

CHARITY CHAT

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

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

January 2019

Important Dates

January
2019 Membership Renewal
Charity Chat

February 5, 6:30 PM
LOC Meeting
at Paulette's Home
3716 W Le Mont Blvd, Mequon
All members welcome

March 20
Evening of Reflection
with Fr. Tim Kitzke
Milwaukee Catholic Home

April 23, 6:30 PM
LOC Meeting
at Cathy's Home
1109 Waterstone Dr, Grafton
All members welcome

May 21 (Date Tentative)
New Member Installation

June 14
Capuchin's Run-Walk for the Hungry at Polish Fest

July 23, 6:30 PM
LOC Meeting
at Paulette's Home
3716 W Le Mont Blvd, Mequon
All members welcome

September 13-14
LCUSA Assembly
in Salt Lake City, Utah

September (Date TBD)
Opening Breakfast

October 22, 6:30 PM
LOC Meeting
at Cathy's Home
1109 Waterstone Dr, Grafton
All members welcome

December (Date TBD)
Christmas Event

Message from Outgoing President

The Ladies of Charity provide clothing to the school children of Milwaukee because of generosity, unselfishness, and joyfulness. It's a pleasure to be part of an organization that pays no salaries but accomplishes so much!

As President for the last two years, I learned:

- Ask and it will get done.
- Ladies of Charity have many good opinions yet sometimes they just happen to differ.
- Joy pervades what the Ladies of Charity do. Members and clients tend to be joyful when expectations are met. If dissatisfied, adjust the expectation.
- Friendships grow from common goals; I look forward to years of friendships.

Thanks for all you do!

Love, Claire

Message from Incoming Presidents: Cathy Onopa and Paulette Pecard

We hope everyone had a wonderful, blessed Christmas and that the New Year brings good health and much happiness!

We are excited about our new roles working with Ladies of Charity. We have a history of service with Ladies of Charity. Cathy belongs to St. Joseph's Parish in Grafton and has been a long-time member of LOC. Cathy's mother, Jane Schieffer, also has a strong history with LOC, joining in 1985. She served as President for eight years at a time when LOC was in need of new members. Jane convinced her daughter to join and Cathy has also recruited many additional members. Cathy started working at the Clothing Center when it was located at 18th & Fond du Lac in the St. Vincent De Paul store. She has served in various roles including four years as President with Adele Eklund. In 2015, Cathy convinced her sister-in-law Paulette to join. Paulette is a member of Lumen Christi Parish in Mequon. She has worked in the Clothing Center and served on several event planning committees.

As Vice-Presidents over the last two years, we have joined two video-conference call meetings with the Regional Chapter of LOC. We are looking forward to continuing this type of communication and will keep you updated as future meetings occur in order to inform you about what other chapters are doing and news from the National LOC.

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to Claire Wycklendt for her service as President. Claire did an outstanding job in continuing to grow and strengthen the work of the Milwaukee Chapter of LOC. We look forward to working with Mary Roets and Susan Westlake as Vice-Presidents over the next two years. We also thank Jill Eklund for continued service as Treasurer, Annette O'Brien as Secretary and Cathy Liska as Lay Spiritual Moderator. We also extend our thanks to the many members who continue to serve in various roles. We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful group of ladies who do so much to make LOC the success that it is! We should all be proud of our wonderful organization that provides so much to the needy children in the City of Milwaukee.

We look forward to furthering our service to all the members of LOC! We feel that the Milwaukee chapter is strong moving forward in 2019. We will strive to continue good communication to our members and to build our membership. Thank you for your continued support!

– Cathy and Paulette

*Thank You
to
Claire Wycklendt
for her
outstanding leadership
for the past
two years!*



Paulette and Cathy

UPDATES

Membership Committee

Ladies of Charity is growing; we welcomed 13 new members this year. The new members are Penny Diamonte, MaryAnne Gross, Kathy Gunta, Melissa Hicks, Jenny Morales, Rose Morby, Katherine Murray, Lisa Pasternak, Johanna Perrini, Kathleen Phillips, Amy Rickmeier, Kathleen Valusek and Mary (Penny) Hirsch.

Anne Rice and Tracy Hobbs are the current Membership Chairs. We thank Mary Roets for her guidance in this transition, having served many years in this role.

– Anne Rice

Support from the Woman's Club of Wisconsin

In addition to last year's grant from WCW, they have been collecting jeans as well as laundry pods and dryer sheets in designated baskets at the Club. This collection continues until Valentine's Day. The last collection has been titled "Laundry of Love". LOC is most thankful for their generosity and support!

New Business Card

Barb Dineen is designing an additional Clothing Center business card appropriate for social workers and other professionals to hand out to potential Clothing Center customers. Watch for it in the next Charity Chat.

Annual Fund Drive

The 2018 Annual Fund drive was a success with 81 donors contributing \$9,752 to our organization. The money will be used to pay for the general operating costs of the Children's Clothing Center and to purchase clothing to keep the racks and shelves well-stocked. For the first time, we accepted donations online via PayPal and promoted the fundraising campaign via Facebook. These efforts helped

to attract donations from five non-LOC members, and we look forward to growing support from outside of our membership in the year ahead. The 2019 Annual Fund will kick off on July 1, 2019. If you'd like to help organize the initiative, please contact Cathy Onopa or Paulette Pecard.

– Melissa Hicks

LOC Article Notice

You will not want to miss the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service article about LOC in the September 2018 edition. The reporter interviewed some of our volunteers. You can find the article on their website by searching "Ladies of Charity".

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile's goal is to make it easy for Association of the Ladies of Charity of Milwaukee Wisconsin to increase your AmazonSmile donations. Your shopping makes a difference.

Do your regular Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/90-0620267 and Amazon donates to Association of the Ladies of Charity of Milwaukee Wisconsin.



LOC Clothing Center



Our Fall Season has been productive. As of 12/20/18, we served approximately 925 school-aged children. That's 2775 pairs of pants, 4625 tops, 6475 pairs of new socks and underwear, and 925 winter coats, hats and mittens. Considering that we opened in August and that we are open only three hours on Thursday and one Saturday per month for three hours, that's a great number of clothes given out. As you might imagine, the need for clothing donations is ongoing.

Our ministry is effective thanks to the generous support of our members and our community. We are grateful! Our volunteers purchase, collect, deliver, wash, sort and wait on customers. Our many donors include: Our Lady of Good Hope (Giving Tree), St. Monica (Giving Tree), Our Lady of Lourdes (socks and underwear), Woman's Club of Wisconsin (jeans and grant money), Elm Grove Junior Guild (multiple grants), St. Roberts, Holy Family, Knights of Columbus Mequon (winter coats), Chapman Basketball Academy, United Heartland Community Relations, co-workers, LOC members and more. We'd also like to acknowledge our newest LOC members for their active participation at the store. Many hands make light work!

Last year at this time, we served 708 students. The increase to 925 is, in large part, due to the analysis performed by Francie Shea, Susan Westlake and Paulette Pecard and the outreach efforts to MPS social workers by Sally Lautmann, Gail Proite-Adams, Cathy Liska and Francie Shea.

Finally, the question has been raised about members purchasing new clothing and subsequent reimbursement. We are establishing a protocol for this type of purchasing and will publish it in the next newsletter. We still encourage you to collect clothing from family, friends, co-workers, rummage sales, Goodwill, and SVDP.

We wish you a Blessed New Year!

– Gail Proite Adams
– Sharon Pircon

Laundry Love

It has been a full year since the Ladies of Charity began the Laundry Love collaboration with the Urban Ministry of the Archdiocese. Here are some remarkable statistics about our mission:

- 21,810 pounds of laundry were washed.
- 800 people used the service.
- With press coverage and word of mouth, the group receives individual donations averaging \$50.
- Each month, there are new customers who learn about LL from nonprofits in the city.

We meet on the third Monday of every month from 8-11:00 am at Your Laundry, 801 E. Capitol Drive. Our volunteers provide laundry soap, snacks and good cheer to the "customers". Stop by to donate laundry items or to visit and see our work in action.

You can learn more on the website, www.laundrylovenke.org or contact Claire Wyklendt.

– Jan Zoltan



Rising Stars Tutoring Program

The Rising Star program is looking for more volunteers to help tutor students in the Milwaukee area. There are a number of Ladies of Charity who are involved in this tutoring program.

I recently signed up to be a volunteer for Rising Stars at Messmer-St. Rose. It has been a wonderful experience being a reading tutor. The kids are great and the teachers are appreciative and welcoming!

If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please contact the Rising Star director, Sister Sharon Stecker, SSND. Her email is sstecker@ssndcp.org and her phone number is 262-787-1018.

– Cathy Seelman

2018 FALL OPENING MASS AND BREAKFAST

When members of the planning team (Paulette Pecard, Mary Johnson, Marlene Kollmeyer, Mary Roets, and Susan Westlake) gathered for the first time last summer, we quickly endorsed the suggestion of Claire Wycklndt to explore holding the event at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. It just made so much sense to bring members together at the heart of the mission of the Ladies of Charity, where our Clothing Center is located in an adjacent building.

Father Mike Bertram, pastor at St. Francis, welcomed the idea and we set about putting all the pieces into place. With the date of September 29th chosen, details regarding the event were discussed and Father Mike was contacted regarding use of their facilities and engagement of various members of St. Francis parish in the event. Mayra's Kitchen was chosen as a caterer. Thus, Mayra and her husband produced a delicious brunch with entrées exhibiting her native Puerto Rican heritage. Cantor Patti DeGraff and pianist Jed Wardecke also from St. Francis provided the music for the Liturgy. Their beautiful performance imparted splendid encouragement of all in attendance to participate and experience the presence of God in this liturgy.

Father Mike was our guest speaker at the breakfast. He gave a very interesting history of not only St. Francis Parish but of the entire Catholic Church in Milwaukee. He described the pattern of ethnic differentiation and subsequent influence on the formation of various parishes throughout the City. He also described the long-standing mission of St. Francis Parish in providing care for the poor, needy and ex-prisoners. It was easy to draw a comparison to the work of the Ladies of Charity and to see why partnering with this parish has been such a good fit and so successful over the years.

Members were invited to bring used or new jeans, an ever-present Clothing Center need. As usual, our members responded graciously and generously to replenish our stock at the Clothing Center.

Following breakfast, which was held in the former monestary refectory and attended by approximately 50 Ladies of Charity and their guests, members had the opportunity to visit the Clothing Center, located just across the street. It was a perfect way to end a most meaningful morning!

– Event Planning Team



2018 FALL OPENING MASS AND BREAKFAST

GREAT FOOD & CONVERSATION



2018 National Assembly

“Remember the Past, Embrace the Future” was the theme of the 38th National Ladies of Charity Assembly held in Pittsburgh, PA this past September. Pennsylvania, having the largest concentration of women belonging to the organization, attracted a total of 415 attendees from five regions across the country.

The Pittsburgh 2018 Assembly proposed five goals:

1. to provide unity and cooperation among the US associations
2. to animate the Vincentian spirit by sharing its rich history, prayer and traditions
3. to develop leadership management and governance skills to assure best practices within the association
4. to encourage activities to achieve systemic change
5. to advance the understanding of poverty as well as short & long term solutions to poverty

The Assembly highlight and keynote address, given by Dr. Marilyn Martone, PhD, was entitled, “Holistic Home Health Care, Ladies of Charity Caregiving, Inc.” Marilyn spoke at our Milwaukee Assembly in 2014 sharing the story of her daughter, a 21-year-old student at the U of Chicago, who was hit by a car and ultimately suffered severe brain damage. Marilyn’s work has resulted in the beginning of a program in Pennsylvania to license caregivers. LOC volunteers will be involved in the process.

The Assembly for 2019 will be in Salt Lake City, UT and the Assembly for 2020 will be in Knoxville, TN.

– Cathy Liska

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

We welcomed over 70 women to Dominican High School for our Christmas Breakfast on December 1. A continental breakfast was served on tables with lovely Christmas decorations. We enjoyed Christmas Carols sung by Dominican senior, Maddy Ballard, and accompanied by Dr. Gino on the piano. We collected about eight large black bags of warm jackets, hats and mittens. Special thanks to all who donated clothing items and to Dominican for the use of their Board Room for this event.

– Anne Rice



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Cathy Liska Reflection

This month's reflection comes from Suzanne Johnson, an attorney residing in Arcadia, California, and immediate past president of the National Ladies of Charity, USA. Her written thoughts were included in our folders at the National Convention in Pittsburgh, in September, 2018. Here is a portion.



Throughout its history, the Catholic Church has been plagued by scandals which have in turn forced the Church to reform. I believe the Holy Spirit is always with us and will guide us through this scandal.

But let us not forget, even as we are shocked and dismayed by the actions of a few, the one truth in the Church remains constant, that Jesus Christ suffered and died for our sins and rose from the dead to bring us new life. We welcome this same Jesus into our hearts every time we attend Mass and receive the Eucharist!

As we journey through these difficult times, let us always remember our mission of serving God's poor with simplicity, humility, and love. We continue that mission as witnesses to God's love. Let us pray for the healing of victims and forgiveness for the predators.

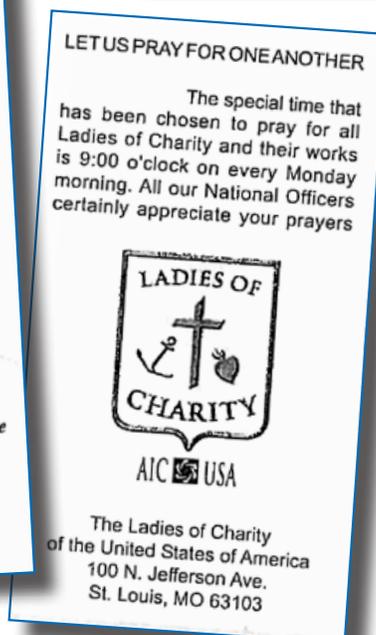
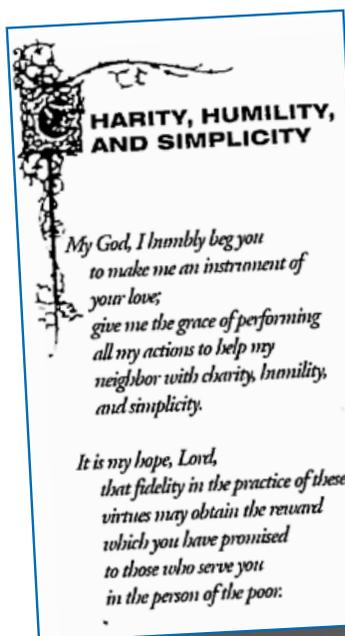
In the words of St. Vincent de Paul:

"We must never be surprised when those upon whom we rely fail us; it is then that God steps in to do His work."

– Cathy Liska

In Remembrance

Please remember in your prayers,
Evie Beyer, a most special Lady of
Charity, who passed away in 2018.



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