



LADIES OF CHARITY USA, 2016 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MARRIOTT COURTYARD, LAGUARDIA, QUEENS, NY
SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 1, 2016

Program Highlights

Ladies of Charity: Women of Mercy

As Vincentian women we will explore in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the gift of God's mercy and our mission of mercy. To love is to show mercy and it is the primary experience we have of God. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy highlight actions that bring God's reign to the world.

Keynote Speakers

First the Heart: Praying with the Spiritual Works of Mercy (Friday, September 30 morning)

A Vincentian heart honors the vulnerable places of life, our own and others, where we are sure to meet the God of infinite mercy. A Vincentian heart knows that prayer and service become one movement when our eyes are fixed on Jesus Christ. Through image and word, quiet and sharing, with Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton and Louise de Marillac as our mentors, this presentation invites us to tenderize our hearts and grow in giving and receiving mercy.



Sr. Regina Bechtle, SC is a theologian, spiritual and retreat director, educator and poet. A Sister of Charity of New York, she currently develops resources to foster awareness of the Vincentian spirit of charity. With Sister Judith Metz, Sister Regina co-edited a 4-volume collection of St. Elizabeth Seton's writings. She holds a Ph.D. in theology from Fordham and a certificate from the Vincentian Formation Program for Spiritual Directors.

Solidarity Embraces Justice and Mercy (Saturday, October 1, afternoon)

A true community of solidarity is one which embraces mercy and justice. As Pope Francis urges "True mercy, the mercy that God gives us and teaches us, demands justice. It demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer."



Meghan Clark, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of moral theology at St. John's University. She also serves as a faculty expert for the Holy See's Mission to the United Nations. In addition, she is a frequent contributor to America Magazine and on the Board of Directors of America Press, Inc. Dr. Clark serves on the faculty advisory board for Catholic Relief Services "CRS University" Global Solidarity Network. She is author of *The Vision of Catholic Social Thought: the Virtue of Solidarity and the Praxis of Human Rights* (2014) that received first prize in CST from the Catholic Press Association in 2015. A Fulbright scholar, Dr. Clark recently returned from teaching in Kenya, Africa.

Friday, September 30

Opening Mass: A.M.
Presider: Most Reverend David A. Zubik, DD (invited), Episcopal Liaison, Ladies of Charity, USA

Homilist: Rev. Richard Gielow, CM, Vincentian Spiritual Advisor

New Initiatives, Networking & Buzz Sessions

Erin Von Uffel: Sr. Marie de Mandat-Grancey, DC and the House of Mary in Ephesus, Turkey

Regional Meetings

Saturday, October 1

Prayer for Mercy: Rev. Michael Whalen, CM with LOC at SJU

Benchmarks and Best Practices Panel

Dr. Joan Ball: Documentary Update: "Acting with a Vincentian Heart"

Business Meeting, Elections

Closing Mass & Installation of Officers: St. Thomas More Church, St. John's University Campus

Tour of the Church: Rev. Patrick Griffin, CM



Homilist: Most Rev. David M. O'Connell, CM

Mercy Workshops

Friday, September 30, 2016, afternoon. Each participant will attend two!

1) CARE FOR THE SICK: THE NEXUS OF JUST WAGES AND QUALITY CARE

Michael Elsas, President and CEO of Cooperative Home Care Associates (CHCA), a licensed home health care agency located in the South Bronx. With over 1900 paraprofessional workers and an administrative staff of nearly 100, CHCA has been nationally recognized for its unique worker-centered philosophy, which links quality jobs to quality home care services. Mr. Elsas has nearly 40 years of experience in the home care industry. His professional affiliations include: trustee of the 1199 SEIU Home Health Aide Benefit Fund, Catholic Charities and the Medical Society of NY.



2) BURY THE DEAD: UNDERSTANDING END OF LIFE CARE ISSUES AND THE ROLE OF HOSPICE



Kathy Lavigne, RN is a graduate of St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing and has been with The Community Hospice for over 25 years. She is a Patient Care Supervisor for Central intake and responsible for admissions to home care serving eight counties in Upstate New York. Kathy is a Lady of Charity of Albany.

Pat Spreitzer is a registered nurse with over 35 years of nursing experience. Pat presently serves as Provider Relations Specialist / Community Nurse Liaison at The Community Hospice. She focuses on providing both the healthcare provider community and community members with accurate and complete information about Hospice philosophy of care and program services. Pat is also a Faith Community Nurse and works closely with the St. Peter's Health Partners Faith Community Program.



3) SHELTER THE HOMELESS: WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO END HOMELESSNESS?



Rosanne Haggerty, President and CEO of Community Solutions, an organization that assists communities throughout the US in solving the complex problems facing their most vulnerable residents by leading large-scale change initiatives. She is an internationally recognized leader in developing innovative strategies to end homelessness and strengthen communities. Rosanne is part of the Institute of Global Homelessness, a DePaul International and DePaul University initiative. She is a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, an Ashoka Senior Fellow and a Hunt Alternative Fund Prime Mover. She was awarded the Jane Jacobs medal for new ideas and activism from the Rockefeller Foundation.

4) VISIT THE IMPRISONED: THE FACE OF GOD'S MERCY BEHIND BARS

Sr. Tesa Fitzgerald, CSJ, the Founder and Executive Director of Hour Children®, offers a welcoming home and support services to formerly incarcerated mothers and their children upon reentry. Prior to that, she was responsible for NYS curriculum oversight for Catholic elementary schools for the Diocese of Brooklyn, and was both a school Principal and teacher at various Catholic elementary schools. In addition to being an educator, she is a Certified Foster Care Trainer. Sister Tesa has been named a CNN Hero (2012), a White House Champion of Change (2013), and is the 2014 winner of the Opus Prize.

