

CHARITY CHAT

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

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

April 2020

Important Dates

April 21, 2020

(CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS)

LOC Board Meeting

Cathy Onopa's House
1109 Waterstone Drive
Grafton, WI
General Membership Welcome

May 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM

(TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS)

LOC New Member Installation

Holy Family Parish Chapel
4285 N. Wildwood Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI

June 12, 2020

Program at 6:00 PM

Walk at 7:00 PM

Capuchin Walk for the Hungry

Henry Maier Festival Park
200 N. Harbor Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53202

July 21, 2020 at 6:30 PM

LOC Board Meeting

Paulette Pecard's Home
3716 W. LeMont Blvd
Mequon, WI

General Membership Welcome

August 28 and 29, 2020

LCUSA National Assembly

Crowne Plaza Knoxville
Knoxville, TN

September, 2020

(Details Pending)

Fall Opening Breakfast

October 20, 2020

at 6:30 PM

LOC Board Meeting

Cathy Onopa's Home
1109 Waterstone Drive
Grafton, WI
General Membership Welcome

December, 2020

(Details Pending)

Christmas Gathering

Presidents' Message

The world has certainly changed since our last Charity Chat. We have had a very busy year at the Clothing Center, we continue helping Laundry Love and we have welcomed new members. At this most difficult time, we offer our prayers and blessings to all of our members and their families and friends in the hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. We'd like to share a prayer from Pope Francis:



Paulette and Cathy

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

(Adapted from Vatican News.)

We look forward to the time when we can all meet together again.

– Paulette Pecard and Cathy Onopa

Cathy Liska Reflection

In the 1600's, a young parish priest, perfectly content to earn a kindly wage to support his family in a small French village came to the aid of a poor, sick, needy family in desperate circumstances. Since that time Vincentian organizations throughout the world have continued the work of caring for the poor.

Consider the efforts of Blessed Frederic Ozanam (1813-1855) and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) several centuries later.

In the 1830's a young French law student at the Sorbonne was pressed by fellow discussion club members to share exactly what he was doing for the social justice challenges of his time...not simply in rhetoric but actively. "Let us be frank; let us be particular", he was cajoled. "What do you do besides talk to prove the Catholic faith you claim is in you?"

Similarly, a wealthy East coast socialite widow was pondering what could be done to help poor American families with young children to better their plight.

Both individuals dedicated their lives to the tasks of "stepping up to the plate", working tirelessly for others.

Frederic Ozanam began his "career" by visiting Paris tenements, offering assistance to families in need. He cofounded the "Conference of Charity" in 1833, and for the next 20 years, dedicated his work to serving these concrete needs of the poor. Placed under the patronage of St. Vincent, this organization was subsequently renamed the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, eventually leading to 25 conferences in Paris alone.



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UPDATES

Membership Committee

Please welcome and embrace our newest Ladies of Charity members who are to be installed in May:

Maureen Nichols, Susie Scholtz, Mary Raspanti, Duffy Onopa, Laura Butzer, and Peggy Young

As of today, we are scheduled to hold our annual New Member Installation Prayer Service on Tuesday May 19 at Holy Family Chapel. Please join us to prayerfully welcome our newest members at 6:30 with hospitality after.

Lastly, Anne Rice and Tracy Hobbs would love to welcome any Ladies of Charity members who might like to join the committee in recruiting for this most meaningful mission! We look forward to working through the process of creating a new Ladies of Charity Membership Directory this year so that if you are interested in joining our team please contact one of us!

Thank you,

– Tracy Hobbs • tdhobbs4@gmail.com • 414-861-0370

– Anne Rice • abrace1005@gmail.com • 414-737-2498

Annual Fund Appeal

Our Annual Fund Appeal this year will begin June 1, 2020. We plan to send out requests via email (or US Postal Service for those not having email) again this year and members will have the option of electronic response and payment. Using

this method was very successful with our membership renewal and we hope to utilize this electronic technology whenever possible going forward! Any members who are more comfortable with mailing in responses are welcome to do so!

Social Media & Technology

We invite any of our members who use Facebook to visit the Ladies of Charity page and friend us if you haven't already! This is an excellent way for us to reach more people and spread the word about our great work. We hope to publish more information on our page in the upcoming months.

We continue to make strides in increasing our use of electronic communication. The 2020 Membership Renewal form offered an option for electronic completion and payment of dues this year. Thank you, Katie Kasper, for designing the new form! Use of this technology allows for easier completion of forms and payment. As always, we do continue to be sensitive

to our members who do not use email or do not wish to use electronic communication and always offer hard copy options.

Our effort to get our documentation saved in Dropbox continues. This is a cloud storage service allowing us to copy files and photographs that can be shared rather than being saved to an individual's computer. We are maintaining our membership and donation information as well as photographs. This feature is available for leadership to access and update. If you have photographs of events or activities, please email them to ppecard1@wi.rr.com and we will add them to Dropbox!

Volunteers Needed

The Ladies of Charity are in need of members to help and volunteer for the following:

- Co-Vice President for term beginning 1/1/2021. We have one volunteer but need a partner!
- Grant and Donor Relations – this is a new team we would like to form to solicit grants and donations, track donations, issue acknowledgements and handle the annual fund. We'd also like to provide more acknowledgement of our donors. If you have experience in fundraising or would just find this interesting, please join this group.
- Historian – this position would assist in keeping all of our past records, potentially moving some of them onto electronic media and ensuring current records are maintained.
- Photographer – looking for another individual to assist with taking photographs at our events and activities. We already have one member handling this but she would like a partner and back-up.
- Membership – we are looking for help to join our Membership team to conduct January membership renewal, design or update renewal forms, email/mail/post renewals, record responses, send a follow-up for nonresponsive members, recruit new members and oversee their installation event and develop, update and disburse the Membership Directory annually.
- Social Media – additional members needed to update and maintain the Ladies of Charity website and the Facebook page. If you love technology and have a creative nature, we need you!

To volunteer, please email either

Paulette Pecard (ppecard1@wi.rr.com or #414-531-3252) or Cathy Onopa at (conopa@icloud.com or #414-507-0261)

LOC Clothing Center

We'd like to dedicate this newsletter to our volunteers. Vincentian spirituality asks us to respond to the needs of the poor by personal service, seeking no recognition. We are blessed to have a dedicated group of women who practice this gift of time and self in service of others. These women come to the clothing center regularly. They keep the store stocked and organized. They serve our customers with kindness and compassion. Without this dedication our mission could not succeed. We are grateful for each one of you. Thank you!

Before we closed in March due to the Coronavirus, we served just under 1200 children since opening day last August. We are now closed for the season. In the off-season, we hope to shore-up our racks and convert some of them to double-hanging racks to give us more space. We re-arranged the back room to allow for three stations: one for initial sorting, two for sizing and three for packaging socks and underwear. We hope to convert our bulletin board to an information center for clients listing local resources available to them.

Please stay healthy and safe during the next few months. Enjoy your summer and we look forward to reuniting in August.

With much gratitude,

- Gail Proite Adams
- Sharon Pircon

Rising Stars Tutoring Program MILWAUKEE STUDENTS NEED YOU!

Before returning as a tutor at Messmer St. Mary's last fall, I met with Messmer staff member Kelly Meyer who coordinates services for students who would benefit from additional help. I was concerned because students that I tutor are often missing class time to spend a half hour with me. Ms. Meyer assured me that the students selected for tutoring are lost in a classroom with twenty or more other students. She emphasized that the "one on one" time, or "one on two" time, is far more beneficial to students than time spent in their classes. In addition to acknowledging the academic benefits of tutoring, she paraphrased one of the tenets of Rising Stars Tutoring, "We can by our very presence as an interested adult be a support to a student who is struggling to succeed."

Rising Stars welcomes many more tutors in all the schools they serve. And no doubt there will be lots of catching up to do in classrooms next fall. Please consider giving tutoring a try.

For information on how you can become involved, please contact:

Laura Harvancik, Rising Stars Director
262-787-1018 • Risingstars@ssndcp.org

- Claire Wycklendt

Laundry Love

LaundryLoveMKE, is a ministry of UrbanInitiativeMKE under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

We held our first session on September 18, 2017 at Your Laundry, 801 East Capitol Drive, owned and space donated by Doug and Sally Klingler. Just last year alone, our Ladies of Charity ministry helped wash and dry 39,310 pounds of clothes, or just under 20 tons of laundry for the customers. These customers consist of families, singles, couples, elderly and young individuals from multiple Milwaukee zip codes. In total, we have contributed over 500 volunteer hours to LaundryLove. Some of these hours are hands on while others are baking or buying treats and laundry products to bring to the Laundry.

If you want to donate laundry supplies, most patrons prefer common brand names for cleaning such as Tide. All, Seventh Generation and Bounce fragrance free dryer sheets. Any donations of those products or baked items (individual items such as sliced brownies, cupcakes, cookies, sliced breakfast bread) or fruit (some patrons are diabetic) can be dropped off at Your Laundry from 8:00AM to 10:00AM on the third Monday of every month. Come inside and one of us will meet you and give you a tour. If that time is inconvenient, you can drop donations off at Jan Zoltan's home: 1081 E. Circle Dr. Whitefish Bay.

LaundryLove depends entirely on these private donations. If you prefer to donate money, the UrbanInitiative would be grateful. A donation of \$50 buys a month's worth of laundry supplies; \$100 purchases 25 laundry bags; a donation of \$500 pays for all the laundry washed and dried in one month's session. You can make your check payable to: "LaundryLoveMKE" and send to:

Anne Haines
St. John's Cathedral
831 N. Van Buren
Milwaukee, WI 53202

If this isn't the time for any of the above donations, our patrons can always use your prayers. The prayer box is always full with anonymous requests from the patrons. The prayers are collected by

Collars on the Corner, spearheaded by Deacon Kevin Stewart of the Episcopal Diocese and Deacon Jim Banach of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Together they include all the prayers in their daily offerings. Currently, the facility is closed because of the coronavirus and will remain so until it is safe to re-open.

- Jan Zoltan



Christmas Breakfast 2019

Our Ladies of Charity annual Christmas Breakfast was celebrated on Saturday, December 7th at Dominical High School. Seventy women attended the event and we welcomed five new members. Everyone enjoyed getting together, sharing hospitality and having a wonderful continental breakfast. We were entertained by six members of the Dominical High School choir and their director, Sarah Parlier. They performed beautifully for our group and really got us into the Christmas spirit!

Our guest speaker was Sister Angele Hinkey, a Daughter of Charity. Sister Angele has developed a special gift in art ministry. She works with women in the Cook County jail by inviting them to work one on one with her to paint pictures depicting events in their lives. Sister Angele shared their works of art with us and discussed the meaning and healing emotions that are brought out in the women's drawings. It was wonderful to learn about Sister Angele's unique ministry to these women and the touching way she serves them during this time in their lives.

Thanks to our committee members. Mary Linn, Judy Marchese, Carolyn Newald, and Anne Rice helped to make this a fun event for all of our Ladies of Charity who were able to attend!

- Cathy Onopa



Thank You!

JILL ECKLUND



In this issue, we'd like to honor JILL ECKLUND, the Treasurer of our Milwaukee chapter of the Ladies of Charity. Jill does an outstanding job of maintaining and reporting on all of the LOC finances and is such an important part of our organization. She is always extremely efficient, accurate, hardworking and pleasant to work with. We asked

Jill to complete the following biographical information:

I grew up on the Southwest side of Milwaukee (Jackson Park neighborhood). My dad was a Civil Engineer for the City of Milwaukee (he also retired as a Colonel in the Army National Guard) and my mom worked for MPS in one of their resource centers. I have two sisters (I'm the middle child). I went to Blessed Sacrament grade school, Hamilton High School (MPS) and UW-Whitewater. After UWW I worked in public accounting for Ernst & Young for four years and then took an accounting position with my current employer (KMC; we manufacture metal stampings). I moved to Mequon in 2004 when I got engaged to my husband, Dave. Dave works for Rockwell Automation. He's a Mechanical Engineer by degree but currently is a Manager in Rockwell's Real Estate group.

Currently I'm the Director of Accounting for KMC. They supply metal stampings to automotive, on-highway trucks and agricultural equipment. I'm responsible for the day-to-day accounting functions including managing four employees, running our annual physical inventory, preparing the budget (working with other department managers), providing information for our annual audit and tax preparation and just about anything else I'm asked to do.

As to how I learned about the Ladies of Charity, when I was a member of St. Robert's Parish, I was on the Human Concerns committee with Mary Johnson. She told me about LOC and it sounded like such a great organization to get involved with. I thought it was a wonderful opportunity to do charity work other than accounting (I was also on the St. Robert's Finance Committee at the time; I'm also the Treasurer of our subdivision). After several years, LOC was in need of a Treasurer and I felt it was the right thing for me to do to volunteer for this position. The general duties of this position are to pay our bills, reimburse members for clothing purchases, deposit checks, reconcile the bank accounts, provide a monthly income and expense report to the Board, prepare a budget when needed for grant applications and file annual reports with the State of WI and the IRS. I've been the Treasurer for about eight (8) years. I work a lot of hours at my regular job so being the Treasurer works well for my schedule. It allows me to participate in LOC when I have free time vs. having to be somewhere at a specific time. I also am part of the "Saturday crew" at the clothing center and try to go as many Saturdays as possible.

When not at work or doing charity work, I enjoy spending time with family and friends. Dave and I love to have people over and grill out. We also enjoy traveling. Some of our more memorable trips have been to England, Scotland, Belgium, France, Italy and Germany. We've also travelled within the U.S. and had the opportunity to go to The Masters golf tournament in 2019 on Sunday when Tiger Woods won!

Please join us in thanking Jill for her dedication, commitment, and the great work she does for our Ladies of Charity chapter. We are very blessed to have her as part of our organization!

THANK YOU, JILL!

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

In this new section of Charity Chat, we would like to recognize various organizations for providing support to the Ladies of Charity! These donations are in addition to the tremendous amount of support we receive from our members in time, skill and treasure for which we are always most grateful. We cannot thank you enough!

We also have many organizations that provide support in a variety of ways that allows us to accomplish our mission. Each publication will highlight some of those so you know who they are!

Here are three organizations that we'd like to recognize in this issue:

Bombas Socks

Bombas has a program called "Giving Back". The company was founded on the philosophy of donating socks to those in need. The more clothing they sell, the more they donate. Their motto is "one purchased = one donated". The Ladies of Charity - Milwaukee has been fortunate to become a recipient of their donations for the last two years. We received 2500 pairs of socks in 2019 and have been promised 3000 pairs to be delivered in July of 2020. Thank you Bombas Giving Team and to Cathy Onopa for handling this!



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Cathy Liska Reflection *continued from page 1*

Seton, successfully married, a mother of five and a widow by 30, she returned to the United States after the death of her husband and went on to become a devout Catholic thus causing estrangement from her family and in-laws. She later founded a religious group, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, and established what was considered the beginnings of Catholic education, an American parish school in Maryland.

As our lives are drawn in many directions during this time of uncertainty, may we remain undeterred in our gifts of service to others.

This statement attributed to Blessed Frederic, "I want to wrap up the whole world in a network of charity" sums up our LOC family mission.

– Cathy Liska

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS *continued from page 5*

Knights of Columbus (Lumen Christi Parish)

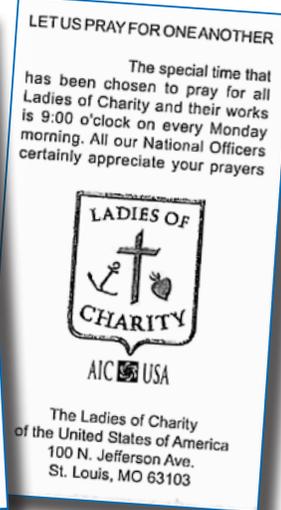
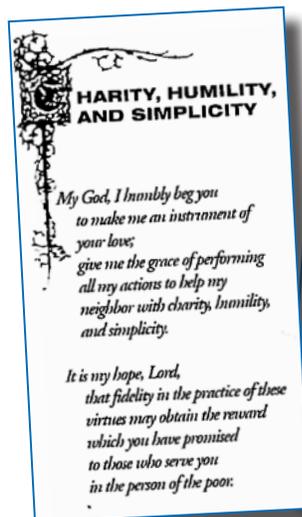
For years now, the Knights have been a group that has provided a source for us to purchase items such as coats, hats and gloves at an incredibly low cost directly from the suppliers in New York. This is not something we could do without them. In addition, both the Knights and individuals personally within this organization have covered many of the costs of our purchases. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their generosity and to Cathy & Jim Liska for coordinating this wonderful effort.

Woman's Club of Wisconsin

Again this year, the Woman's Club of Wisconsin has supported the LOC Clothing Center and Laundry Love. From January until Valentine's Day this year, marked containers were available for donations by WCW members. We thank WCW for this support.



In Memoriam



Mary Collentine, a long time member of Ladies of Charity, passed away on January 14, 2020 at the age of 97. She was the mother of 10 children and a member of St. Monica parish. Mary was in charge of Membership for our association for many years and worked many hours at our Clothing Center.

"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