

# CHARITY CHAT

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

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

October 2019

## Important Dates

**October 22, 2019  
at 6:30 PM**

### **LOC Board Meeting**

Cathy Onopa's House  
1109 Waterstone Drive  
Grafton, WI

*General Membership Welcome*

**December 7th, 2019  
at 8:30 AM**

### **Christmas Breakfast**

Dominican High School  
120 East Silver Spring Drive  
Whitefish Bay, WI

**January 21, 2020  
at 6:30 PM**

### **LOC Board Meeting**

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

*General Membership Welcome*

**March 18, 2020**

### **Lenten Evening of Reflection with Father Tim Kitzke**

Milwaukee Catholic Home  
2462 N. Prospect Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI

**April 21, 2020**

### **LOC Board Meeting**

Cathy Onopa's House  
1109 Waterstone Drive  
Grafton, WI

*General Membership Welcome*

**May 19, 2020 (Tentative)**

### **LOC New Member**

#### **Installation**

Details to follow

**June 2020**

### **Capuchin's Run/Walk for the Hungry at Polish Fest**

**New Publication Dates  
for Charity Chat are  
April and October**

## Presidents' Message

It is hard to believe summer is over and we are in the midst of a new school year with new opportunities to clothe the school children of Milwaukee. Our Clothing Center has been very busy and many of our volunteers have been working diligently to organize the clothes in the store and to take care of our customers. We are so fortunate to have received so many clothing donations over the summer. We know that the clothing moves quickly especially this time of year and the task of obtaining, marking and restocking additional clothing goes on throughout the year. We are thankful for all those members who work hard to make this wonderful ministry run smoothly.

We are also thankful for the members who continue to support our other missions such as Laundry Love, Rising Stars Tutoring Program, and The Capuchin's Run-Walk for the Hungry. Recently we had a new request to help out with an Urban Initiative held 9/14/19 with Ascension and North Division High School. They were offering free Medical, Dental and Social Services and needed greeters. Once again, our membership graciously responded!

We'd like to thank Cathy Liska for attending the LCUSA National Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah this past month and look forward to her update in this edition of Charity Chat.

We do have several areas for which we are seeking volunteers. Recently Melissa Hicks who handled our website and Facebook postings moved out-of-state due to family commitments. We thank Melissa for all of her hard work on these projects and her willingness to offer training support. We are grateful for the few volunteers that responded. Training was conducted and updates have been made. We were hoping for a larger team to lead these very important communication initiatives so we would welcome additional volunteers. This is a great opportunity for some of our newer members to get involved especially those with a background in technology. Also needed is an individual who is willing to take on the role of Historian for the Ladies of Charity - Milwaukee. If anyone is interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Cathy (conopa@icloud.com) or Paulette at (ppecard1@wi.rr.com).

It's a pleasure to have an opportunity to meet and work with so many of you in our roles as Co-President. We have so many caring, kind, generous and service-oriented members. Thank you all for your continued support.

– Paulette Pecard and Cathy Onopa



Paulette and Cathy

## UPDATE ON FATHER MIKE

As you may know, Father Mike Bertram, Capuchin Pastor of St. Francis and St. Benedict parishes, was in a serious automobile accident this summer. He suffered neck, chest, lung and other injuries. Father Mike was traveling to the Detroit area to preside at a funeral.

We are pleased to announce that his recovery is progressing very nicely. Although he is not officially back on duty at St. Francis, he was recently spotted near the Clothing Center and several members were able to chat with him briefly. They found him to be looking very well and in his usual upbeat and friendly manner.

*Prayers that his recovery continues!*

# UPDATES

## New Member Installation

We held the installation of new members on May 21st in the Chapel at Holy Family. There were over 30 people in attendance. The following women are new LOC members:

JoAnne Brown, Cynthia Bock, Lydia Cooley, Pat Dries, Anita Fleisch, Kathy Gunta, Kim Hirsch, Penny Hirsch, Cathy Presti, Liz Sather, Kahleen Valusek, Elizabeth Zimmer and Sharon Zurowski.

We are grateful to the members who brought in these wonderful new ones.

After the installation ceremony, complete with prayers and song, a lovely reception took place in the community room.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Onopa.



## Annual Fund Appeal

Once again, this year's Annual Fund Appeal has been very successful. This year we mailed letters to both members and those non-members who have made contributions in previous years. We received a great response from both,

receiving over \$18,000 in contributions. Thank you to all who contributed! This will certainly allow us to keep those shelves stocked over the months ahead!

## Thank you Bombas Socks & Cathy Onopa

Cathy watched Shark Tank and learned that for every pair sold, Bombas Socks donates a pair to a charity (more than 26 million donated). She then contacted them to tell them about LOC. To her great surprise and elation, she recently received 2500 PAIRS OF SOCKS in a variety of sizes and styles for the Clothing Center! How wonderful is this! Way to go, Cathy!



## AmazonSmile

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](https://smile.amazon.com) and indicate Association of the Ladies of Charity of Milwaukee Wisconsin as the charity of your choice.

## UPDATE from Amazon

Dear Charity Administrator,

This email is to notify you that Association of the Ladies of Charity of Milwaukee Wisconsin has been issued a \$9.78 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between April 1 and June 30, 2019. The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account on or before August 14, 2019. It may take several days for the donation to appear in the account.

## LOC Clothing Center

The Clothing Center may have closed at the end of April but the work continued throughout the summer. Our wonderful volunteers were busy collecting, washing, sorting, labeling and hanging clothing. It's a true team effort that makes our mission so successful.

We have been blessed once again with an abundance of donations that have kept our volunteers busy and our racks full for the start of the school year. We received a generous donation of socks and underwear from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. They have been holding an annual drive for us these past few years. We were also pleasantly surprised by a donation of 8 boxes of winter jackets from the Knights of Columbus at Mary Queen of Saints Parish in West Allis.

After reviewing the vouchers from the 2018-2019 school year, we realized that we were still not reaching the Catholic schools. Our new goal is to personally contact the Catholic schools in the neediest areas of the city. A volunteer will be assigned to each school to become the personal contact for that school. That volunteer will explain our clothing services, the voucher system and will clarify any problems or questions.

Please continue to collect clothing. Our inventory has been plentiful but after almost two months of serving children, it is going fast. The need continues and it keeps us very busy.

- Gail Proite Adams
- Sharon Pircon
- Francie Shea

## Laundry Love

Our ministry of "making people feel worthwhile by giving them clean clothes", continues into its second year. Every month is a new adventure. We catch up with our regulars while meeting new clients. Some new clients come recommended by family or friends, others are assisted by their social workers. Whatever the combination of the group that day, everyone is very grateful for our generosity of free detergent, wash and dry help, and even dryer sheets.

If you would like to contribute your time, we volunteer from 8 am to 11 am at Your Laundry on Capital Drive, just east of Piggly Wiggly, on the third Monday of every month. You can also drop by to donate laundry cleaning supplies, treats or waters during those hours.

Another part of our ministry is prayer. Father Kevin, from Urban Ministry, brings a prayer request box and the box is always full when he leaves. Our clients have many needs. Pray for them!

- Jan Zoltan

## Rising Stars Tutoring Program

### You Matter – You Hold Hope, Because Relationships Heal

"Impact of a Trauma Informed Tutor", an in-service sponsored by Rising Stars, was attended by Ladies of Charity Joyce Grundle, Kathleen Valusek, and Claire Wycklendt. Mount Mary University Professor S. Michele Cohen led a team of Child Advocates/Master's Program students in a panel discussion about trauma and its impact on the human brain. Her opening comments emphasized that "Trauma Informed Care" is nothing new, it's just a new name for what good educators have always been doing.

Trauma can be anything that affects attunement, or how the brain connects. When a child experiences problems with attunement, she is likely to have poor self-regulation. Self-regulation is an executive function that requires inhibitory control, working memory and mental flexibility. Having the skill set for self-regulation results in an ability to manage one's emotions, and consequentially an ability to learn. Scientific evidence shows that relationships heal so practical suggestions for connecting with students, building trust and fostering hope for struggling learners were provided. All attendees were made to feel extremely valuable in the tutoring roles they play since scientific evidence shows the benefits of presence, calmness, stability and openness.

A segment of the discussion focused on volunteer burnout, a pertinent topic for volunteers in all areas of service. Symptoms of burnout, which might include exhaustion, cynicism and inefficacy can be remedied by taking a break and practicing self-care.

Rising Stars welcomes many more tutors in all the schools they serve. Please consider giving tutoring a try!

- Claire Wycklendt

# Lenten Evening of Reflection

From all reports, this year's Evening of Reflection on March 20, 2019 at the Milwaukee Catholic Home was better than ever. Better than ever were attendance, food and presentations. A record number of members and guests attended. After Mass, appetizers and dinner, Father Tim Kitzke and Ann Haines spoke about deepening a commitment to an urban ministry initiative. They are both with the Milwaukee Archdiocese Urban Ministry; Father Tim is the Vicar General and Ann is the Respect Life Director. In addition, many non-perishable items were collected for Riverwest Food Pantry. All in all, it was a great success.



## Capuchin Walk for the Hungry

One of the 'small' ministries of our Ladies of Charity organization is our involvement with the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry. This past June 14th afforded us with beautiful weather for this year's Walk. We had a mighty team of 20 walkers. We walked with over 1,400 others to help the Capuchins feed Milwaukee's hungry. Usinger Sausage donates up to 1# of product for every participant and has been doing so since 2006. Did you know House of Peace Emergency Food Pantry (affiliated with Capuchin Community Services) operates one of the largest food pantries in Milwaukee?



A big 'Thank You' to all who joined our team this summer. We hope our LOC team will continue to help our community by participating in this event in 2020. Please consider joining us in June, 2020.

- Adele Eklund

# 2019 FALL OPENING MASS AND BREAKFAST

On a beautiful early September Saturday morning, Ladies of Charity and their guests gathered at St. Francis of Assisi to celebrate the opening of the 2019 Clothing Center year. Capuchin Father Perry McDonald celebrated Mass, with moving music provided by cantor Patti DeGraff and pianist Jed Wardecki. Following Mass, a delicious breakfast, catered by parishioner Mayra Ortiz, was served in the parish hall, in what had been the refectory for the St. Francis Monastery. Father McDonald told stories of his time there as a young cleric, where he slept upstairs in a tiny cell on a straw mattress. The guest speaker was Deborah Duskey, Executive Director of the Milwaukee St. Vincent de Paul Society, who spoke of the history and mission of the Society. With proceeds from the event, Ladies of Charity was able to provide a donation to both the Society and to the parish for the use of the parish hall. Thanks to all who attended and thanks for the generous donation of jeans. We look forward to holding our opening event at St. Francis in the coming years.

Planning Team: Marlene Kollmeyer, Paulette Pecard, Mary Roets, Cathy Onopa and Susan Westlake



## Ladies of Charity 39th Assembly

Twelve ambitious and dedicated women composing the Salt Lake City chapter put together a fabulous Assembly the third weekend of September. Assisted by ladies from the surrounding Western region, it was a Southwestern sight to behold!

“Begin to Weave and God will Provide the Thread: Ladies of Charity in Action” set the stage for the three day event. and provided the theme for three keynote speakers and four break out sessions.

Friday morning, the opening Mass at the hotel was offered by Father Richard Gielow, who has served as their LOC Spiritual advisor for 38 years.

The Cathedral of the Madeleine (1909) was the site for the closing liturgy on Saturday evening with Bishop Oscar Solis officiating in this extraordinary Romanesque church with an American Southwestern interior.

Highlights of the assembly included:

Keynote opener, Sr. Margaret Keaveney, D.C. , offered insight into the ways threads are woven together in all of our works, both within and outside of Ladies of Charity, often in unimaginable ways.

Joseph Raymond Lucero, third generation gang member, shared his powerful story of “Escaping Gang Life through the help of God and Father Gregory Boyle”, founder of Homeboy Industries, LA.

Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C. spoke brilliantly on “Marillac: Weaving with God’s Thread”, examining the life story of Louise de Marillac and the direction God provided for her in working with the poor and underserved.

Noteworthy social opportunities:

Southwestern BBQ and Square Dancing - Friday evening  
Beautiful cocktail and closing banquet - Saturday evening  
40th National Assembly hosts: LOC Knoxville, TN - August 28 & 29, 2020

– Cathy Liska

### Cathy Liska Reflection

How does a 21st C. Jesuit priest find his way into the Vincentian reflection column this Charity Chat issue?

Introduced at the Assembly in September, the work of Jesuit trained priest Father Gregory Boyle came to light via the presentation by one of his “homies”, a key note speaker during the recent LOC Assembly. In 1988, Father started out working with the poorest gang-ridden parish, Dolores Mission, and the neighborhoods of Pico Gardens and Aliso Village, which had the highest concentration of murderous gang activity in Los Angeles (1,100 gangs, 86,000 members).

Father Boyle has written two books, the first, Tatoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassions was written in 2010. It is a series of heart rending parables told from his first twenty years in the barrios. The second, Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship, was released in 2017.

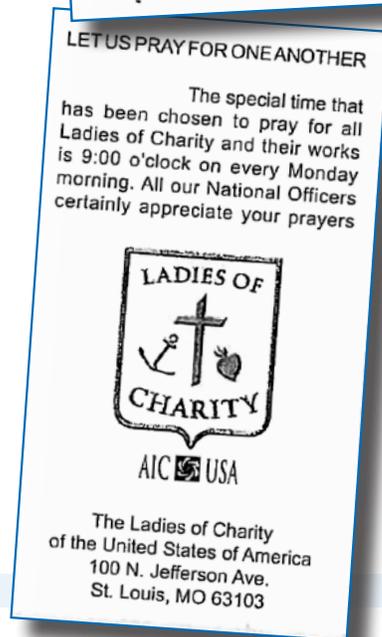
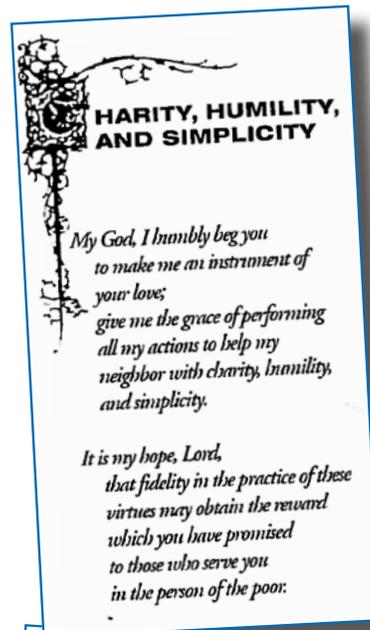
In 1988, Fr. Boyle created an organization that would eventually become Homeboy Industries which employs and trains former gang members in a range of enterprises. It has evolved into the largest gang intervention, rehab and reentry program on the planet, having helped 147 programs in the US and 16 programs outside the country in the Global Homeboy Network, founded in 2014.

Two Father Boyle quotes that offer food for thought:

“Here is what we seek: a compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it”.

“The strategy of Jesus is not centered in taking the right stand on issues, but rather standing in the right place ... with the outcast and those relegated to the margins”.

– Cathy Liska



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# In Memoriam

Three members of LOC passed away this year. They were wonderful contributors to our mission. Please remember these members and their families in your prayers.

Marian Wroblewski was a long time member who served as the LOC historian for many years. She passed away on September 8, 2018.

Mary Lou McCormick was a long time member who also ran the Holy Family Hospitality meetings for years. She died on June 17, 2019.

Anne Catalane was a member and strong LOC supporter who served as director of the Milwaukee Catholic Home. She died on October 12, 2019.

If you want to donate to LOC in memory of someone, please contact Cathy Onopa for the donation envelopes. You will get two cards : the larger one is sent by you to the family and the smaller one, in which you enclose your check for LOC, is sent to Cathy Onopa in a pre-addressed envelope. This memorial donation is a great way to remember your loved ones and help our mission.

## Our New Business Card:

*For schools and other Clothing Center Customers*



Thank you to Shorewood Press for their friendly service & expertise.  
Printed copies of Charity Chat are available for purchase at  
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