

# CHARITY CHAT

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

Association of the Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee, WI

July 2017

## Important Dates

**July 25, 6:30pm: LOC Meeting**  
at 4485 N. Woodburn

**August 7 & 24, 8:30-11:30am:**  
**Sorting days at the Clothing Center**

**August 31: Clothing Center Opening Day**

**September 7-9: LCUSA 400th Anniversary Celebration and National Assembly**  
in Kansas City, Missouri at the Downtown Marriott

**September 18: Laundry Love Initiative**

**September 23, 9am: 60th Anniversary of Milwaukee Ladies of Charity Mass and Brunch**  
at Milwaukee Catholic Home

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

**December 2: Tentative date for Christmas Event**

## 2018

**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**

## The President's Message

### Greetings Milwaukee Ladies of Charity! *We are thriving as we mark our 60th year as a chapter.*



In May we installed 12 of 15 new members to our organization! We hope new members as well as old will join us September 23rd as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Ladies of Charity Milwaukee with Bishop James Schuerman.

Our Clothing Center outfitted almost 1100 students this past school year and we will now be preparing for the transition to uniforms at MPS schools. Numerous grants, the generous response of members and non-members to our Fund Drive, constant donations of used and new clothing and hours of hard work make our mission possible.

At the Clothing Center this year, each family will receive a bookmark along with books for their children. This prayer, found in the Ladies of Charity archives (author unknown), will be on the bookmarks:

#### *Prayer for My Family*

*Watch over my family, dear Lord. Help us live in peace and harmony. Grant us the grace to accept each other's faults and encourage each other's strengths. Protect us from harsh words and hurt feelings. Guide us to mutual understanding and support.*

*Bless us with good health and happiness. Give us hearts full of love, patience and compassion for one another, now and always. Amen.*

What a fitting prayer for all of us!

## Directory Update

Ladies of Charity provided members with a printed Membership Directory in the past, and anticipates doing so again in 2019. We are pleased that so many members agreed to receive their directory electronically in 2017. We now plan to provide electronic updates every 6 months which is so beneficial when we add new members. Watch for your updated electronic version in your email!

## September Volunteer Activity

At our Evening of Reflection, the Vicar and the Respect Life Director for Urban Ministry shared their concerns and plans for the poor of Milwaukee. We hope to assist them with a new "Laundry Love" project that will provide opportunities for homeless individuals to do laundry. A laundromat near Marquette University will provide free use of their facility on the morning of Monday, September 18. We are being asked to donate detergent and provide assistance. Contact Claire if you are interested.



## The Clothing Center

1936 North 4th Street, Milwaukee

It was another successful year at The Clothing Center as we clothed 1069 school aged children. That means we gave out approximately:

- 3,207 pairs of pants
- 6,000 tops
- 5,345 pairs of socks
- 5,345 briefs
- 1069 winter jackets, hats, gloves

This was all made possible due to the generosity of our members and the community, parishes and businesses that support our mission. Your vital donations of clothing and money have made it possible to clothe so many. Thank you, dear members.

We were once again the recipient of a grant from the Elm Grove Women's Guild. This is the third year that we have been blessed with a monetary grant. If any of you become aware of other organizations that give out monetary grants to non-profit organizations, please let us know. It was a friend of a member who told us about The Elm Grove Guild. Keep your eyes and ears open.

Special thanks to St. Monica Parish for over \$1500 in donations. St. Monica's has been a generous contributor to LOC over the years with monetary contributions and clothing support.

As you may have heard, MPS has adopted a school uniform policy. We will continue to provide regular clothing while stocking up on additional uniform clothing to supplement families' uniform needs.

While the store may be closed for the summer, many members are busy gathering, washing, mending and sorting clothing in preparation for the next school year. We have in-store work days planned for August. If you are available we would appreciate the help. Mark your calendars for **Monday, August 7 and Thursday, August 24 from 8:30-11:30.**

The store will open on Thursday, August 31. The first months at the store are crazy busy.

- We are always in serious need of volunteers especially from August through December.
- We need teams to sort and hang clothes and to work with our clients.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who have faithfully supported the store with many hours of service.

- Gail Proite Adams
- Sharon Pircon
- Sally Lautmann

## How the Clothing Vouchers Work

As the LOC Clothing Center has relocated, expanded and improved over the years, so has our system of providing clothing vouchers to families in need. Here is how it works.

Each summer, we send an electronic file of Clothing Center information, school voucher and Hours of Operation calendar to the Milwaukee Public Schools Central Office, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and charter/choice schools. In turn, this information is dispersed to school social workers, psychologists and/or principals who identify families most in need and prepare a voucher for them. Parents may then bring the voucher to the Center where each child is provided a school wardrobe of socks and underwear, 3 pairs of pants, 3-5 tops, a sweater or hoodie and winter jacket, hat and gloves. Of note, we are the only organization in Milwaukee that provides a week's worth of **brand new** socks and underwear for every child we serve, which school social workers describe as a 'huge need'. Families are allowed one visit per school year. In 2016-2017, we served families in 82 of the 136 schools in the MPS system, clothing nearly 1,100 children!!

For the 2017-2018 school year, MPS is introducing a uniform policy of standard khakis in blue, black or tan and solid color, collared shirts. The Clothing Center is in the process of adapting to the new rules. We invite our members to keep this in mind as they update their children's and grandchildren's school wardrobes. We welcome your gently used donations.

As you can see the need for the Clothing Center is very real, and with your assistance we continue to meet it no matter what the challenges. Thank you!

- Sally Lautmann

# UPDATES

## Annual Fund

In early May, 135 Annual Fund cards were mailed to members for donations.

Also included were two information and solicitation cards for family and friends who might be interested in supporting our Clothing Center. To date, 65 responses have totaled over \$8000 ranging from \$15 - \$1500. Monies will

help to underwrite our rental space, (we are in a lovely, accessible location) and new socks and underwear as well as other clothing items.

It is not too late to make your donation!

– Cathy Liska

---

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has had a very successful year in recruiting new members. As of this publication we have fifteen new members.

Our new members for 2016-2017 are: Peggy Cavanaugh, Jane Fee, Margaret Fortman, MaryAnn Gross, Kathy Haase, Tracy Hobbs, Mary Janowiak, Marlene Kollmeyer, Peg Lohr, Jennifer Onopa, Margaret Platten, Susie Popalisky, Theresa Priest, Virginia Rader, Marilyn Weiss, Nadine Weske, and Cory Wycklendt.

A special THANK YOU to all our members who have

either recruited new members or welcomed them into our Ladies of Charity organization. You are the best!

Finally, Annette and I would like to pass on the torch as Co-Chairs for the Membership Committee. We have been Co-Chairing this committee since late 2012 and have thoroughly enjoyed it. All the existing members work together to introduce potential new members to our mission. Therefore, recruiting is easy because our mission is worthwhile.

– Annette O'Brien and Mary Roets

---

## A Special Thank You! Help Needed!

We want to extend a special thank you to three members who are resigning from their committees. Terri Klug, who has served for four years as correspondence secretary, will be replaced by Pat Neibor. Mary Roets and Annette O'Brien were co-chairs of the Membership Committee for five years. Thank you Terri, Mary and Annette for your years of service.

These positions are open and volunteers are needed. The Christmas Luncheon is also in need of volunteers to plan for the December 2 celebration.

Ask a friend and consider volunteering for any of these open slots!

– Cathy Seelman

---

## Amazon Smile

Through use of the Amazon Smile website we have collected a total of \$65.96! This amount has been accumulating over several years. This money is used to purchase clothing for the Center.

If LOC members make the little extra effort to use the

LOC Milwaukee Amazon Smile account instead of a regular Amazon account, the amounts could really add up. Directions for navigating Amazon Smile are in the January, 2017 issue of Charity Chat.

– Cathy Seelman

---

## Revenue Sources

The 2017 Annual Fund campaign is well underway thanks to the creativity and hard work of Cathy Liska. In addition to these vital donations, we again received a grant for the third year from the Elm Grove Junior Women's Guild, this year for \$4557.91. St. Monica Parish also supported our mission with a Charitable Grant for \$1300 in March and an additional \$233 in June, exceeding the amounts received from them

in the past. And St. Francis of Assisi's April Fifth Sunday collection provided us with \$914. We will also apply for a grant from the Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation. All this generosity makes the Clothing Center such a success! New ideas for revenue sources are always welcome!

– Claire Wycklendt





## March Lenten Evening of Reflection

On March 22, the Lenten Evening of Reflection was held at the Catholic Home. Vicar General, Tim Kitszke, began the evening with Mass for 80 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.

A new initiative, a clearinghouse to be located in central Milwaukee, will assist those in need to access already existing programs. Laundry Love, already referenced herein, is one of those programs. Other 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.

Father Tim and Ann have graciously agreed to return next year, March 14, 2018, to give an update of these projects.

– Mary Jo Burgoyne



The Capuchins'



About twenty members joined the Capuchin Walk/Run for Hunger on the night of June 16th at Polish Fest.

It was a beautiful night to be outside and the event was enjoyed by all who attended!

Thanks to Joyce Grundle and Adele Ecklund for organizing the team for the event.

– Cathy Seelman

## May Installation

At our New Member Installation on May 23rd we installed 12 out of 15 new members. It was a wonderful evening that started in the Holy Family Parish Chapel with the Installation ceremony and ended with a reception in the Parish Center. New members were welcomed by our current members with warmth and lively conversations.

Our newly installed members were: Peggy Cavanaugh, Tracy Hobbs, Mary Janowiak, Marlene Kollmeyer, Peg Lohr, Jennifer Onopa, Margaret Platten, Susie Popalisky, Theresa Priest, Virginia Rader, Marilyn Weiss, and Cory Wycklendt.

– Annette O'Brien and Mary Roets





## HISTORICAL CORNER

*The Ladies of Charity is thought to be the oldest organized continually functioning volunteer lay organization in the world. Today, there are more than 200,000 volunteers who serve in 52 countries. In the United States, volunteers serve in 200 communities in 22 states.*  
– Catholic Standard Online

In this issue the Historical Corner focuses on the milestone celebrations of the Ladies of Charity. First is the international celebration held in Chatillon, France to revisit where the Ladies of Charity had its origins with Sts. Vincent and Louise de Marillac. Second, the national celebration of

LOC will be held this September in Kansas City. Information on how to participate is provided. Lastly, details of the celebration of 60 years of LOC in Milwaukee are described. You are invited to join the celebrations!

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 400th Anniversary Celebration and General Assembly

For a few unforgettable days in March, 2017, in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Ladies of Charity nearly 400 members from 53 national associations in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and North America participated in lectures, reflections, daily mass and a tour of St. Vincent de Paul's heritage sites in Chatillon, France. Daughters of Charity and Vincentian priests from around the world provided spiritual reflections pertaining to the history and charism of Sts. Vincent and Louise de Marillac.

A representative of Pope Francis delivered a letter in which the Holy Father noted that the true promotion of human dignity cannot take place without the proclamation of the Gospel. He went on to say, "It is with joy that I am spiritually united to you to celebrate this anniversary and I hope that your beautiful work continues its mission of bringing an authentic testimony of God's mercy to the poorest."

### NATIONAL

#### Kansas City Celebration

LCUSA will be celebrating "400 Years of Saying 'Yes' to St. Vincent de Paul" in Kansas City on September 7, 8 and 9. We are pleased that at least four of our members (Mary Domer, Adele Eklund, Mary Johnson, Cathy Liska) plan to attend this National Assembly celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Ladies of Charity by St. Louise and St. Vincent in France and the 160th Anniversary of the Ladies of Charity in the United States. Those of us unable to attend can support the event

by sending nationally known gift cards for the Gift Card Auction. Gift cards should be sent by early August to:

**Bette Monson**

**12221 Reinhardt Lane, Leawood, KS 66209**

For more information about the event and ways to underwrite it, go to [aic.ladiesofcharity.us](http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us) or see Claire's email to all of our members, July 10, 2017.

– Claire Wycklendt

### LOCAL

#### 60th Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Saturday, September 23rd marks the date chosen for our 60th Diamond Jubilee Celebration at the Milwaukee Catholic Home. The event will begin with 9:00am Mass celebrated by Bishop James Schuerman. Following the Mass, officers and members will affirm their commitment to serve as Ladies of Charity, in accord with the request for all associations to do this during the 400th anniversary year. Mimosas and coffee will be provided in the solarium, followed by a delicious brunch. A fun program is being

planned to highlight especially the past 10 years. We ask that you also participate in the program festivities by sending any photos or special LOC memories you have from the last 10 years to Susan Westlake. Invitations will be mailed in mid-August and all members and guests are heartily encouraged to attend. This is a special event for Milwaukee Ladies of Charity you won't want to miss!

– Susan Westlake

## Websites

locmilwaukee.com  
aic.ladiesofcharity.us

## Facebook

Association of the Ladies of Charity  
of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## Officers

President Claire Wycklendt  
claire.wycklendt@gmail.com  
414-788-1190

Co-Vice-Presidents Cathy Onopa  
conopa@icloud.com  
414-507-0261  
Paulette Pecard  
ppecard@mcw.edu  
262-242-5447

Treasurer Jill Ecklund  
jecklund@kmcstampings.com  
414-828-9637

Recording Secretary Annette O'Brien  
annetteobwfb@gmail.com  
414-962-0505

Corresponding Secretary  
Patricia Neibor; phneibor@gmail.com,  
414-540-2133

Lay Spiritual Moderator Cathy Liska  
csliska1343@gmail.com  
414-688-4455

## Clothing Center

Gail Proite-Adams  
GailandBill@hotmail.com  
414-352-7377

Sharon Pircon  
rpircon@wi.rr.com  
414-962-1831

Sally Lautmann  
sally.lautmann@gmail.com  
414-526-2574

## Membership Directory

Katie Kasper  
katiekasper87@gmail.com  
414-899-6000

See Membership Directory for list  
of Board of Directors and  
Committee Chairs.

## Charity Chat Staff

Nancy Sturino –Co-Chair  
nmsturino@gmail.com

Pat Matusiak –Co-Chair  
matusiak@sbcglobal.net

Cathy Seelman  
caffy911@yahoo.com

Peggy Cavanaugh  
peggymarie1201@hotmail.com

## Cathy Liska Reflection

### Vincentian tidbits #2

Catherine Harkins

The first American Lady of Charity was a twenty-three year old wife and mother named Catherine Harkins.

Born in Ireland, Catherine came to the US with her family, first to New York, then Pennsylvania, Kentucky and finally, St Louis, MO. where she met and married Captain Hugh Harkins, a Mississippi steamboat captain.

Shortly after locating to St Louis, she had a vivid dream. Catherine watched as St Vincent, walking through snow-covered streets, gathered neglected children under his cloak. He spoke to Catherine directing her to assist the poor. After three consecutive dreams, she related the story to her confessor, who recognized it as a vision rather than a dream. Vincentian Fr. Gagnepain promised to offer Mass for her guidance while she in turn was to continue her prayer. She was later directed to gather assistants to form a society for the care of the poor (adding that if the inspiration was not from God, the work would not flourish.

The association was formed on December 8, 1857 and called the Ladies of Charity.

In Paris, several centuries earlier, Vincent had pondered the question: "Would it be possible to induce good women to give themselves to God to serve the poor?" This question led Vincent to take action in finding women who could help him organize charitable efforts. In the US Catherine Harkins' dream nudged her to take action.

Vincent and Catherine were not afraid to ponder questions and act on them.



### A little reflection :

Think of your own first steps in charitable ministry.

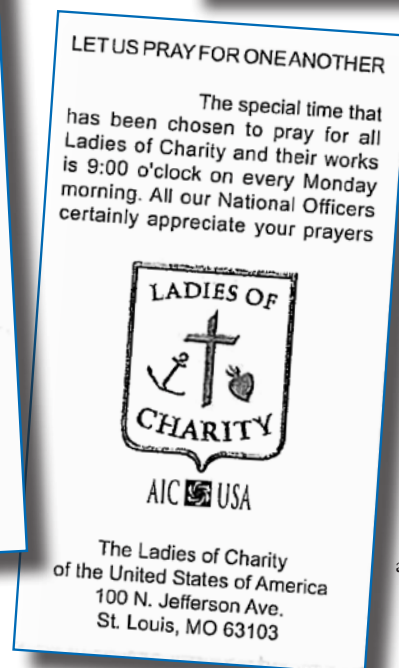
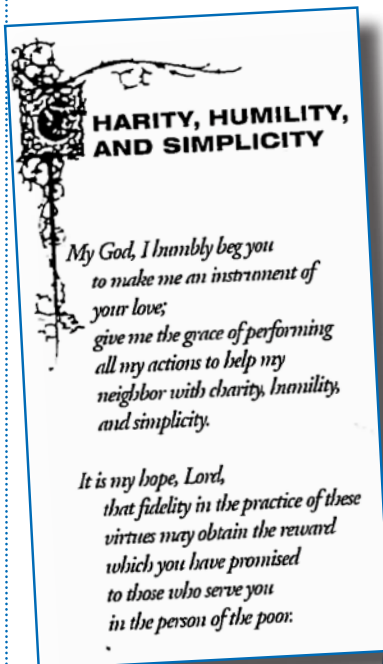
What questions came to mind then?

How did you become involved?

Were you nudged by God?

In what way?

Blessings on each "good work" you do.



Thank you to  
the Shorewood Press  
for their friendly  
service & expertise.

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