

# CHARITY CHAT

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

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

July 2018

## Important Dates

**August 13,  
8:30-11:30am:  
Clothing Center  
Work Date**

**August 16,  
9:00am-Noon:  
Clothing Center  
Opening**

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

**September 29:  
September  
Opening Mass  
& Breakfast**  
at St. Francis of  
Assisi Parish

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

**December 1:  
Christmas  
Breakfast**  
location TBD

## The President's Message



The Ladies of Charity are very busy! Over 900 students received clothing and books last school year. The Clothing Center subcommittee is now working hard to make sure our services reach all who need them. Our website is beautifully and locally updated. Laundry Love is well staffed and never lacking for detergent or refreshments. The number of schools served by Ladies of Charity tutors doubled, as did our number of tutors. St. Ben's Walk for the Hungry attracted a record number of participants to the LOC team and our Evening of Reflection also had record breaking attendance. We are blessed with new and younger members as well as members who have been in our organization for decades.

The "Prayer to St. Louise de Marillac" challenges us to continue:

"St. Louise, chosen by God to make the love of Jesus felt among the underprivileged, the lonely, the hungry, the forsaken, the bitter, the despairing – accept, this day, our confidence and prayers. Guide us in the path of humility, simplicity and love. Set our hearts on fire with the zeal that consumed you in the service of the poor. Let the charity of Christ urge us to forget rest and routine, convenience and comfort, so that when our work is done, we may come to join you and your tireless co-worker, St. Vincent de Paul, in the joys of heaven forever."

– Claire Wycklendt

## New Website Attracts Visitors

In January, we launched a new website (see screen shot, right) to strengthen our organization's online presence. The new site features vivid imagery of children, an online donation button, and streamlined navigation. So far this year, our site has had 35,000 hits! You can help us generate more site traffic by sharing the domain ([www.LOCMilwaukee.org](http://www.LOCMilwaukee.org)) with your friends and family via email and social media (such as Facebook). Also, if you're a Facebook user, please "like" and "follow" our page at <https://www.facebook.com/LadiesofCharityMKE/>

– Melissa Hicks



## Annual Fund

Ali Faber, Melissa Hicks and Carolyn Newald are in charge of this year's Annual Fund Drive which began in May. As we are 100% volunteer based, we rely on donations for rent and utilities at the Clothing Center, purchase of new socks and underwear and purchase of items to fill gaps in our inventory of donated clothing. During the 2017-2018 school year, we provided winter coats and gloves, pants, shirts, sweaters, underwear and socks to students from 4K through high school. We clothe approximately 1000 students each school year.

Every dollar makes a difference! You should have already received a mailing with donation information. You can also easily make a secure online donation at [www.LOCMilwaukee.org](http://www.LOCMilwaukee.org).

– Ali Faber – Melissa Hicks – Carolyn Newald

# UPDATES

## Fall Opening Mass and Breakfast

Saturday September 29th at 9 am marks the date and time for our annual Fall Opening Mass and Breakfast. A special morning has been planned for Milwaukee Ladies of Charity (and guests) to gather together at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, located across the street from the Clothing Center, at 1927 N. 4th Street, Milwaukee. Parking will be available in the adjacent church parking lot. Father Mike Bertram will be our celebrant for Mass, and a light breakfast will

be held in the parish hall. After the breakfast and a brief program, tours of the Clothing Center will be given. What a great way to mark the beginning of more than 60 years to help clothe Milwaukee's school-aged children! Please save the date and be on the lookout for the electronic invitation later this summer.

– Susan Westlake

## Christmas Breakfast

The Christmas breakfast will be on December 1, 2018. Tentative location options are St. Monica's and Dominican. This will be a time to share with other members, spread some holiday cheer and donate winter coats and warm

gloves for the clothing center. The co-chairs are Terri Klug and Anne Rice.

– Anne Rice

## BE ENLIGHTENED - National Assembly

Every year our national organization, LCUSA, holds an Assembly where Ladies of Charity from over 60 chapters unite to be enlightened with the spirit of St. Vincent and St. Louise de Marillac. This year, the Assembly is being held in Pittsburgh, PA from Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, September 22nd. The theme is "Remember the Past, Embrace the Future". Personally, I've attended 7 Assemblies: Williamsburg, Washington, DC, San Jose, New Orleans, Queens NY, Kansas City, and our own in Milwaukee. While I can't be in Pittsburgh this September because we have a family wedding in Alabama that week-end, I encourage all of you to consider making the trip. Every time I've gone, I come back feeling inspired. I assure

you that you will too. Go to the LCUSA website for details about how to register --AIC.ladiesofcharity.us. Let Claire Wycklndt, our LOC president know if you plan on going. Contact me if you have questions. Phone: 414-332-2475; marykj2423@icloud.com.

– Mary Johnson

Note: Round trip flights are currently around \$250, rooms at the Sheraton are \$139, and the cost of the Assembly including a number of meals is \$175. The Milwaukee Brewers happen to be playing the Pirates at PNC Park that week-end!

## 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](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/90-0620267) and Amazon donates to Association of the Ladies of Charity of Milwaukee Wisconsin.

**Be a hero to  
people in need**

Support human services by  
shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

You shop. Amazon donates.  
**amazon smile**



## LOC Clothing Center

It was another successful year for the Clothing Center. We provided clothing for just over 900 children. We were supported by many wonderful parishes, individual donors, and organizations. We were staffed by so many faithful volunteers who kept the bags sorted, the clothing labeled, the racks filled, the customers served graciously. Thanks to all who served and contributed to the Clothing Center.

Due to increased funds from grants and donations we were able to increase the number of socks and underwear given to each child from 5 to 7 pairs each.

Local school rummage sales and lost and found donations have decreased. Please keep the store in mind with neighborhood and store sales as well as donations from neighbors, friends and families.

We are always in need of:

- pants—sizes 5-18
- appropriate modest larger girls tops for the young girls in size 14-16
- uniform pants—navy blue, black and khaki
- uniform shirts—red, white, blue, black (no logos)

Some of the staff met to discuss ways to improve our outreach to the schools: private, parochial, public, charter and choice for the coming year. We are working on new ways to reach new schools, and refresh our presence in schools we have worked with in the past.

Mark your calendars for summer work dates:

**Monday, August 13 8:30-11:00**

The store will reopen on **Thursday, August 16 from 9:00-12:00** to coincide with the MPS schedule. It was also decided that the store would close at the end of April rather than May.

The first months of the store can be exceptionally busy. Please consider volunteering. In addition to Thursday mornings, the store is open the second Saturday morning of the month. You can volunteer, weekly, bi-weekly, three hours, one hour - whatever fits your schedule.

The book give away at the store has been a welcome successful addition to our mission. Each family may pick out a book for each child and each family receives a new dictionary - a huge hit. Thank you Mary Domer. Book donations for children and young adults are always welcome.

- Gail Proite Adams
- Sharon Pircon
- Francie Shea
- Sally Lautmann

## Laundry Love

Laundry Love is the collaborative effort between the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Ladies of Charity. It is designed to bring dignity to urban Milwaukee residents by assisting with their laundry. We assist them with each step of washing and drying their clothes. Everyone enjoys visiting with each other as we take the drudgery, loneliness and cost out of this necessary task! This is the ninth month that Ladies of Charity has supported the mission and it is steadily making itself known in the community. We had a visit from Mike Strehlow from channel 58 back in April. The CBS Sunday Morning show ran an extensive interview about our mission. We enjoyed our May Laundry Love when we talked about seeing each other on the TV show. We were also featured in a JS article in February. You can read that article by entering “Laundry Love” in the search area of JSoonline.com The TV show, newspaper, advertising by the owner of “Your Laundry”, and distribution of two large laundry bags stamped with the archdiocese logo, have produced many grateful return ‘customers’. We appreciate anyone that would like to volunteer. We meet on the third Monday of every month from 8:30-11 :30. If you can’t make it to “Your Laundry” laundromat at 801 E. Capitol, you are welcome to drop off detergent, dryer sheets or treats for the patrons.

- Jan Zoltan

## Rising Stars Tutoring Program

“We can by our very presence as an interested adult be a support to a student who is struggling to succeed.” This is just one of the goals of the Rising Stars Tutoring Program. Questions about the tutoring experience can be directed to Joanne Ferber, Joyce Grundle, Lilane Koehn Mace or Claire Wycklendt. If interested in becoming part of Rising Stars, contact Sr. Sharon Stecker at 414-550-9651 or sstecker@ssndcp.org. Appropriate training and support are provided, and tutoring for the school year usually begins in October, comfortably after the teachers get to know their students.

- Claire Wycklendt

# March Lenten Evening of Reflection

On March 14, 2018, the Lenten Evening of Reflection was held at the Catholic Home. Vicar General, Tim Kitzke, began the evening with Mass for 90 members and guests.

After dinner, Father Tim and his associate, Anne Haines, discussed his role as Vicar General and her role as Director for Urban Ministry. Programs in need of volunteers include urban parish ministries, pregnancy crisis centers,

Tablesetters' education and emergency response kits.

Many members brought canned items to this event to be donated to the Riverwest Food Pantry.

- Anne Rice
- Mary Johnson
- Mary Roets

## LOC Membership Installation

The Membership Committee hosted our annual New Member Installation on May 22, 2018, at Holy Family Church in Whitefish Bay. The fourteen new members are: Penny Diamante, MaryAnn Gross, Kathy Gunta, Melissa Hicks, Jenny Morales, Rose Morby, Katherine Murray, Lisa Pasternak, Johanna Perrini, Kathleen Phillips, Amy Rickmeier, Kathleen Valusek, Julie Piechle, and Virginia Antoine. Thank you to all our members who joined us to make this wonderful evening a success!

Thanks to Mary Roets for her time and dedication to this Committee as she completes her many years as Membership Chair. If any member wants to become more involved - consider joining the Membership Committee!

Lastly, remember to continue to submit names of potential new members to Tracy Hobbs (tdhobbs4@gmail.com). It is important to spread the word about our organization.

- Tracy Hobbs



*Front row:  
Virginia Antoine, Julie  
Piechle, Lisa Pasternak  
Back Row:  
Jan Zoltan, Melissa  
Hicks, Jenny Morales,  
Penny Diamante,  
Katherine Murray*



*Installation Services*

## Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry 2018

On June 15, a beautiful June evening, over 1600 people participated in the 13th Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry at Polish Fest. For the past few years, a small group of Ladies of Charity with their families and friends have participated in this event. In earlier years we had a team with five to twelve members. This year we had over fifty people signed up for our Ladies of Charity team! This year's Run Walk also had the largest number of participants ever.

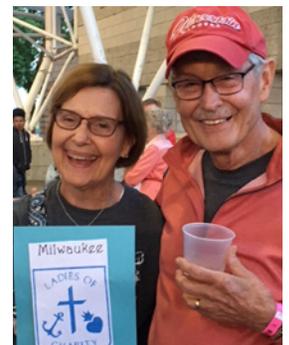
Not only were we able to enjoy a beautiful walk on the lakefront but our team also helped feed the hungry in our community. Usinger's is a corporate sponsor of the event and donates one pound of product for each participant. Since the inception of the Run Walk in 2006, Usinger's has donated over 29,000 pounds of product to feed people in our Milwaukee community at Saint Ben's Community Meal program and the House of Peace.



Each participant received a raffle ticket for big prizes after the event. This year, our own Mary Roets and her husband Mike, were big winners of tickets to a Brewers - Cubs game in September. Congratulations Mary and Mike!

Thank you to all who joined the Ladies of Charity team this year. We hope we can keep the trend going with large LOC teams in the coming years.

- Adele Eklund



*Mary and Mike Roets*

## Grants to LOC this Year

Because of some generous donations to LOC this year, we are now able to provide 7 sets of new underwear and socks instead of 5 to each child – and more.

The donations are as follows:

- An anonymous stock donation of \$10,000 plus was given to LOC.
- In February, a grant of \$3,600 from the St. Monica Human Concerns Committee was received. St. Monica Parish also recently sent a check for \$250. Nancy Sturino reported we were one of four ministries selected to receive such a gift.
- Also in February, Paulette Pecard, Cathy Onopa and Jennifer Onopa made a presentation to the Elm Grove Junior Guild. As a result, the Guild made a \$5,000 gift. This is the 3rd year in a row they have made such a significant donation to us.
- The Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation made grants to 19 non-profit organizations from 36 applications on March 14 at its Foundation Day Social and Luncheon. The grants ranged from \$2,000 - \$4,000. Claire Wycklendt accepted a \$4,000 grant and told the audience about our work. Pat Matusiak had proposed LOC to the WCW and Lydia Cooley, a member of the WCW Grant Committee, recommended the grant after a site visit and interview with Claire and Jill Ecklund. Cathy Liska, Sharon Pircon and Gail Proite Adams were other LOC guests at the Luncheon.

– Pat Matusiak



*Cathy Liska  
and  
Gail Proite  
Adams*



*Above: Sharon Pircon,  
Pat Matusiak and  
Hon. Dee McGarity (guest)*



*Left: Lydia Cooley*

## HISTORICAL CORNER: The Dominican Connection

When I joined Ladies of Charity, I was unaware of the surprise that was in store for me. At my first meeting, I met up with my past by encountering several students that I had taught years ago at Dominican High School. My teaching career began at Dominican where I taught French and English. These former students included Claire Linn Wycklendt, Sally Davidson Lautman, Mary Kessenich Hargarten and Cathy Seelman.

Memories flooded back to me of those teaching days when these women were young adolescents learning French in my class. It was a wonderful time full of challenges and fun. To see these students grow in their knowledge and appreciation of French was powerful. Dominican High School provided an excellent culture of learning and giving. Claire Linn Wycklendt recalls: "Nancy Sturino was my French teacher at Dominican High School... She was an excellent teacher with an awesome French accent. She made class fun and offered the opportunity to travel, including assisting with fundraising for the travelers. The spirit of doing for others was modeled by Mrs. Sturino and all Dominican teachers, thanks to the Sinsinawa Dominican sisters who sponsored the school and taught there for years."

After these young students graduated, I moved on to raise my family and eventually return to teaching French and English in the Wauwatosa Schools. I lost track of these students for many years until I was reunited with them through Ladies of Charity. Now on an adult level, it is a joy to see what dedicat-

ed and caring women these former students have become. Some of that caring and dedication came from the Dominican experience as Claire points out about the Dominican sisters: "The presence of these unselfish women, who vowed to live lives of service, impacted all the students, some during their high school years and others many years later."

The Dominican High connection is also seen in others who attended that school and whose influence from the school, friendships or parental models led them to Ladies of Charity: Mary Domer, Gail Adams, Barb Wagner, Joanne Ferber, Barb Dineen, Patty Haugh, Mary Linn and others. The tradition continues with Claire Linn Wycklendt's daughters, Theresa Simonis and Katie Kasper, who both attended Dominican and are new members.

I feel proud and grateful to know such caring women and to be a part of the Dominican tradition of giving and service.

– Nancy Sturino



*From left to right : Nancy Sturino, Mary Jo Schneider McCormick, Laurie Helfer Brahm, Theresa Meehan Felknor, Mary Kessenich Hargarten, Claire Linn Wycklendt.*

## Websites

locmilwaukee.com  
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## Facebook

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## Cathy Liska Reflection

### Marie de Bonneau de Miramion, Advocate for Women

In our Vincentian family history, many women have played prominent and often vibrant leadership roles and yet often also remained in the shadows of Vincentian charism. Marie de Miramion is one such figure to whom I was first introduced in a Servicette issue from 2015. Marie knew Vincent and Louise personally and was instrumental in continuing the Vincentian legacy following their deaths.

Though born into a wealthy family (1629), her parents both died when she was still a child. Marie married at 15, welcomed a daughter and lost her husband all within the next year. Considering a vocation yet needing to raise little Marguerite, Marie found her path with the Ladies of Charity at age 19. As a widow, she was free to be independent, develop her spiritual life and share herself with those in need. She served regularly at a hospital (Hotel Dieu) and set up a parish soup kitchen.

About 1662, she founded a new community called Sainte Famille, which linked ministry and consecrated life. Later, their outreach expanded to include

schools in and about Paris as well as running a dispensary and pharmacy service for the sick and destitute. Most notable was her establishment of a General Hospital (1656), which fed, instructed and provided jobs for poor individuals.

Marie's name and efforts will always be connected with the mission of Vincent de Paul and his successors.... most noteworthy.... her vital contributions to social ministry during the last 50 years of the 17th century. Though several centuries separate Marie and our Ladies of Charity organization of today, much of the ministry outreach remains very similar.

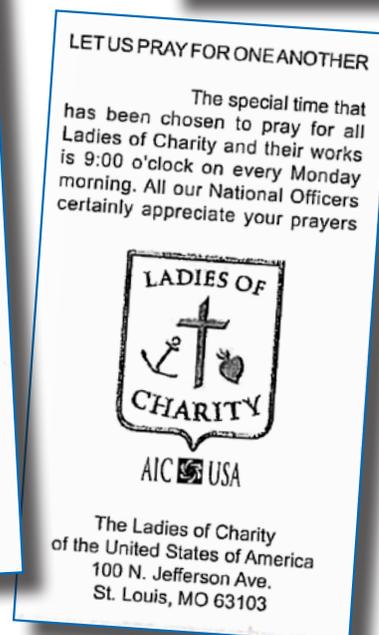
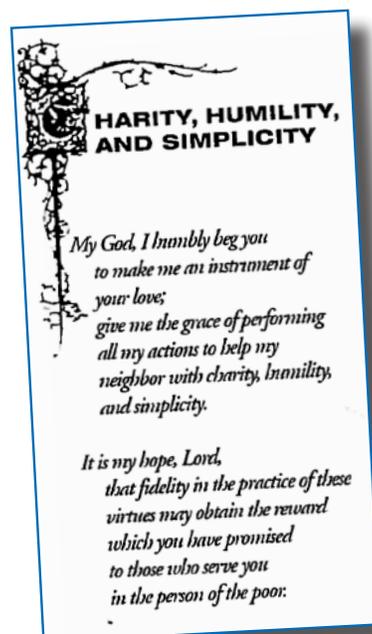
– Cathy Liska



### Reflection thoughts to ponder:

What motivates me in my LOC service to others?

How might I witness and perhaps involve younger women in our local Ladies of Charity ministry?



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for their friendly  
service & expertise.

Printed copies of Charity Chat  
are available for purchase at  
Shorewood Press  
1700 E. Capitol Drive  
Shorewood, WI 53211