

LADIES OF CHARITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA® SERVICETTE

"To serve rather than to be served"



AIC USA

VOL. 54, N°2
JUNE 2015

2015 GRANTS AWARDED Local Associations Receive \$7,460

LCUSA offers local associations and Junior groups the opportunity to apply for cash grants to support service projects. Applications are reviewed objectively and scores are assigned based on defined criteria. This process takes place at the spring meeting of the national board.

For Hager grants, the project description must have funding targeted to persons who are marginalized and/or living in poverty. The number of members involved in the project and the number of people benefiting are also evaluated. Reviewers look for a creative approach to addressing needs, collaboration with other groups and/or systemic change methods and matching funds from the association or collaborators. The maximum grant per applicant is \$1000. The available pool of money (50% of the interest earned in the last year on the original Hager bequest) is prorated based on the scores earned.

In 2015, the successful Hager applicants were: St. Joseph Parish in Verona, Diocese of Pittsburgh, \$390 for boxed lunches at a women's shelter; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Washington, DC,



The reading enrichment program in Buffalo has benefited from Downey Grants in 2014 and 2015.

Continued — see Grants, p. 6

YOU ARE INVITED

15th Annual National Assembly, New Orleans September 17–19, 2015

Dear Ladies,

"Because it is very useful for all holy communities to meet together from time to time in some appropriate place to treat their spiritual advancement and ... to treat the matters that concern the good of the poor and the maintenance of said confraternity." (St. Vincent de Paul, Rule of the Confraternity of Charity of Châtillon, November 1617).

It is our pleasure and privilege, on behalf of the Ladies of Charity of New Orleans and the Southern Region to invite you to attend the 15th Annual National Assembly of the Ladies of Charity USA, "Vincentian Women Changing Communities with Joy and Hope."

Following the teaching of our founder, we gather annually to:

1. provide unity and cooperation among the associations of the Ladies of Charity in the USA;
2. animate the Catholic and Vincentian spirit of the Ladies of Charity in the USA by sharing our rich history, tradition, and prayer;
3. develop leadership, management and governance skills to assure best practices in the associations;
4. encourage the activities of the associations in charity, education and advocacy, individually and in collaboration with the Vincentian family to achieve systemic change;
5. and, advance our understanding of poverty and short and long-term solutions to poverty.

You will be inspired by Sr. Helen Prejean, enriched by the history of the Ladies of Charity as related by Sr. Fran Ryan, challenged by the experience of a poverty simulation. You will learn from various models of service for persons who are homeless, abused, and who care for caregivers, the elderly and those in prison. You will benefit from this great networking opportunity and from our communal prayer.

The NOLA committee is lining up some great tours of this culturally rich city. Details are in this issue. Also, please consider supporting the national assembly with a program ad and a silent auction item.

Register early! Your presence is important to the success of the Assembly.

With joy and hope in the spirit of St. Vincent and St. Louise,

Mary Ann Dantuono Darlene Daigle Patricia Parker

Mary Ann Dantuono
President, LCUSA

Darlene Daigle
Assembly Co-Chair

Patricia Parker
Assembly Co-Chair



The *SERVICETTE* is a publication of the Association of the Ladies of Charity as a record of their activities in the USA

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MISSION STATEMENT

To provide Vincentian leadership to women acting together against all forms of poverty.

VISION STATEMENT

LCUSA-AIC provides Vincentian leadership of transformation assisting persons who are vulnerable to move from marginalization and despair to participation and hope.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual members are supportive of the mission and purpose of LCUSA and participate in the ministry of the Ladies of Charity by prayer and/or service and pay dues prescribed by the board of directors.



SERVICETTE NEWS DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles and photos for the next issue of the *SERVICETTE*:

July 31

Articles and photos can be sent by e-mail to: kathleen.sieracki@gmail.com
Articles and photos should be sent separately and not within the text document.

Please contact us for info.



Bishop David A. Zubik
Episcopal Chairman

The Smothering Hug

We—you and I—have the golden opportunity to invite back those who have drifted away from the Church. You know just the right person. That's the one you want to invite. We need to invite them back. However there is a problem. There's a good chance that we don't know what to say or how to say it! While I can't give you a script that will work perfectly, for a start I can offer an image that might grease the wheels. I like to call it "The Smothering Hug."

Back in 1981, I made my first private directed retreat. It is an eight-day retreat made in silence. No contacts with other people, no conversations, except with God and the retreat director. As I prepared to go on the retreat, I knew that I had to deal with an unsettled issue. There was a sin in my life that, while I had already confessed it, still caused me to feel guilt and be unable to find peace. I knew that I needed to address the matter with my retreat director. I did!

As a result, the retreat director gave me a very powerful image. It is the image of the father hugging his son who was prodigal. His hug of "welcome back" was so tight that there was no way the prodigal son could not have felt his father's love. The retreat director

reminded me that God's love and mercy is like "The Smothering Hug." It's that kind of image that will give both you and me the courage and the tenderness to invite somebody who has been away to return to the Church. You are inviting them back to "The Smothering Hug" of God's love.

Here's how you might proceed. First, begin with listening, not speaking. A person discovers that they trust us because they are being heard. We know where she is coming from; we know what he is trying to say about himself and his journey to God. After trust is established



The Return of the Prodigal Son, by Pompeo Batoni (1708-1787)

through listening, we can't be "hidden" Catholics. Conversion begins with a positive association with something—or somebody—identifiably very much like Jesus the Christ. That somebody is you! That somebody is me!

Then comes the invitation. Most people won't come back unless they are asked.

Our invitation should always be first-person—here's what the Church means to me, here's how it applies in my daily life, here's the difference it makes in me. So, how do you ask them? That's the simple thing. Don't make it complicated.

"Won't you come to church with me?"

"Won't you come to church with me?" Listening. Trusting. Sharing. Inviting. In the end, this is all up to the Holy Spirit. That's who is nudging you and me to ask. That's who nudged the retreat director to share "The Smothering Hug" with me.

And that's who will nudge that special person you want to ask, "Won't you come to church with me?" ■



President's Message

Mary Ann Dantuono
LCUSA President

JOY and HOPE

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.

"The Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World," 1965

This line begins the final of four apostolic constitutions of the Second Vatican Council. This teaching was promulgated 50 years ago this December. It is a powerful document that calls all in the Church to a commitment to addressing poverty and injustice. It encourages the Church to continually examine the "signs of the times" so that

through the virtue of solidarity and a striving for the common good, we will create a new earth of justice and peace that will contribute to bringing about the reign of God.

As we celebrate 50 years of this modern call to action, we are also cognizant that over three centuries earlier Vincent de Paul used similar words to remind his communities of their call as baptized Christians to enter into the mystery of God's love by loving our neighbors:

"We can't see someone suffering without suffering along with him, or see someone cry without crying as well. This is an act of love, causing people to enter one another's hearts and to feel what they feel, far from those persons who have no feeling for the anguish of the afflicted, or the suffering of poor persons. Ah, how tenderhearted the Son of God was!" (St. Vincent de Paul, May 1659)

Joy and hope characterize the love the Ladies of Charity bring to communities. Strengthened by prayer and the Eucharist, we seek out the least and the lost and encounter our God. We serve with humility, simplicity and charity and we are the love of God for people we serve. This concept was explained beautifully

in a recent column "Seeing Christ in the Humble One Who Serves" by Fr. Tom McKenna, CM, on FAMVIN in which he quoted the scriptural commentator N.T. Wright (John for Everyone, Part 2, p 49).

"You probably won't realize this at the time. You'll be too busy thinking of the people you're working for and with. But, as you look back, you may be startled by the joy of realizing that as you walked into that house, that hospital, that place of pain or love or sorrow or hope, Jesus was walking in, wearing your skin, speaking in your tone of voice."

Grateful for our call to love, let us join together at the national assembly in New Orleans September 17, 18 and 19 to learn, to encourage each other, and to grow in our capacity to love God and our neighbor. The board committee chaired by Rita Robinson and the NOLA committee chaired by Darlene Daigle and Patricia Parker are working to create a great assembly in this culturally rich city. Information is available in this edition of the Servicette, on our website aic.ladiesofcharity.us and through the regional directors and the national office. Come with joy and hope! ■

AIC REPORT

International Association of Charities of St. Vincent de Paul

By Margaret Hanson

Mary Ann Dantuono, Gayle Johnson, Natalie Boone and Margaret Hanson represented LCUSA at the AIC Delegate Assembly and Executive Board meeting March 22–29 in Guatemala.

For the assembly opening, beautiful flowers including yellow gladiolas and orange/pink gerbera daisies decorated the altar and the room. Representatives of nations paraded their flags while dressed in native costumes. A dozen clergy participated along with several choirs accompanied by marimba music.

During the afternoon, executive board candidates were introduced, followed by language group participants getting to know one another, particularly by identifying their strengths. After dinner Fr. Eli Chavez, CM, spelled out principles based on the Gospel that guide AIC's contribution to society, taking human principles into account in the form of persons and the principle of the common good, which is an end, reminding participants that AIC is a means, not an end. Fr. Eli also elaborated on education as a tool to develop the strength of the volunteers and looked forward to the celebration of the 400th anniversary in 2017. Focus on communication, internalization and return to roots are key goals. The current priority of the AIC is education as a way of preventing poverty, violence, migration and loneliness.



From left, Gayle Johnson, Margaret Hanson, MaryAnn Dantuono and Natalie Boone represented LCUSA at the AIC Delegate Assembly.

The second day focused on the interchange of strengths and discussion of the means to develop strengths: building community, providing recreation, using

Continued — see p. 8 top

ADVOCACY CONNECTIONS

Mary Ann Tretler



FEBRUARY 7-10, 2015 • WASHINGTON, DC

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering 2015

www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org



Mary Ann Dantuono, Janet and Deacon Tom Berna, from St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Pittsburgh. Janet is a Lady of Charity and Deacon Tom is the Spiritual moderator.

and chair of the advocacy committee; and Mary Ann Tretler, Mid Atlantic advocacy liaison.

During the initial days advocacy training workshops provided information on scheduling and preparing visits to the offices of representatives and senators. Experienced Catholic social ministry advocates shared their knowledge with “first timers” to make them feel comfortable with what to

expect during the visits. Role playing was used to give participants practice for their upcoming visits with legislators.

The bishops' message to Congress focused on drawing a “Circle of Protection” around the “least of these” by protecting the needs of poor and vulnerable people in the federal budget. The issues discussed with legislators were both domestic and international. Domestic programs needing protection include food assistance, housing, workforce development, and access to life-affirming health care. International priorities are aimed at more funding for poverty-focused international development and humanitarian aid that would save lives, decrease poverty and promote peace. Other programs needing increased funding are international disaster assistance, migration and refugee assistance, conflict stabilization and peacekeeping operations. CSMG's solution to finding the extra funding for programs was to reduce unnecessary military spending including cutting back on nuclear weapons and modernization programs. There was also a call to finish the job on comprehensive immigration reform that promotes a path to citizenship and addresses the root causes of immigration, including poverty and



Mary Ann and MaryAnn Tretler

conflict; and to establish a “Future Flow Worker Program” which meets the needs of the American economy and is fair to both immigrants with needed skills and to the United States labor force.

Other presentations at the gathering gave detailed descriptions of how groups like Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild (POWER), founded by Bishop Dwayne Royster, were able to make specific changes in their community through organizing and training local leaders to confront their city councils by advocating for legal changes to improve their communities and provide services to those in need. Workshops provided specific ways for social ministry groups to coordinate with local unions on such issues as a living wage and sick leave benefits. Humanitarian efforts to deal with the large numbers of unaccompanied minors and families travelling to the United State were also discussed.

The gathering gave attendees the tools, knowledge and opportunity to network with other social ministry advocates/groups and move forward with the “social justice foot” of the “two feet of love in action.” The Ladies of Charity are experts on the “charitable works foot” of love in action while the CSMG provided guidance on how we can proceed through advocacy to be strong in the “social justice foot” as well, continuing to “walk the path of love.” ■

The annual Catholic Social Ministry gathering (CSMG) was held in Washington, DC, February 7–10. The theme of this year's gathering was “Encountering Christ in the Heart of the World,” based partly on “The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)” and on Pope Francis' 2013 “The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)” which asks all of us to go beyond our comfort zones to meet our fellow men and women in the world and witness to their day-to-day challenges.

LCUSA is one of 16 sponsors of this event which brought together over 500 Catholics, including 100 youth leaders. Representing LCUSA were President Mary Ann Dantuono; Rita Robinson, Mid Atlantic regional vice president



Mary Ann Dantuono and Rita Robinson, Mid Atlantic regional vice president and chair of the advocacy committee.



Feed the Turtle
St. Jerome's,
Hyattsville, Md.
 Maureen Roulit

The Ladies of Charity and the Juniors at St. Jerome's Parish collaborated to serve dinner to more than 250 people at the University of Maryland's Catholic Student Center. Local parishes volunteer to serve dinner following a 5:30 Mass on Wednesdays during the school year. The university's mascot is a

Maryland terrapin and their athletic teams' motto is Fear the Turtle. In a play on words, St. Jerome's dubbed their effort Feed the Turtle.

The planners were told just one day in advance to expect an additional 100 people. After last minutes calls for help to all the Ladies and the Knights of Columbus, the group was able to feed everyone generously and still have leftovers. Five Juniors helped serve the dinner and witnessed firsthand that God still multiplies loaves and fish. ■

Outreach to Haiti
Academy of the Holy Names, Albany , N.Y.

Judith Ferrara Wesley

The Junior Ladies of Charity at Academy of the Holy Names (AHN) is an enthusiastic and hardworking group of young women in grades 7-11, supporting wide-ranging service projects on international, national and local levels. Recently they completed their five year commitment to raise \$5,000 for a well in Haiti in conjunction with Free the Children, an international charity and

youth movement funded to a large extent by youth. Free the Children runs educational programs and campaigns in developed countries with the aim of empowering youth to become socially engaged. A new well will lift the burden from girls who have to travel distances for water, giving them time to attend school instead. The connection with young girls and education was a good fit for AHN. The Albany Ladies of Charity made a generous donation to supplement money the Juniors raised through cookie dough sales and a recent Yankee Candle fundraiser which earned \$1,500. ■

St. Mary of the Assumption Church
Lancaster, N.Y.,
Diocese of Buffalo

Marian Snyder

The Junior Ladies in the Diocese of Buffalo continue to be very busy. They assisted at the Bellringer Auction, one of the major fundraisers for the Ladies

of Charity. At their parish, the young women provided free babysitting while parents attended Generations of Faith and sacramental preparation meetings. They also held their Seventh Annual Bunny Brunch attended by 135 children accompanied by adults. Crafts, games, an egg hunt and an appearance by the Easter bunny were highlights of the event. ■



Above: JLOC at the Easter Bunny Brunch. Below: Buffalo JLOC ready to work at the Bellringer auction



New Junior Group in the Diocese of Albany

Beth De Angelis

A new Juniors is being organized in St. Matthew's Church in Voorheesville, N.Y. The group is affiliated with the Ladies of Charity of Albany. The first members will be installed in June. Watch for more details in the next issue of the Servicette. ■

Grants

Continued from page 1



Connie Gries displays supplies for hospitality bags funded by a 2015 Hager grant to LOC Evansville.

\$810 for feeding the homeless and stocking a food pantry; St. Matthias in Latham, Md., \$850 for their food pantry; Evansville, Ind., \$575 for hospitality bags at a women's shelter; St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louis, \$895 for underwear for homeless men and women; Albany, N.Y., \$950 for supplies for the two locations of Mary's Corner serving families with pre-



RCIA candidates in McKees Rocks, Penn., received bibles purchased through a 2014 Downey grant.

school children; Knoxville, Tenn., \$860 to purchase work boots for clients; and Nashville, Tenn., \$885 for Christmas baskets.

Applications for Diane Downey grants (maximum \$300) were rated on whether the funding was targeted to literacy programs for adults and/or children; the percentage of Ladies of Charity participating and the number of beneficiaries; and the financial contri-

bution of the association or collaborators. Albany, N.Y., received \$225 for its family literacy efforts; Buffalo, N.Y., earned \$230 for its reading enrichment project; and Metropolitan Kansas City was awarded \$275 for its program at Cristo Rey High School. The funds used to establish the Downey grants have been depleted. Reading enrichment grants will no longer be offered as a separate category. Associations may apply for help with literacy efforts under the auspices of the Hager grants, following established guidelines.

Parallel standards are applied for evaluation of grant applications from Junior Ladies of Charity (JLOC) groups. The funding must be targeted to the marginalized and/or people living in poverty; a significant percentage of JLOC members should be involved and the number of people benefiting is also considered. A creative approach, collaboration with other groups and/or systemic change methods and the availability of matching funds are also considered. Each group may apply for up to \$150.

The Juniors at St. Anthony of Padua Church, North Beach, Md., received \$90 for supplies for hand massages and mini-manicures at a nursing home; the Pittsburgh group was awarded \$145 for Christmas gifts for homeless women and children; the Juniors at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Diocese of Buffalo, earned \$150 for blessings bags for the homeless; and the JLOC of St. John's Prep., Astoria, N.Y., will use their \$130 grant for a pilgrimage which



Funded by a 2014 Hager grant, Ladies of San Francisco worked on craft projects with residents of the Epiphany Rehabilitation Center.

includes study of Vincentian heritage and service opportunities.

Congratulations to all the successful applicants. LCUSA looks forward to receiving reports and photos as your projects are completed. ■



With St. Vincent looking on, Delma Funderburk organizes underwear purchased with a 2014 Hager grant to Buffalo.

Living the Spirit of Lent and Easter

“You should all be holy with the many opportunities that are constantly available to you to serve God and the poor.”

St. Louise de Marillac

Ladies of Charity across the country found many ways to enter deeply into Lent and the Easter season.

Prior to the beginning of Lent, the Ladies of Charity of Schenectady, N.Y., gathered to create lapel crosses from



Schenectady Ladies making palm crosses.



palm fronds. They offered the crosses following weekend Masses at a local parish for a donation, both raising awareness of Lent and earning some money for their projects.

The association in Lake Travis, Texas, invited Fr. Richard Gielow, CM, spiritual advisor for LCUSA, to lead a day of reflection on Ash Wednesday. “The main thing is, to keep the main thing, the main thing,” Fr. Gielow said as he talked about staying focused on the Lord and the Eucharist. “Everything else will fall into place.” During his stay with Mary Cay Murray, he referred to research which has shown that he and his



Above: Fr. Richard Gielow greeting participants at the day of reflection. Below: Fr. Richard Gielow and Mary Cay Murray



brother Robert are the only twin priests in the history of the Congregation of the Mission.

The Ladies of Charity of Albany, N.Y., also had a day of reflection. G. Peter Avvento, STD, a respected author and lecturer, led the program titled “God is Calling, I am Listening, Now What?”



In Cincinnati, Patricia Decker (L) and Jean Wilkinson ready to accept donations for the Sharing Van.

On St. Patrick’s Day, Lake Travis hosted a second Lenten event. Sr. Frances Ryan, DC, Vincentian spiritual moderator for LCUSA, spoke about the legacy of our founders, Sts. Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac.

Early in Lent, the Ladies of St. Gertrude Parish in Cincinnati devoted the monthly collection in their Sharing Van to the needs of Mother of Christ

food pantry, where food, paper products, cleaning supplies and toiletries are in short supply. Members use the van throughout the year to benefit several community outreach sites.



Harker Heights members at the food collection at St. Paul Chong Hasang Church.



In Harker Heights, Texas, the Ladies have a monthly Mass, brunch and meeting. At their meeting during Lent, they omitted the brunch and instead took the money which would have been spent for the food, added donations made at the meeting and presented \$1428 to their parish priest to assist families in need at Easter. They also organized a collection of non-perishable items and money before and after Masses one weekend at St. Paul Chong Hasang Church. Two food centers benefited from the collection. Also in Texas, the



Bastrop Ladies presenting a check to the Open Door Soup Kitchen.

Ladies from Bastrop presented a check to the Bastrop Open Door Soup Kitchen.

Continued — see Easter, p. 8



AIC members from around the world attended the Delegate Assembly in Guatemala.

AIC Report

Continued from page 3, bottom

talent and building confidence. AIC Diplomas, recognizing successful distance learning using eight modules (at present available in only Spanish and Portuguese) to help volunteers better organize their work and take

on leadership roles were presented. Gayle Johnson participated in a panel discussion on best practices for advocacy and fund raising.

The third day of the assembly focused on the 400th anniversary celebration and especially the financial means to support it. Changes in the bylaws were explained. The evening entertainment

was a spectacular marimba concert by 12 performers, followed by a talent show featuring delegates.

Discussion on communicating the way of AIC; awakening one's first love; and a farewell address from outgoing president Laurence de la Brosse, including her desire for ten children and her mothering fifteen hundred, were highlights of the final day. Delegates voted for the executive board, now reduced in size to eight members. Alicia Duhne of Mexico is the new president. Gayle Johnson was elected to serve as animator for North America. AIC is composed of 53 nations. Of these, only eight have developed economies. The board voted to increase the dues of developed nations to two euros per member per year. Developing nations will pay 1.5 euros per member per year.

LCUSA is privileged to be an integral member of the AIC. ■

NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIN

Karen Radu has been appointed to the position of Director for the Mid-Atlantic Region on the LCUSA Board of Directors. She has been a member of the Ladies of Charity at Saint Louise de Marillac parish in Pittsburgh since 2008. Karen joined the diocesan board in 2012 as Spirituality Chair, organized a Day of Reflection attended by 200 women and was responsible for the yearly Investiture Mass. She is currently serving as First Vice President. Karen has also organized a group of 40 women who meet monthly to cut and sew Dignity Robes for breast cancer patients. Karen will fill the vacancy created by Francine Hovanec's resignation. LCUSA thanks Francine for her four years of service. ■



Easter

Continued from page 7



Above: Members from the San Fernando region worked to assemble Easter baskets. Below: Students at Guardian Angel School in Pacoima, Calif. are pleased with their Easter baskets.



Two associations worked to bring Easter joy to children and marginalized adults. The San Fernando regional group of the Ladies of Charity of Los Angeles assembled over 100 Easter baskets for students at Guardian Angel School in Pacoima.



Elmira Ladies work on Easter baskets for the community.



The Ladies of Elmira, N.Y., worked as a team to place candy, stuffed animals and toothbrushes and toothpaste in nearly 200 baskets. The beautiful gifts were presented to the Salvation Army, including its domestic abuse shelter; the Samaritan Center food pantry; and Miller Manor, a home for special needs adults.

Christ is risen, alleluia! ■

Kudos: Community Service Honored Congratulations to All!

Carolyn Brown and Rita Robinson

Carolyn Brown and Rita Robinson, Ladies of Charity at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Washington, DC, received certificates of appreciation for their service as co-mentors in the Welcome Home reentry program sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. The presentation took place during an appreciation luncheon for participants, both mentors and mentees.

Welcome Home assists men and women returning from incarceration to adjust and reorient their lives by providing them with the guidance of experienced mentors recruited from local religious and civic organizations. Mentors act as strong role models



Rita Robinson receiving a certificate of appreciation from Fr. Michael Bryant. Carolyn Brown was not able to attend.

offering returnees moral support and encouragement as they work to redirect their lives. The program works in close collaboration with many organizations to ensure that men and women are unconditionally welcomed back to their communities.

Rita Robinson brings a wide range of experience as an educator and counselor to this project. Her sister Carolyn Brown has work experience in mental health treatment as a social worker, nurse and quality control specialist.

Both women are interested in working with diverse populations in need. ■

Mary Dickerson

To spotlight the impact of service and thank those who serve, mayors across the country recently participated in the Third Annual Mayor's Day of Recognition. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Erie County successfully nominated Mary Dickerson, a Lady of Charity in Buffalo:



Mary Dickerson (C) with Mayor Byron Brown to her left. On the far right is Eileen Nowak, Director of Buffalo LOC.

When Mary Dickerson retired from her position doing cancer research at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in 2009, she decided that volunteering would be a significant part of the next chapter of her life. First, Mary and her husband Bob signed up to deliver Meals on Wheels. Mary also signed up to volunteer at the Ladies of Charity thrift store, working with other women putting together "Fresh Start" packets, a set of basic housewares that someone would need to set up an apartment.

Mary said "By helping a family to get back on their feet, I feel like I am doing something worthwhile. The Fresh Start program gives people who are down a hand up, and so they can begin to move in the right direction. Although the volunteers do not have a chance to meet the individuals who will

receive a particular Fresh Start package, we sometimes hear about what led to a family's need for a Fresh Start – fire, domestic violence, or even bedbug infestation. We try to personalize the package that they will find waiting for them when they arrive at the thrift store. For example, a mother and five children experienced domestic violence. We found a pretty teapot and some teacups to tuck into the packet for their new home."

"I really enjoy working at Ladies of Charity because the people that I work with are very kind. They talk about others only in a positive light. They are the kind of people that I can look up to. They live their beliefs."

In June 2014, Mary and Bob had a very serious car accident, and faced long months of recovery. One of Mary's goals was to return to the volunteering that she enjoyed so much. In October, the volunteers at Ladies of Charity were thrilled to

see her walk in the door, ready to get back to work!

Patra Mangus, who supervises Mary and other Ladies of Charity volunteers, said that "Mary has an indomitable spirit. She always is pleasant and happy when she comes in. She is a hard worker. And most of all, she has the best eyeglasses!" ■

Alba Giordano

Albany Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger presented Alba Giordano the Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award from Catholic Charities. She was recognized for her many years of service at a local food pantry. Alba is a past president of Albany Ladies of Charity and served on LCUSA's board during 2003–2006. She is also a former trustee of her parish.

Continued — see page 10



Alba Giordano and Albany Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger.

According to the citation, her enthusiasm for volunteering and helping others in the community is a joy to all who work with her. At the Sister Maureen Joyce Center, her presence is welcoming and has enriched the lives of many who come to seek assistance. Alba reflected, "I look forward to going to work every week where I have made wonderful friends of both the volunteers and the clients. I have listened to life experiences that I never believed I could hear. I constantly ponder the mystery of life, but it affirms my belief that there but for the grace of God go I." ■

Thank You, Mrs. Johnson Angel's Tribute in His Own Words

Have you ever had that experience where you watch a movie or read a book and you think certain things can only happen in the movies or novels? I certainly have, it was back in second grade when I met Mrs. Johnson, a lady of charity, who after all these years has become a great influence and role model in my life. As well as a great friend and a member of my family. She would tutor me, teach me to succeed and impact my life, during the time I struggled the most in school.

It was at Our Lady of Talpa while I was in second grade when Mrs. Johnson would come after school to tutor me. Always with a smile in her face and ready to teach me, she would meet me in the media center, I would see her and I couldn't avoid but smile back and feel happy. We would always do my homework and read books, such as "The Cat in the Hat," "The Giving Tree," amongst many other great books. In all these books there would be characters that would give kids happiness like in "The Cat in the Hat" or would give up everything they had or could give just to see her little boy happy like in "The Giving Tree." In some of the books there were Godmothers that would take care of the character and give him or her what he or she needed. This was where I thought only fiction books had this with all the magic and great things, that's why they



Suzanne Johnson and Angel

are called fiction books. I was wrong fiction books are not completely made up and Godmothers do exist, I can personally say that.

Mrs. Johnson just like in the many books we read is one of those magical characters that gives happiness and all they had to see a child be happy. Mrs. Johnson is my Godmother just like in the books, maybe she didn't have a magic wand but she not only tutored me in second and third grade, she gave me the key to success. An opportunity to become someone in life and be successful, she gave me great teachings that I've carried all my life to this day. She has helped me open doors to a better future, a future that just like in the books it can say "they lived happily ever after."

Editor's Note: Suzanne Johnson is President-elect of LCUSA. She reports that the author of this tribute is the first member of his family to attend high school. ■

Emma Meredith

Emma Meredith, a Lady of Charity in the Evansville, Ind., association was named 2014 Social Worker of the Year by the Association of Veterans Affairs Social Workers. She was nominated and selected for this prestigious award by her peers nationwide. Emma has received numerous other awards including the Mother Teresa Service Award from the Diocese of Evansville for her work with the military and veterans. In 2013 she was selected by the National Association



Evansville Police Officers Debbie Baird (L) and Greg Young(R) with IKE at Emma's award ceremony. Emma's mother stands to her right.

of Social Workers as Social Worker of the Year for the State of Indiana.

Emma received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Louisville and holds a variety of professional certifications. The Governor of Kentucky commissioned her a Kentucky Colonel for her work with veterans in that state. She has worked in a wide

variety of service sites including hospice; trauma; medical; foster care; adoptions; behavioral health; abuse/neglect; emergency room; grief/loss; and crisis intervention. Emma continues to mentor other social workers and students and recognizes that at the same time she is also being mentored, an essential part of being a social worker.

From the time Emma was a young child she was taught by her mother, who is also a Lady of Charity, her maternal grandfather and the Daughters of Charity, to serve the poor. Emma has been a Lady of Charity since high school, currently serving as secretary of her association. She has a strong commitment to those placed in her care. For example, once a month for 10 years, she had a personal mission to provide clothing and other items to Ft. Campbell, Ky., for soldiers and their dependents whose incomes were below the poverty line. Initially she transported items in her car, then a van, then a two ton truck. As a result of her commitment she received a hand written thank you note from the commander at that time, General David Petraeus. She also connected with community members and organizations in gathering items for care packages to soldiers in war-torn areas as well as to an orphanage in Afghanistan.

In other volunteer work, Emma works with the Little Sisters of the Poor in their service to the poor and the elderly. A social work newsletter published her reflection "Thirteen Wooden Crosses" in memory of the Ft. Hood

massacre, originally written for a presentation on grief and loss. She has accompanied World War II veterans on honor flights to see their memorial in Washington, DC, and developed a local prayer garden for all military – for those who have served; for those who are serving; and for those who will serve. About five years ago, Emma learned that Buster, the bomb sniffing dog for the Evansville Police Department, was going blind. She made a donation which helped to secure IKE, currently the only bomb sniffing dog in a 12 county area. Emma was very happy to see IKE at her award ceremony.

As the Ladies of Charity continue to model the ministry of their founder they go forward and remember that "we are here to serve and not to be served." ■



Sr. Fran Ryan accepting the statue of St. Bonaventure.

Sister Frances Ryan, DC

Sister Frances Ryan, LCUSA Vincenzian Spiritual Moderator, received a hand carved wooden statue of St. Bonaventure carrying a sick person

in his arms as she was honored by the Alexian Brothers with the highest award for AIDS Ministry. The award recognizes a grant from the Daughters of Charity which funded the Caritas Center, a learning complex offering computer skills training and GED classes to residents and neighbors of Bettendorf Place, a supportive housing facility on the south side of Chicago for people with HIV/AIDS. The charisma of the Alexian Brothers includes reaching out to the poor, sick and dying, especially the marginalized and powerless. ■

Albany LOC

The Academy of the Holy Names (AHN) presented the Sister Constance Casey '59 SNJM Foundress Service & Community Leadership Award to the Ladies of Charity of Albany, N.Y. The Ladies mentor a Junior Ladies of Charity group at the school. The award was presented at the Partners in Education scholarship luncheon.

The award is presented annually to individuals or organizations who serve as examples to the students of the positive impact a person can have on the world through selfless commitment to others. As described in the school's announcement, "The service, commitment and dedication demonstrated by the Ladies of Charity over the years to AHN have, indeed, perpetuated our mission." ■

Below: Albany LOC present to accept the community leadership award.



Dates to Remember

■ **May 24, 2015–May 15, 2016**
(Pentecost to Pentecost)
 Year of Vincentian Collaboration

■ **September 17–20**
LCUSA National Assembly
 New Orleans Marriott
 555 Canal St.
 New Orleans

■ **October 23–25**
Vincentian Family Gathering
 Denver

2015 is the 50th Anniversary of Gaudium et Spes, (“Joy and Hope”), the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World from the Second Vatican Council. The document is an overview of the Catholic Church’s teaching about the human person’s relationship to society, especially in reference to economics, poverty, social justice, culture, science and technology and ecumenism. At this conference we will explore many dimensions of the Ladies of Charity USA who change their communities with their joy of the Gospel and bring hope to many through their service, education and advocacy.

Sr. Frances Ryan, D.C., Ph.D. presents “An Historical View of the Spirituality of the Women Who Answered St. Vincent’s Call.” Sister Fran will give us a brief view of the talent and commitment of the first Ladies of Charity in France and in America, emphasizing their spirituality, roles in service of people living in poverty, and relevance to our mission today. (Friday, September 18, from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.)



Assembly Highlights Include:

Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, is a noted author and speaker. She is known around the world as a tireless advocate of compassion and care for prisoners, victims of crime, and for the elimination of the death penalty. Calling herself a “southern storyteller,” Sr. Helen will speak on “Dead Man Walking—The Journey Continues.” (Saturday, September 19, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)



Photo by Scott Langley



A Poverty Simulation: Understanding Poverty in the Midst of Plenty. This experience will increase knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of poverty and the work it takes to achieve self-sufficiency. (Friday, September 18, 1–3:30 p.m.)

Workshops

Repeated twice, select two, Saturday, September 19, 10-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Elder Care and the Role of Formal and Informal Caregivers: A discussion of Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) as a model of care and how informal caregivers play an important role in providing for the needs of the elderly.

Speaker: Chantell H. Reed, Director of Enrollment and Member Services, PACE-GNO an affiliate of Catholic Charities in New Orleans



Collaboration — Together we can do more than any one of us can do on our own. The Rebuild Center is a model of collaboration. Its mission is to provide a setting, resources and opportunities for collaboration among Catholic and other faith-based organizations in the City of New Orleans for the service of persons who are homeless and those in need.

Speaker: Sr. Vera Butler PVBM, Founder and Director



Changing Lives of the Abused and Enslaved: Dawn’s Place

Dawn’s Place proactively supports women affected by commercial sexual exploitation (CSE)—trafficking or prostitution, and its abuse by providing services to women, raising awareness through education, and generating prevention, public policy reform and community collaborations.

Speaker: Michelle Loisel, D.C., Executive Director



Changing Lives and Communities through Restorative Justice

Cornerstone Builders is a ministry within prisons, for prisoner’s families and with ex-offenders. This workshop will also introduce a systemic change project of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society recently funded in five areas across the U.S. by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Speakers: Tom Constanza and Ronnie Moore of the “Cornerstone Builders Ministry”





Changing Communities by Supporting the Needs of the Family Caregiver

Invited Speaker: Peer Educator of National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). In family support groups, families help other families who live with mental health challenges. Utilizing their collective lived experiences and learned wisdom, family members can achieve a renewed sense of hope for their loved one living with mental health challenges, as well as learn concrete skills and share valuable information. What more can we do?

Benchmarks and Best Practices for Local Associations

PANEL DISCUSSION, Saturday, September 19
8:45–9:45 a.m.

1. Prayer Matters: Peggy Keene
2. Member Matters: Lucky Van de Gejuchte
3. Communication Matters: Kathy Kavanaugh
4. Money Matters: Winona Nelson
5. Governance Matters: Suzanne Johnson

Regional Meeting, Friday, September 18,
4–5:30 p.m.

Business Meeting, Saturday, September 19, 2–3 p.m.

Liturgies



Opening: Presider and Homilist, Rev. Richard Gielow, C.M., Spiritual Advisor Ladies of Charity USA, Friday, September 18, 8:30 a.m.

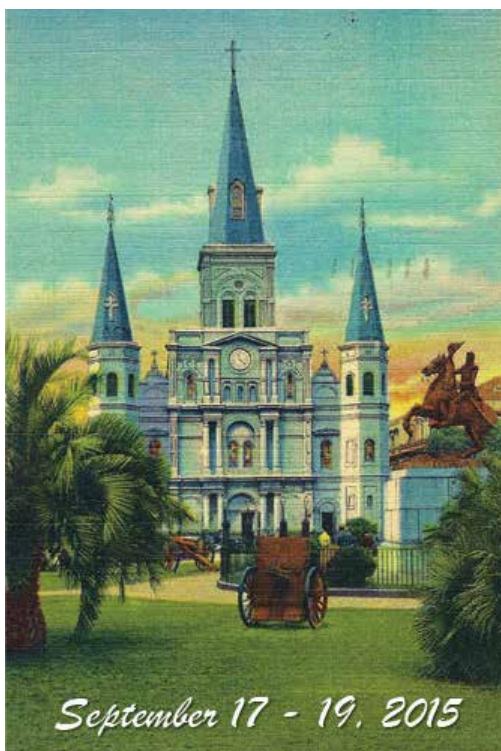
Closing: St Louis Cathedral, Archbishop Gregory Michael Aymond, Presider Saturday, September 19, 5 p.m.

2015 Assembly Co-Chairs

Darlene Daigle and Patricia Parker first met as fellow teachers in a New Orleans high school. Darlene was a certified math teacher and Patricia taught reading and social studies. They were introduced to the Ladies of Charity by another faculty member, Sr. Julia Ann Blanchard, DC. Today the three are working together again. Darlene and Patricia are co-chairs of the 2015 LCUSA National Assembly and Sr. Julia Ann is chairing the silent auction at the assembly. Other members of their small association are also actively involved.

Patricia retired from full-time teaching after 34 years. During her career she had the distinction of being named the Walmart Teacher of the Year for Louisiana for 1998. Patricia participates part-time at an elementary school in a “Bricks for Kids” program, using Legos projects to teach math and science. She is also active in the Ladies for Purple Scholars, a foundation which raises scholarship funds for under-privileged children.

Darlene describes her heritage as 100% Acadian French. In the 1600s a group of people left France and settled in Nova Scotia, Canada. After refusing to repudiate their Catholic faith, they were expelled in the middle of the 18th century. Over the next 20 years, the population was dispersed, with about



3,000 Acadians finding their way to Louisiana, developing a unique culture which came to be known as Cajun. Born in Louisiana, Darlene was raised in southern Florida, but she finds Louisiana and its food the best.

Both women were impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Patricia evacuated to a home she owned in Mississippi, while her New Orleans home, one and a half blocks from Lake Pontchartrain, was flooded and subsequently gutted. One of her daughters was forced to relocate to Dallas. During a two year period Darlene survived four hurricanes in Florida and Louisiana as well as a wildfire in the southwest. She reminds potential visitors that you can order a Hurricane any time at Pat O’Brien’s in the French Quarter.

Darlene and Patricia describe New Orleans as a compact city, ideal for walking. Comfortable shoes are a requirement. Many free attractions are available, including the French Quarter and the Louisiana Historical Society. They suggest researching restaurants and making reservations in advance. It will be easier to cancel a reservation than to try to get one on short notice. Darlene and Patricia tell us, “If you don’t need to sleep, you can do it all!” Be sure to introduce yourself to the New Orleans National Assembly Co-Chairs! ■



REGISTRATION FORM

Ladies of Charity of the United States of America 15th Annual National Assembly
 “Vincentian Women Changing Communities with Joy and Hope”

September 17, 18, 19, 2015
New Orleans Marriott Hotel
 555 Canal Street, New Orleans LA 70130

(Please Print)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (C) _____

Address: _____ City-ST- Zip: _____

Region (check): Mid-Atlantic ___ North Central ___ Northeastern ___ Southern ___ Western ___

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

May we use this information for our roster? Yes No Just the name

Hotel Arrival Date & Time: _____ Hotel Departure Date & Time: _____

Please check all that apply:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ LCUSA Board Member | ___ Daughter of Charity | ___ Past LCUSA Board Member |
| ___ LCUSA Past President | ___ Sister of Charity | ___ Junior Lady of Charity |
| ___ Association President | ___ Spiritual Moderator | ___ Assembly Speaker |
| ___ Association Officer | ___ Spiritual Advisor | ___ Guest ___ Other |
| ___ Lady of Charity | | |

If you have any special dietary needs, please specify. _____

<i>Full Assembly Registration</i>	\$225.00 _____
Registration Includes:	
Breakfast – Friday and Saturday	
Luncheon – Friday	
Plenary Sessions and Workshops – Friday and Saturday	
Transportation for Mass, Banquet and Entertainment – Saturday	
<i>Late Registration</i> – <u>Received after August 1, 2015 deadline</u>	\$250.00 _____
<i>Friday Only Registration</i> (events, breakfast, lunch)	\$125.00 _____
<i>Saturday Only Registration</i> (events, breakfast & banquet)	\$175.00 _____
<i>Saturday Evening Banquet and Entertainment Only (Guest)</i>	\$ 85.00 _____
(A \$30 handling fee will be applied to all cancellations.)	
TOTAL Due:	\$ _____
Please make checks payable to LCUSA and mail to:	
Tama Dutton	
LCUSA National Service Center	
850 Main Street	
Kansas City, Missouri 64105	

I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to help defray costs.

New Orleans Registrati on Chair - Sandy Norman - 504-831-8809, snormansandy@gmail.com.

Customize Your Trip to New Orleans

People attending the LCUSA National Assembly in New Orleans will have the opportunity to pick their own tours and receive a 10% discount off the published rates on any Gray Line tour in the area by booking directly with the company, either online at www.GraylineNewOrleans.com, or by calling the reservation line at 800-233-2628. Refer to the special group discount code: LOC915, valid for Sept. 10–17 and Sept. 20–24. Tours run rain or shine, must be paid in full in advance and are refundable up to four hours prior to departure time. All tours depart from the Gray Line Lighthouse Ticket Office in the French quarter. Shuttle pick-up at the hotel may be available for some tours. If not, the office is an easy 10-minute walk, covering approximately 5½ short blocks.



ter mile “allee,” a road lined with 29 oak trees, each over 250 years old. Access to the second floor is by stairs only, and walking the grounds enhances the visit.

The guide for the **Cemetery & Voodoo Walking Tour** will recount the background of the famous and infamous people buried in the St. Louis Cemetery and explain New Orleans’ unique above ground burial customs. After learning about voodoo, each person will receive an authentic “Gris-Gris” bag and discover its mysterious ingredients.



The Ladies of Charity of New Orleans are recommending some of their favorites. The first is the **Plantation/Swamp Tour: From Belles to Bayous**. Costumed docents and artisans will provide insights into the family history and daily life at the Destrehan Plantation. Access to the second floor of the home is by stairs only. It’s a short ride from the plantation to take a cruise through the Manchac Swamp, a privately owned wildlife refuge, home to both a legendary Cajun werewolf and live alligators. A **Paddle and Wheel Combo** includes a motor coach tour of New Orleans and a two hour cruise on the Steamboat Natchez, the last authentic steamboat on the Mississippi, featuring a narration of the highlights of one of the world’s busiest ports.



Also available is the **Garden District & Mansion Walking Tour** which includes a walk through the elegant Garden District, an exclusive view of the interior of the Opera Guild Home, built circa 1895 and a visit to the “American” section of the city built to rival the French Quarter.

More detailed descriptions are available on the LCUSA website (aic.ladiesofcharity.us) and at www.GraylineNewOrleans.com. Additional tours are also described there. Plan your trip and make your reservations soon. ■

The **New Orleans City Tour** is a narrated motor coach ride providing an introduction to the history, culture and landmarks of the city. Separate tours of two plantation homes are offered. **Laura: A Creole Plantation Tour** was awarded the “Top Travel Attraction in Louisiana” by the Louisiana Travel Promotion Association in 2007. The plantation includes 11 historic buildings, including slave cabins. Walking on the grounds is an integral part of the experience.

The **Oak Alley Plantation Tour** will reveal the fascinating story of the home and its history. The property includes a quar-

Ladies of Charity of the United States of America®

15th Annual National Assembly

“Vincentian Women Changing Communities with Joy and Hope”

September 17, 18, 19, 2015

New Orleans Marriott Hotel

555 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
www.neworleansmarriott.com
Toll Free: 1-800-654-3990

Local: 504-581-1000

Fax: 504-523-6755

HOTEL & TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

The New Orleans Marriott is a non-smoking facility located on the edge of the French Quarter and within walking distance to many iconic landmarks and tourist attractions such as the Audubon Aquarium/I-Max Theatre, Harrah's Casino, St. Louis Cathedral, Café du Monde and the internationally acclaimed World War II Museum. Innumerable restaurants, bars and cafes are in the immediate area.

Room Rate: \$129 per room night + 13% tax + \$3/per room/per night city occupancy fee + 1.75% NOCVB assessment of each room rate/per room/per night.

King or Two Double Beds. Standard in-room amenities. Complimentary internet. Coin laundry on site. Outdoor pool. Fitness center. Fed Ex copying & mailing center. Other information may be found on the hotel website, www.neworleansmarriott.com.

Reservations: Please make hotel reservations through the official LOC “Booking Website,” listed above and available through a link posted on the 2015 National Assembly webpage at the LOC USA website, www.aic.ladiesofcharity.us If you choose to utilize the toll-free-telephone number above to make your hotel reservations, please reference the “Ladies of Charity” to receive the group rate.

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 is the deadline to make reservations and receive the guaranteed group rate.

Reservations after this are subject to room availability at the prevailing rate. Three days pre and post meeting may also be had at the group rate, subject to availability. Attendees are responsible for arranging and paying for their own hotel accommodations.

Check-In Time: 4 p.m.

Check-Out Time: 11:00 a.m.

Valet Parking – \$38/day plus 9.75% tax and tip. One vehicle allowed per room.

Airport Transportation – The hotel does not have its own shuttle service.

Taxis ~ \$33 each way.

Handicap-accessible shared van service is available at our discounted group rate of \$35 roundtrip, when booked online only at least 24 hours in advance of flight, with The Ladies of Charity official discounted Airport Shuttle For more information and to make reservations, please go to the LCUSA website, www.aic.ladiesofcharity.us.

Driving Directions: Please refer to New Orleans Marriott Hotel website for detailed driving directions.



New Orleans

Members' Participation Equals Success

LCUSA encourages all members to participate in the annual national assembly, and welcomes everyone who is able to attend. Every association and member can contribute to the assembly's success through the purchase of program ads, underwriting contributions and donations to the silent auction. Full-page program ads cost \$150; a half-page \$90; a quarter page \$75. There are also options for one and two line advertisements, \$30 and \$45, respectively. Underwriting contributions in any amount are welcome. Further information and specifications are available on the LCUSA website (aic.ladiesofcharity.us) or by contacting Tama Dutton, Executive Administrator, 816-260-3853, or email office@ladiesofcharity.us. Make checks payable to LCUSA/Program Patrons and send together with your advertisement no later than July 15, 2015 to Tama at the LCUSA National Service Center, 850 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64105.

Assembly Advertising & Silent Auction

Contributing to the silent auction also helps defray the cost of the assembly. Requested donations include small travel-friendly items such as books, art, gift cards to national retailers, religious items and jewelry. Please send your donation and its description to Sr. Julia Ann Blanchard, Daughters of Charity Felicity House, 954

Felicity St., New Orleans, LA 70130. The description should include your contact information, the name of the item, approximate size, value and suggested opening bid. If you will be bringing the donation to the assembly, send just the description. Donations and descriptions should be sent by Aug. 1. A description form with full details is available on the LCUSA website. For questions, you may contact Darlene Daigle, ddaigleLOC2015@gmail.com, 850-384-8674, or Patricia Parker, ppburkett74@yahoo.com, 504-245-2507.

Association presidents have also received a detailed mailing about each of these ways to support the assembly. LCUSA looks forward to everyone's participation. ■

Associations In Action

Ladies of Charity at St. John's University presents "An Evening of Hope"

Marge Cashin

The St. John's University association held its second annual Ladies of Charity Present: An Evening of Hope. There were a few goals for the evening: heighten the association's profile on campus, honor a worthy individual, and raise some money for project support.

The focus of the event was the presentation of the St. Louise de Marillac Spes Unica Award, developed by the association to honor a person who improves the lives of others through service. The phrase "spes unica," inscribed on the cross at the original grave of St. Louise, is literally translated "one hope" or "only hope." Service to humanity through good planning, programming and collaboration is the "one hope" to alleviate the burdens of living in poverty. The award will honor people who are committed to improving the situation of persons in need.

Rosanne Haggerty received this year's award. She is an internationally recognized leader in developing innovative strategies to end homelessness and strengthen communities. As a Catholic Charities worker in Brooklyn and Queens in the 1980s, Ms. Haggerty realized it made more sense to end homelessness than to keep expanding services. In 1990 she founded Common Ground Community, a pioneer in the development of supportive housing and research-based practices that end homelessness. As her thinking progressed, she found that the key to ending homelessness lies not in buildings but in communities and in 2011 she founded Community Solutions,

a national organization which leads local innovation through collaboration.

The event was also developed as a fundraiser and members and vendors generously donated many wonderful prizes for a silent auction and raffle. The prize tables were overseen by five of the Junior Ladies of Charity from St. John's Preparatory High School. The young women were energetic and engaging as they presented the winners with their treasures. The association was proud and grateful to have their assistance.

The evening was deemed a success due to the considerable combined efforts of association members. Everyone is looking ahead to next year's Evening of Hope. ■



St. John's LOC President Mary Ellen Freeley (L) presenting the Spes Unica Award to Rosanne Haggerty.

Nashville LOC Partners with Soles4Souls

Ann Caste

Soles4Souls, based in Nashville, is a global not-for-profit institution dedicated to fighting poverty through the distribution of shoes and clothing. The organization has relationships with several of the world's leading apparel brands which provide new but unmarketable overstocks, returns and discontinued items. The new footwear is distributed directly to people in need through qualified distributors. Nashville LOC

held March 27–May 2. Approximately one half of the proceeds are used to support the work of the Nashville Ladies of Charity. ■

Little Rock: Collaboration with DePaul USA

Nancy Bennett



Little Rock LOC President Nancy Bennett with Sr. Elizabeth Greim and two workers at the Jericho Way Center.

The 46 members of the Little Rock association are active in a wide variety of services. They hold an annual art camp for children in need, particularly those affected by incarceration of a parent; provide home-baked cookies to homeless men and women; do special out-reach to women in crisis pregnancies; and organize a Good Soil Garden where low-income elderly people tend and share crops. The Ladies are now adding a new ministry by collaborating with Sr. Elizabeth Greim, DC, the director of Jericho Way Center, a recently opened day care center for the homeless operated under the auspices of DePaul USA. Sr. Elizabeth commutes between Little Rock and Macon, Ga., where she is the director of Daybreak House, also a respite center for homeless people. Both facilities offer breakfast and lunch and a place to shower, nap or visit. LOC members in Little Rock will help with meals and donate needed personal care supplies. ■

Hemet Pioneers

Theresa Ward

In the last issue of the *Servicette*, LCUSA was proud to announce the formation of a new association in Hemet, Calif. This article introduces some of the pioneering women who stepped forward to help establish this group and serve as founding officers along with President Deni Antoinette Mazingo.

Norma Lopez, the bi-lingual pastoral associate at Holy Spirit Parish, emigrated from Mexico 25 years ago and she and her husband have been members of the parish for 13 years. Norma is the mother of three children and serves as the liaison between the parish and the Ladies of Charity. Adding to her busy life as a mother of a ten-year-old son, a student and a candidate for the national guard, Desiree Rivera, also



received new work boots which they are using to help their clients make real changes in their lives.

Hidgini, Guadalupe, Raul and Romero came into the LOC Welfare Office looking for second-hand boots. The men are experienced construction workers, but had been told that new regulations require they wear steel toed construction boots. They could not return to the work site without the proper footwear. Ladies of Charity outfitted the four men with boots. Afterward, a customer reported she had heard such cries of joy in the parking lot she thought the men had won the lottery.

Wayne came in seeking a pair of pants so he could be better dressed to look for a job in construction. By the time he left, Wayne had the pants, a brand new pair of boots and an up-to-date resume which the Ladies had helped him prepare. “What a home run I scored today!” Wayne said. “Thank you very much. This was the best move I ever made walking into the Ladies of Charity today.”

Scott moved to Nashville from California to make a new start in life. He came to the Welfare Office looking for work clothes for himself and others. Like Wayne, Scott left with a resume and work boots. Randy comes into Ladies of Charity on occasion, looking for some help to tide him over. He is always on the lookout for a better paying job to support his family. During a conversation, Randy said that he hoped to find construction work. He was offered a pair of new work boots received from Soles4Souls. “Now I will definitely qualify for that better job,” he said.

Nashville LOC is grateful for the timely donation of work boots from Soles4Souls. Much of the operation of the Welfare Office is supported by the Ladies’ semi-annual consignment sales. Members work for weeks to sort, approve and price consigned clothing and accessories. They decorated and staged the shop to create a boutique atmosphere. Their spring sale was



Hemet Officers: Teresa Quam, second from the left in the front row; Joann Hameister is on her left. Desiree Rivera is second from the right in the front row. Deni Antoinette Mazingo is second from the left in the second row; Dolores Autenreith is on her left. Jackie Peterson is the first person on the left in the third row.

bi-lingual, agreed to serve as vice-president. On the afternoon of the Ladies of Charity installation ceremony Desiree left for her military training out of state. Dolores Autenreich, a retired widow with three children and nine grandchildren, agreed to serve as interim vice-president during Desiree's absence. Dolores considers it an honor to be a Lady of Charity. The secretary is Jackie Peterson, who retired in Hemet after a 20 year career as a Yeoman Chief Petty Officer in the navy. She was an early recruit to LOC, believing "volunteering time is as valuable as donating money."

Ave Brown volunteered to serve as treasurer soon after hearing about the Ladies of Charity. "I went to the first information meeting and believed it was something I would like to be involved in," she said. Teresa Quam is the parliamentarian. As a young widow, she raised three children, now all in college, while working as a teacher. Joann Hameister is the corresponding secretary. She and her husband have two grown children. They lost a third child (a twin) to a disability. The Lord does work in mysterious ways as Joann had a 34 year career as Chief Executive Officer for the Hemet Valley Intervention Program for Tots, providing services for children with and without disabilities and parenting classes.

LCUSA thanks all these women for accepting roles as servant leaders. ■

St. Gregory the Great Parish Diocese of Buffalo

Marilyn Leslie

A group of Ladies of Charity from St. Gregory the Great parish in the Diocese of Buffalo visited with Fr. John Barth, a Maryknoll priest returning home for a brief visit from his work in South Sudan, Africa. Fr. Barth has spent five years there working and administrating skilled training for the blind. His

previous eleven years were spent in Cambodia, founding an organization of social workers, doctors and nurses specifically trained to help the incurably blind. Fr. Barth showed the group views of his eye clinic in Buluk, facilities in Juba and Balinyang and a Mori village among other beautiful scenes of this impoverished agriculture-based country. As Fr. Barth says of his blind students who have completed the training, "Yes, sometimes the blind do lead the blind." The parish association provides a stipend each year to support Fr. Barth's work. ■



Buffalo Ladies of Charity from St. Gregory the Great visit with Fr. John Barth

Memorials and Honorariums

Both the persons named below and the donors will be remembered at a special Mass said by our National Spiritual Advisor, the Rev. Richard Gielow, C.M. Please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter to submit your own intention.

† MEMORIALS †

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Bequeathed by</i>
Marie Buckley (Past LCUSA president)	Ann Peffen
Joseph R. Casarsa (son)	Rudolph & Ann Casarsa
Ann Kovacie	Mary E. Colao
Susan LeBoeuf	Deborah Self
Alfreda Nadel	Kathleen Sieracki
Rosemary Peacher	Dr. Paul & Vickie Christianson Ted Evans & Lynn Dumais Mary Sarver
Catherine Irene Pezzuti	Deborah Self



“To serve rather than to be served”

Mademoiselle Marie de Lumague Poulailion, Ahead of her Time

Carol Schumer, D.C.

A woman of courage and determination, Mademoiselle Marie de Lumague Poulailion, was impelled to assist young women in danger during the 17th century. Born in 1599, married at 18 to Francois and widowed a year later, her zeal propelled her to don clothing fit for brothels¹ to rescue youth there. Her memory challenges all of us to reach out to those most in need in our day.



According to Henri Daniel-Rops, her married name was spelled Polailion.² However, Vincent de Paul's nickname Poulailion has endured. This endearment illustrates Vincent's close relationship with her and his sense of humor since it seems

he chose it because her real name resembles the French word for “hen” (i.e., poule) and her facial features (i.e., nose and bright eyes) reminded him of this barnyard animal.

Following the death of her husband, Mlle. Poulailion dedicated her time and energy to schooling her daughter and to works of charity under the direction of Vincent. She began by instructing country children and visiting the Charities with Louise de Marillac and Genevieve Goussault. Living close to Paris, she eagerly participated in the establishment of the ministry at Hotel Dieu and became its treasurer. However, her heart was with “fallen women.”³ At

“La Pitie,” a hospice for women, Marie, with the support of the Ladies of Charity and others, saved many girls, aiding them in changing their situations and lives.

This led her to seek Vincent's advice on establishing a home to provide a haven for those in need of shelter. Encouraged to reflect on the resources available to her and the best way to carry

out her vision, Marie set out to meet this need. With financial assistance from her wealthy son-in-law and trusting in God's help, she assembled 33 women to embark on this endeavor. Beginning near her home in Fontenay-aux-Roses, on the outskirts of Paris, Mlle. Poulailion accepted assistants from every economic strata who were willing to be “servants.” The group came to be called the Daughters of Providence and soon saw a need



to relocate. With the support of the Ladies of Charity, they moved in Charonne. Marie's commitment to women needing asylum led Frances Ryan, D.C., to describe her as “dedicated to ‘human trafficking’ in the 17th century.”⁴

On September 4, 1657, just ten years after the first group of sisters pledged themselves to God, to one another and to this ministry, Marie died. As a result, the future of the struggling company was questionable. Vincent de Paul stepped in and, with the aid of the Ladies and the inheritance of one of the sisters, a motherhouse was purchased and the work continued until the 1800's. Indeed, being involved in a perennial societal concern, Marie was ahead of her time and paved the way for our efforts into the 21st century.

Reflection: Am I aware of human trafficking in my area? What could I do to help? How could the Ladies assist? ■

¹ Pierre Coste, C.M., *The Life & Works of St. Vincent DePaul*. New York: New City Press, page 300

² Henri Daniel-Rops, *The Church in the Seventeenth Century*. History of the Church of Christ. New York: E.P. Dutton, page 31

³ Coste, pages 300–01

⁴ Frances Ryan, D.C., *Mademoiselle Marie Poulailion*. www.aic.ladiesofcharity.us/files/2012/02/Mademoiselle-Marie-Poullailion