

CHARITY CHAT

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

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

Fall 2024

Important Dates

December 7, 2024
Christmas Luncheon
Wisconsin Country Club

January 21, 2025
6:00 PM
LOC Board Meeting
Location TBD
General Membership Welcome

Spring 2025
Lenten Evening of Reflection
Date and Location TBD

April 15, 2025
6:00 PM
LOC Board Meeting
Location TBD
General Membership Welcome

Presidents' Message

As summer was winding down, many of our Ladies of Charity were busy gearing up to open our new Clothing Center at Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) on September 3rd. My how God has blessed us with many members offering to help us as we faced the challenge of organizing our inventory and sorting the mountain of bags of donated clothing that we had accumulated since January. Superheroes Kathleen Valusek and Judy Moran did a tremendous job in creating the storage/sorting area on the second floor, turning chaos into a well-organized distribution area.

Thanks to Sally Lautmann for directing the move from St. Francis of Assisi and to Francie Shea and Gail Proite Adams for setting up the Boy's and Girl's rooms, formerly school classrooms, in which our families are served. Clothes have been flying off the racks this fall. Thankfully, the word is out about our new location.

Our new hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and the second Saturday of the month from 1 pm to 3 pm. We need your help to staff these hours, no matter how little or how much you can help. We offer rides to the Clothing Center and of course training and support to new volunteers. You will find it a joy to help the families we serve and to work alongside fellow Ladies of Charity.

I was pleased and thankful to attend the LCUSA National Assembly this past September in St. Louis, along with Cathy Liska and Mary Roets. The assembly included a Day of Reflection at the National Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, a very meaningful and moving experience, as well as the opportunity to be among Ladies of Charity from across the nation and learn of their work.

Thanks to Mary Johnson and the Events Committee and to the Historical Committee for the Fall Opening Mass and Breakfast. It was a special morning to be together and to thank God for carrying us through a very challenging year. Please join us at the December 7th Christmas Luncheon at the Wisconsin Country Club.

We have come a long way this past year and on a rough road at times. Thank you for your support. May God bless you always.

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

The Membership Committee sent out an updated Membership Directory via email in early September. If you prefer a paper copy, please contact Kathleen Valusek. We welcome our newest Lady of Charity, Lisa Nimmer. Currently we have 113 members. We are always looking for more compassionate women to join our ranks!



DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

We have been blessed with clothing from the socks and underwear drive from Our Lady of Lourdes, from UWM dorm students' drive, from the Lumen Christi Knights of Columbus winter jacket donation, and from Bombas (another 5,000 pair)! Praise the Lord.

PARISH OUTREACH

In 2025 we look forward to some new directions in parish outreach. Our goal is to raise awareness about Ladies of Charity in Archdiocese Milwaukee churches and encourage different levels of engagement---from intentional prayer to joining and volunteering. Letters will go out and we hope to meet with some pastors and share information at some churches. Later in the year we hope to have established some LOC Parish Partners.

These parishes will commit to supporting our Clothing Center one month each year by gathering clothing items from a needs list we provide them that month. More on these initiatives in the next issue. If you'd be willing to take part in some outreach activities at your parish --please contact Jude Schubert 414-617-5833 schubert77@outlook.com

PRAYER INITIATIVE

We continue our monthly Mass and optional gathering afterward, generally on the first Friday of the month. Upcoming dates include Friday, December 6th at 8:30 am at Lumen Christi and Friday, January 3rd at 8:30 at Lumen Christi. Please join us.

ANNUAL FUND

All members and non-members are invited to contribute to this year's Annual Fund. Purchasing clothing including socks, underwear, gloves, and items in short supply, such as jeans and sweatpants, is our greatest expense. We also must pay for rent, insurance, and supplies, and this year for unexpected expenses related to our move.

Every dollar we receive makes a difference. We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to Ladies of Charity. Donations can be mailed to Ladies of Charity, P.O. Box 472, Thiensville, WI 53092 or made on our secure website, www.locmilwaukee.org.

MISSION OUTREACH

CAPUCHIN WALK FOR THE HUNGRY

Our LOC team of 29 walkers helped to raise this year's sum of \$61,000 that will help over 100,000 people who benefit from the Capuchin programs in Milwaukee. Hope to see you next June!



LAUNDRY LOVE

Our customers are surprised and grateful to receive the gift of free laundry services and appreciative of the snacks and treats we provide. See the photo of our pastry chef extraordinaire! Please join us at Our Laundry on Humboldt and Capitol on the third Monday morning of the month from 8:00-10:30 AM. Jan Zoltan has requested donation of laundry soap pods and dryer sheets at the Christmas luncheon.

– Jan Zoltan, janetzoltan@me.com



TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Rising Stars Tutors are focusing on St. Agnes in Butler and Blessed Savior on Milwaukee's northwest side for this year. Messmer prep's transition to Seton Schools has put tutoring there on temporary hold. Please contact Laura, the coordinator, at RisingStars@ssndcp.org if you are interested in tutoring. Let her know your days, times, and grade preferences, and she will get you in front of the students ASAP!

ST.VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

Ladies of Charity was one of the organizations chosen to make a presentation at the fall resource fair for Milwaukee-wide parish volunteers. Marlene Kollmeyer and Paulette Pecard showcased a typical wardrobe bundle and were delighted with the interest and response to their presentation. Within only a short time, a staff member brought a family for clothing.

CATHOLIC HERALD

The October 17th issue of the *Catholic Herald* included a full-page feature about the Milwaukee Ladies of Charity. The main goal was to increase awareness of our mission, with the hope of serving more families and drawing in future members and donor dollars.

THE CLOTHING CENTER

After a labor-intensive few months, the Clothing Center has successfully opened for business. Special heartfelt Thank You to all the members who searched for a new site and met almost weekly over the summer, systematically packed everything up and then painstakingly unpacked and set up at our new location. So many members shared their time and talents.

We are enjoying and adjusting to our new set up. The room configuration is different. There are two rooms for customers and an upstairs storage/sorting room. We could really use some additional help. I know it's busy time for all. Please consider volunteering. If you are hesitant to drive to our new location, we have members who are happy to drive you. Parking is available in the front of our building. The city has lifted parking restrictions for us during our operating hours. We have permits you can put on your dash.

Since opening in September, our customers are finding our new location. We have served close to 400 students as of the beginning of November.

We have once again received a socks and underwear donation from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. They hold a drive for us every summer. For a second year UWM held a clothing drive for us as students were moving out of the dorms. The Knights of Columbus at Lumen Christi purchased winter jackets for us and as in the past we were able to order jackets through their national clearing house.

We are looking forward to the many wonderful gifts from the local parish Christmas Giving Trees.

We are always looking for clothing donations. Remind your family, neighbors and friends to keep us in mind as they clean out closets or go shopping.

Thank you to all who have supported our mission to serve the poor. Our families are grateful. They are often so amazed at the quality and quantity of the clothing they receive.

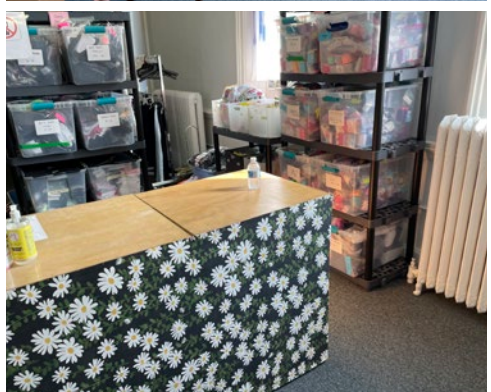
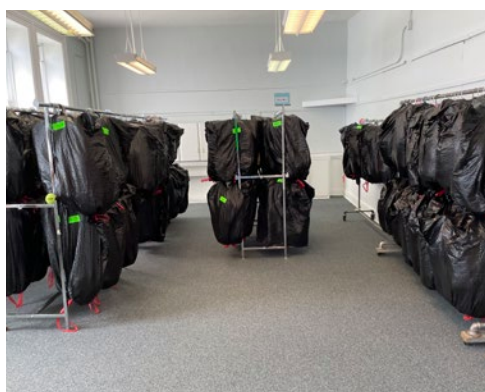
God Bless You.

– Gail Proite Adams

– Francie Shea



A Busy SUMMER



EVENTS

OPENING MASS AND BREAKFAST

It was a fine fall morning as 35 women gathered for the Ladies of Charity annual Opening Mass and Breakfast on September 21st at Holy Family. Father Enrique Hernandez, pastor of both Holy Family and St. Robert's, was the celebrant, who surprised us by sharing his long acquaintance with the Ladies of Charity. In his homily, he spoke warmly of receiving clothing as a child from the Ladies of Charity in his native Columbia. At the conclusion of Mass, he led participants in reciting our Act of Consecration. Larry's Market provided a delicious

brunch and we were treated to a slide presentation detailing the story of the many homes of the Clothing Center over the years. Thanks Cathy Onopa! Members shared their part in the saga of the why, where, and how we landed at our new home at Our Lady of Guadalupe on South 4th Street. Many thanks to the planning committee for this event: Marlene Kollmeyer, Judy Moran, Paulette Pecard, Mary Roets, Susan Westlake, and Claire Wycklendt.

HISTORICAL CORNER

Highlights of the Ladies of Charity from the 1970s

A look back in time offers us some interesting perspectives and insights. Can you imagine our organization being known by a name other than the Ladies of Charity? The appropriateness of keeping "Ladies" in our name was raised by German members. Another hot topic centered around women's rights as the United Nations designated 1975 as International Women's Year to raise awareness of the ongoing issues of gender discrimination and support for the development of women. An issue closer to home was the challenge of attracting younger women to become members, given the increasing number of

women working outside the home, a challenge we continue to face. The 1970s saw the Milwaukee Ladies of Charity contributing \$2,000 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Home Ownership Assistance Program to help families make a down payment and in 1977, the 20th Anniversary was celebrated with a celebratory luncheon at Cardinal Stritch College. The event was attended by 160 people, along with honored guest Archbishop William E. Cousins. Thanks to our Historical Committee (Cathy Onopa, Ali Faber, and Adele Eklund) and Jane Beyer for this content.



SAVE THE DATE

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Please join us for our annual Christmas Luncheon to be held December 7th at the Wisconsin Country Club, where the program will feature the Angelaire's chorus from DSHA. You are asked to bring warm winter gloves for the Clothing Center and/or laundry detergent pods and dryer sheets for Laundry Love.

REFLECTIONS FROM LCUSA ASSEMBLY 2024

MARY ROETS

1. I met an amazing group of women who represented a variety of cities across the USA who came to share their projects that help the less fortunate in their communities.
2. Small Ladies of Charity groups of 5 to large groups of 200, all have made a difference in their communities through their acts of kindness.
3. The International group (AIC) is involved in water purification projects and in improving the educational opportunities for females in third world countries. I was amazed at the influence the AIC has around the world.
4. I was amazed at the focus on Prayer in our Ladies of Charity groups. We began and ended the Assembly with a Mass and you could feel the power of this group as we sang and prayed together. A strong force of Good in the world.
5. The emphasis on St. Vincent de Paul's motto that one small act of kindness can change one person and then it can spread to others.
6. All the groups are dealing with recruitment issues, especially with younger women. Being flexible is a key to maintaining current members and recruiting new members.
7. Finally, I came away so renewed and so proud to be a Lady of Charity.

FROM OUR ACT OF CONSECRATION

Lord Jesus we recall your words: "I was sick and you visited me, hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink; I was naked and you clothed me, poor and you comforted me". As a response to your invitation, we come today to reconsecrate ourselves to you in the service of those who are victims of poverty in many forms as members of the Ladies of Charity, USA....O Lord Jesus, enlighten us, your servants, so that we may know you, the true light of the world, and love you in perfect charity as did our models, Vincent and Louise.

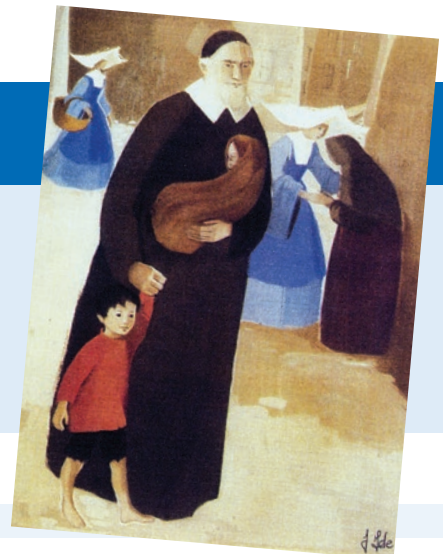


In Memoriam

Please remember in your prayers deceased Ladies of Charity

Mary Ellen Kolanko who died September 4, 2024

Maripat Shaw who died September 16, 2024.



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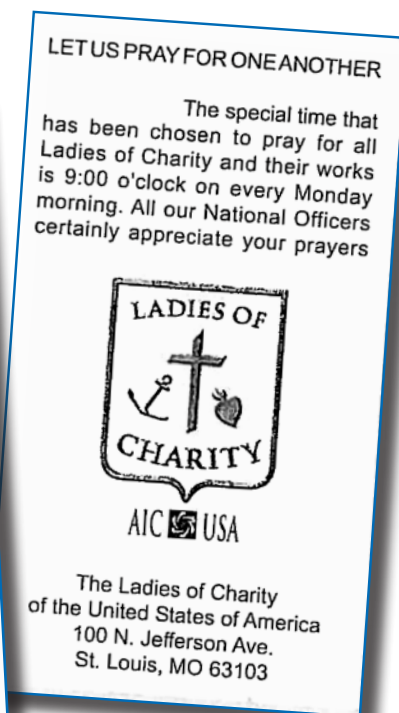
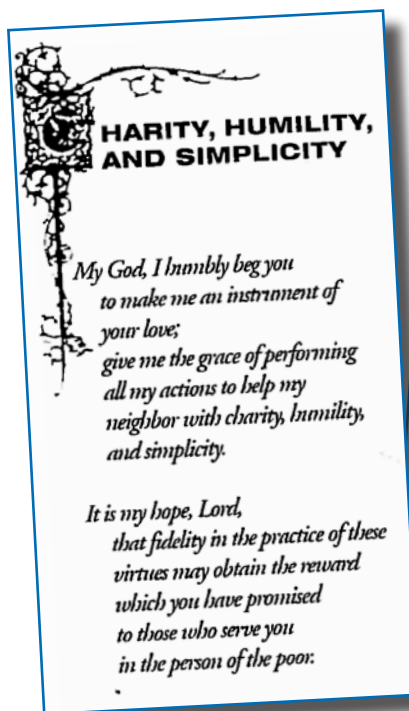
CATHY LISKA REFLECTION

Vincentian Tidbits

The following comments are drawn from the writings of the Spanish priest Father Jaime Corera Andia, who contributed significantly to the study of St. Vincent de Paul. Commentary highlights include:

- St. Vincent's spirituality is marked by his vision of community service to those commonly thought of as marginalized (victims of war and persecution, immigrants and refugees, the sick, mentally ill, abandoned children, among others).
- His vision broke with prominent traditional clerical hierarchies, becoming a more missionary and outward-facing Church.
- Most of his institutions were secular, implying a break from the alliance between the throne and the altar. His view encompassed the Church not as the church of kings and wealthy people but the
- Church of the poor.
- St Vincent was motivated and directed by a radical purpose "to respond to the designs of God and to imitate the earthly life of Jesus Christ"

The Vincentian family will gather in Rome from November 14-17. Aren't you proud and thankful to share in the tradition St. Vincent left us!



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

Thank you to Shorewood Press for their friendly service & expertise. Printed copies of Charity Chat are available for purchase at Shorewood Press 1700 E. Capitol Drive Shorewood, WI 53211