

CHARITY CHAT



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

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

January 2018

Important Dates

January 15:
**2018 Membership
Renewal** due

January 23, 6:30pm:
LOC Meeting
at 4485 N.Woodburn

January: Charity Chat

March 14, 5:30pm:
Evening of Reflection
with Fr. Tim Kitzke,
Milwaukee Catholic
Home

April 24, 6:30pm:
LOC Meeting
at 4485 N.Woodburn

May 22, 6:30pm:
**New Member
Installation**

July: Charity Chat

July 24, 6:30pm:
LOC Meeting
at 4485 N.Woodburn

September 15:
Tentative date of
**September Opening
Breakfast**

September 21-22:
**LCUSA National
Assembly**
in Pittsburgh, PA

October 23, 6:30pm:
LOC Meeting
at 4485 N.Woodburn

December 1:
Tentative date of
Christmas Event

The President's Message

Happy New Year!

Throughout 2017, the Ladies of Charity marked milestones and welcomed new initiatives.



We celebrated our 60th anniversary as a chapter with a wonderful Mass, program and brunch. We successfully met the challenge of Milwaukee Public Schools' transition to system wide uniforms. We inserted a "Prayer for My Family" bookmark into each new dictionary we give our families. At the request of the Vicar of Urban Affairs and his staff, we agreed to assist with Laundry Love, a new archdiocesan initiative meeting the basic needs of the poor. We partnered with Rising Stars, a tutoring program sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, to make one-on-one academic impacts on Milwaukee school children. We received our organization's first donation of stock, an anonymous donation of over \$10,000. We welcomed many new members, including one to manage our website. In addition, many existing Ladies of Charity took on new responsibilities. In 2018, we will continue "to serve rather than be served with humility, simplicity and charity". We are grateful for all that the members of the Ladies of Charity do for our Milwaukee community!

– Claire Wycklendt

New LOC Website!

The Milwaukee Ladies of Charity has a new website! The site features new graphics and streamlined navigation. In addition, anyone can donate to our organization via safe and secure PayPal. Plan to check it out. The website address is the same: locmilwaukee.com

Thank you to LOC member, Melissa Hicks, founder and owner of Mosaic Marketing, who donated her design services for the site. And a thank you to Mary Domer's son-in-law, Andy, who created our original website and has been managing it from St. Louis for a number of years. Also, thank you to Mary for all her help in this endeavor.

Memorial Cards

In 1982 the Ladies of Charity initiated the practice of using Memorial Cards to honor living or deceased members and their families and friends. The names of those honored are recorded in the Memorial Book, providing us an avenue to pray for them and also a means to generate funds. The Memorial Book is placed on the altar during Mass at our events so that we may pray for those enrolled.

The cards are available, free of charge, to use to memorialize members and friends. The card should be sent to the person or family to show that a donation has been made. The donation should be forwarded to our treasurer in the envelope provided.

Please feel free to request Memorial Cards from Jane as needed.

– Jane Schieffer

UPDATES



Books for Kids

When our Ladies of Charity store moved into our current location at 4th and Brown, we used a floor to ceiling bookcase to display all of our donated shoes. Then we began to think about how we could use this case for donated books. Jill Ecklund, our current treasurer, drove to Minneapolis to find free books. Many of us went through our bookcases to find more books. Our added mission began: **Give each child a book to have at home.**

Having been a reading teacher, I registered us with Scholastic Books as a non-profit. We are now part of the FACE (Family and Community Engagement Resources) program which provides books at a reduced rate.

In order to help children learn to love words and enjoy

their various meanings, our first purchase was \$100 worth of dictionaries plus books that only cost \$1.00 each. The children we serve come from many ethnicities. With that in mind, African-American literature at all grade levels and Spanish to English books were added to our orders. A variety of reading levels from books about Flat Stanley for beginning readers to mysteries for older readers were purchased.

Every child who receives clothing from our store gets to choose a book that interests him or her. The books are flying off the shelves. Donations of gently used books or money to purchase Scholastic books are always welcome to keep our bookshelves full.

– Mary Domer

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee had several prospective members who attended our Christmas Breakfast. Our plan is to continue communicating with them via email regarding our upcoming Lenten event. This Evening of Reflection on March 14, is being coordinated by Anne Rice with assistance from Joyce Grundle, Mary Johnson and Claire Wycklendt. We hope this event will continue to inspire our prospective members to join.

The good news is that Tracy Hobbs is the new co-chair of this committee and Mary has agreed to stay on for another year. Please continue to submit names of potential new members to Mary or Tracy and we will be sure to contact them. It is important to spread the word about our organization.

– Annette O'Brien and Mary Roets

Grant Update

Grant money from generous community organizations is important to the ongoing vitality of our LOC chapter. This fall we submitted two grant applications. For the 4th year in a row we're asking the Elm Grove Junior Guild for monies to support the purchase of new socks and underwear. Over the past three years, this group of young women has generously given us amounts ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,000. Finalists will be selected in early January and organizations being considered for support will be asked to make a presentation at their general meeting on Tuesday, February 6th.

LOC member, Pat Matusiak, initiated a request to submit a grant application to the Woman's Club of Wisconsin

Foundation. A site visit by a representative from their Grant Allocation Committee was recently made. If selected for a grant, we will be notified in mid-February.

In 2018 we will be eligible to submit a Hager Grant proposal to LCUSA. Because we received a grant in 2014, this will be our next opportunity to make another request. Grants of up to \$1,000 are awarded for "local projects that aim to alleviate poverty through service, education, and advocacy". The grant application is due by March 1st.

If any member knows of other grant opportunities, please notify Claire Wycklendt.

– Mary Johnson

2017 LOC Annual Fund Drive Report

Drum roll please!!

Eighty donor cards have been received
with donations totaling
\$12,455.

– Cathy Liska

Amazon Smile

The total amount collected from your purchases on Amazon Smile for all of 2017 is \$52.59. This represents \$10,518 in purchases through Amazon (0.5%). Every little bit counts.

– Jill Ecklund

LOC Clothing Center Update

From September to the end of 2017, the Clothing Center had served approximately 700 children. We are grateful to our members for their generous donations of time, talent and treasure, especially brand new winter jackets. A big thank you to those who brought warm gloves and other items to our Christmas gathering at St. Eugene's.

We are humbled by the benevolence of those in our community:

- The Knights of Columbus donated 8 cartons of new winter jackets.
- Our Lady of Lourdes donated new underwear.
- The Elm Grove Junior Women's Club donated new socks and underwear.
- St. Bernadette's donated clothing.
- St. Monica, Holy Family, St. Robert and Our Lady of Good Hope donated new clothing, socks, underwear, coats, hats and mittens from their Advent and Giving Tree collections. Incredibly generous!
- Anna Lautmann and other Kohl's employees donated time, which translated into money for us.
- Barb Dineen has been extraordinarily generous.
- Many donated books to our "library".

We appreciate the many volunteers who work behind the scenes collecting, washing, sorting and hanging clothing to make our wonderful Clothing Center thrive.

Thank you for all of your generosity.

– Sharon Pircon

Rising Stars

Our tutoring program is off to a good start as we team with the Schools Sisters of Notre Dame and become part of Rising Stars. They have provided wonderful guidance in our work to help at-risk students strengthen their reading and math skills. Several schools are in need of tutors. If interested, please contact the Rising Stars Office at 262-787-1018. Sister Sharon or Sister Sylvia will be happy to explain the program and help you decide what would work best for you. LOC members who are already involved would also be happy to share their experiences. Please consider this worthwhile volunteer activity.

– Joyce Grundle

Laundry Love

If you ever thought, "What can I do to make someone who is struggling financially have a better day?," here is one idea. "You can help me launder my clothes so that I look and feel good to the world."

When Pat O'Brien heard this story, she collaborated with three friends from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Urban Ministry to start a program called "Laundry Love." Pat and Jo Burgoyne visited laundromats in Milwaukee's financially challenged neighborhoods to find a willing business partner. They found Your Laundry laundromat on East Capitol Drive in Milwaukee and met owners Doug and Sally Klinger and their right hand assistant, Alberta. The Klingers were immediately on board with the concept. Doug and Sally offered to donate their laundromat washers and dryers on the third Monday of every month from 8:30 to 11:00 am to Laundry Love.

The Laundry Love Project was blessed by Father Tim in its inception. Father Kevin of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee and "Collars on the Corner" comes every month to visit the patrons and collect the prayer requests they leave for him. Pat and Jo, assisted by Patti McKeithan and Anne Haines from the Archdiocese, visit with the patrons and pay the laundry fees. Ladies of Charity volunteers provide cookies, enthusiasm and detergent. The welcoming and respectful attitudes of all create a warm family atmosphere.

Laundry Love service is expanding because of advertising in print and by word of mouth. One day each month, Your Laundry turns into a "Laundry of Love" offering a helping hand to struggling families ... one load at a time.

Please consider volunteering for this new initiative.

– Janet Zoltan





Diamond Jubilee Celebration Opening Brunch

On September 23, 2017, the Ladies of Charity of Milwaukee gathered together to celebrate their Diamond Jubilee at the Milwaukee Catholic Home. Fifty members and their guests attended Mass celebrated by Bishop James Schuerman and reaffirmed their commitment to the work of the Ladies of Charity. A reception in the solarium and brunch in the Astor Room followed the Mass.

The Jubilee program opened with a special tribute to Evie Beyer and Jane Schieffer, who were named as the Diamond Jubilee Ladies of Charity in recognition of their remarkable service and accomplishments over many years.

A delightful video created by Cathy Onopa and her family featured highlights from the past sixty years. Family ties among more than thirty-five members were recognized. Cathy Liska shared several inspirational prayers. "The Two Marys" (Mary Johnson and Mary Domer both past presidents) presented a fanciful skit that drew on their many Ladies of Charity memories.

A special commemorative booklet was distributed. President Claire Wycklendt thanked all for coming. She acknowledged the contribution of more than \$800 from the membership. It was a very special occasion, indeed!

– Susan Westlake

Note: This memorable event was chaired by Susan Westlake with the help of her committee of Mary Roets and Paulette Pecard.



Evie Beyer & Susan Westlake



Evie Beyer (2nd from left), Jane Beyer (far right) & family members



*Mary Johnson & Mary Domer
Past Presidents and friends in 1959 - who knew?*



*From left to right; Mary Domer, Evie Beyer,
Mary Johnson & Jane Beyer*

A Call is Answered

In 2016, LCUSA began a Vincentian Spiritual Moderator's training for lay women. About that same time our Spiritual Moderator, Sr. Claire Debes, DOC, was transferred from her post in Chicago to Washington D.C. so she was no longer able to serve our chapter in this role. Fortunately, when Mary Domer approached Cathy Liska about taking the lay training, Cathy answered "yes".

In addition to being mentored for a year as our spiritual moderator by Sister Claire, Cathy was one of nine women who completed the formation session after the 2016 assembly in Queens, NY. Cathy was formally commissioned as a Lay Spiritual Moderator at the 2017 National Assembly in Kansas City. Our Milwaukee LOC Chapter is very proud of her. Kudos to her for answering Saint Vincent's "invitation to serve".

– Mary Johnson



Cathy Liska

LOC Attendees to National Assembly

Cathy Liska, Mary Johnson, Adele Eklund & Mary Domer



Cathy Liska, Mary Domer, Sister Claire Debes, Mary Johnson & Adele Eklund

LOC Christmas Breakfast 2017

On Saturday, December 2, 65 LOC members and guests 'Counted their Blessings' and were treated to a fun and informative presentation by author and professional speaker, Joan Armbruster. Joan and her accompanist recounted the life and music of famed composer, Irving Berlin, through stories and interactive songs. The breakfast

served at St. Eugene's included a delicious assortment of fruit, bagels, muffins and beverages. Good food, fellowship and Christmas songs created a wonderful way to start off the holiday season!

– Terry Klug

In Memoriam 2017

We remember these members who passed away: Marguerite Hanus, Rosie Haslee, Joyce Wawrzyn

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of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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Cathy Liska Reflection

Vincentian tidbits #3

St. Catherine Laboure, D.C.

A less often recognized member of the Vincentian family is Catherine Laboure (1806-1876), a French religious sister who was a member of the nursing order of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul and a Marian visionary.

Born in the Burgundy region of France, she was the ninth of eleven living children in the Laboure household. At the age of nine as she returned from her mother's funeral, Catherine is said to have picked up a statue of the Blessed Virgin, kissed it, said, "Now you will be my mother."

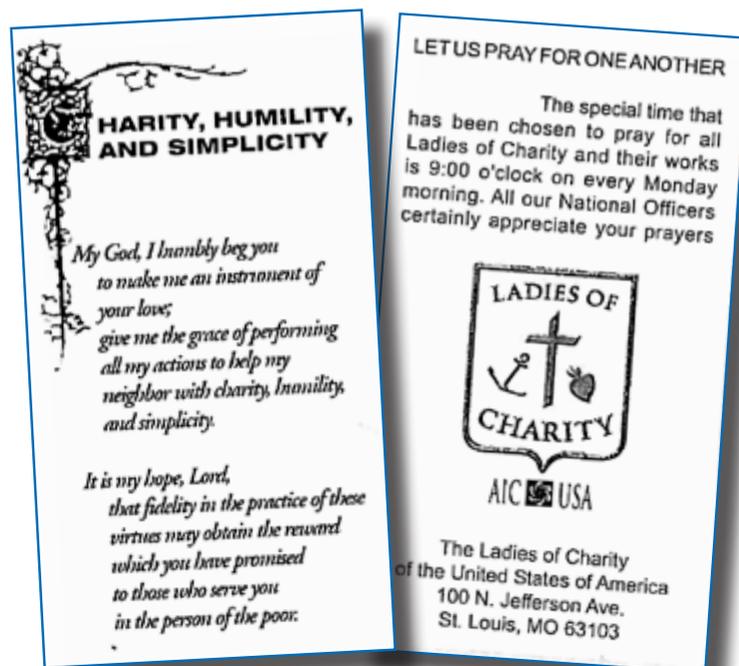
In an 1830 apparition Catherine reported the Blessed Mother displayed herself inside an oval frame, standing on a globe, rays of light emanating from her hands. The margins of the frame showed the words "O Mary, conceived without original sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Catherine was then instructed to take the image to her confessor and tell him this image of Mary was to be put on medallions and that "all who wear them will receive great graces." Several years later at her confessor's request,

the design was approved and a French goldsmith was commissioned to produce the medals. Though the dogma of the Immaculate Conception had not been officially promulgated, the medal with its "conceived without sin" inscription garnered popular approval. (As an aside, Pope John Paul II used a slight variation of the reverse image as his pontifical coat of arms).

Catherine spent forty years caring for the aged and infirm and is considered the patroness of seniors. Cause for sainthood was declared upon the discovery of her incorrupt body which can be found in a glass coffin in the Chapelle Notre Dame de la Médaille Miraculeuse near Louise de Marillac, another founding member of the Vincentian family. Catherine was beatified in 1933 (Pius XI) and canonized in 1947 (Pius XII), with her feast day celebrated on November 28.

– Cathy Liska



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