in order that includes the Priests and Brothers of the Mission (1625) and the Daughters of Charity (1633). Today many followers of the Vincentian way continue to share a common concern and purpose to serve those who are poor. (Information gathered comes from Father John Freund, CM).



In Memoriam

Please remember in your prayers deceased LOC
Sue Seewald who died November 15th, 2023 and
Sheila Vollman who died February 17th, 2024.



LADIES OF CHARITY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2024 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2024

"Ladies of Charity, Committed to the Eucharist. Ladies of Charity, Committed to those in need."

SAVE THE DATE!



St. Vincent told us, "Go to the poor; you will find God," and "the kingdom of God is peace in the Holy Spirit; He will reign in you if your heart is at peace."

St. Louise says, "Encourage one another, and may your mutual good example, speak louder than any words can."

St. Elizabeth reminds us, "Live simply, so that all may simply live."



Strengthen us through the Eucharist, to be more courageous and encourage us to be more humble. Inspire us with the Eucharist to be true witnesses of our Faith. Stir the Spirit that dwells within us, open our hearts to be your hands and voice in this world so that others will be drawn to you.

PLEASE JOIN US AND THE LADIES FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY IN ST. LOUIS MISSOURI FOR THE 2024 LCUSA ASSEMBLY FOR RELEVANT PRESENTATIONS, PRAYER, MUSIC, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

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