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# Archdiocese of Washington Ladies of Charity

*"To Serve Rather Than Be Served"*  
 In Humility, Simplicity and Charity



St. Vincent de Paul

LCUSA 17th Annual National Assembly, Kansas City, MO  
 September 7 – 10, 2017

*"Ladies of Charity 400 Years off "Yes" to the Call of St. Vincent de Paul"*

The Ladies of Charity, Kansas City, MO, will be hosting the '400th Anniversary of the founding of the Ladies of Charity by St. Vincent de Paul. This extraordinary anniversary is the beginning of our 5<sup>th</sup> century of serving God in people who are poor, frail or exploited. We celebrate our history as we anticipate a future that "Welcomes the Stranger" and brings about the reign of God through compassionate acts of charity and justice.'



Kansas City **Marriott Downtown** is connected to the Kansas City Convention Center via an enclosed skyway and is also within walking distance to Power & Light District's thriving restaurants and nightlife. Enjoy the sights & sounds of downtown Kansas City with other members of the Vincentian Family



Built in the late 19th Century, **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception** is a historic cathedral that was built by Benedict Roux. The church has spectacular architecture and features 11 bells named after patron saints. The spectacular stained glass windows of the church were installed in 1912. One of the most striking features of the cathedral is the golden dome at the top of the church tower. Today, the cathedral serves the spiritual and religious needs of the local community.

**Spiritual Moderator (Retired)**

Sr. Sandra Goldsborough, D.C

Sister retired to Emmitsburg, MD where she is busy with therapy & enjoying time with other Daughters of Charity in residence. Keep Sister in your prayers as she has so graciously served our members. Visit with her in Emmitsburg during your visit on October 7.

**Vincentian Spiritual Moderator (In Training)**

Lucy Saunders

As a result of an ongoing formation program, nine trainees will be commissioned at LCUSA's Assembly in KC as 'lay' Vincentian Spiritual Moderators. Each 'lay' moderator will be responsible for bringing Vincentian charisma, spirituality & history to members.

As I traveled alone, I began my journey to France on March 10, 2017 to Chatillon always trusting in God. I landed in Paris on March 11, 2017, on my way to Lyon, France. Following the instructions I received, I looked for the lady with the yellow umbrella and “400” sign at the airport. I do not think if I truly thought deeply about it I would not have traveled from the comfort of my home to navigate international traveling. God truly was with me because I followed the instructions and ended up on a bus from Lyon with members of the US delegation to the birth place of the Ladies of Charity. We were happy to see one another and bonded together through conversations about our journey. At this point I still had no idea where I would be staying. I knew that Winona Nelson, a Lady of Charity from Montgomery Alabama, would be staying in the home with me. We separated into groups of two staying with six different families. As a greeting, my hostess who spoke no English made fresh bread and had a bottle of wine for us. My knowledge of French was limited to the French I learned in junior high. In high school and college, I studied Spanish instead of French. Between my limited French and Winona’s knowledge of French we were able to communicate. I also remember what Sister Poole our retreat moderator said about the love of God. The love of God can be shown through a smile and simply saying “Merci”. Our hostess and I hugged and smiled a lot. This experience taught me about kindness and what we had learned at our last National Assembly about a “Vincentian Heart”.



The people of Chatillon provided a simple meal for us each day. The children entertained us one night. Many people shared their gifts and talents with us during my visit. My experience showed me the importance of reflecting on our mission of seeing the big picture and realizing what Vincent envisioned about serving others around the world. I met people from the fifty-some countries represented at the gathering. Vincent and Louise who became saints had private struggles but understood the big picture. The growth of a small group of women is possible.

Viola A. Johnson-Robinson,  
 President Archdiocese of Washington Board  
 More pictures of my trip to France on page 4



## Why Are We Celebrating the 400 Anniversary?

This statement was uttered recently at a Ladies of Charity Meeting, after having attended the International Association of Charities and meeting with other members of the Vincentian Family I realize we must do more to educate our members.

It is a big deal because from a small group of women in Chatillon a world-wide organization of Catholic men and women were started. The Ladies of Charity was just the beginning when St Vincent saw the need to serve the poor, elderly, sick and to care for the abandon children.

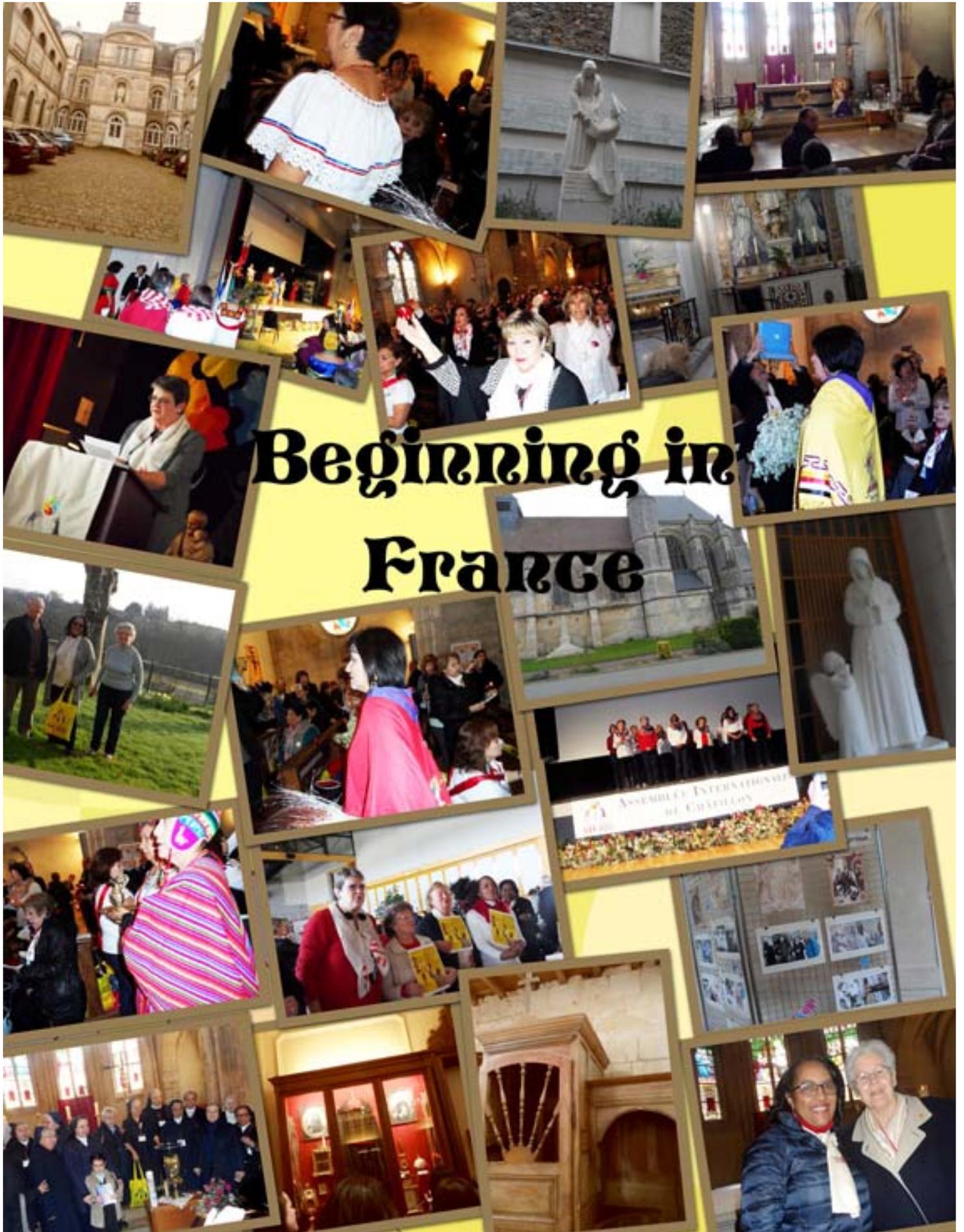
This was something new, organizing and working together as a group to address these issues. Organizing and working with others take certain skills. St Vincent realized that when years after he started the Ladies of Charity he asked St Louise de Marillac in 1629 to help him coordinate the groups and visit them. He then started the Daughters of Charity in 1633 to complement each other in their vocation.

From these humble beginnings, the organization started in 1617 has spread to over 53 countries in the world. As Ladies of Charity we are rooted in following the Gospel and St Vincentian principles of Simplicity, Humility and Charity.

We are celebrating the 400 Anniversary of the starting of the Ladies of Charity and the Vincentian Family because from that seed grew hospitals, such as Providence Hospital, schools, such as Elizabeth Ann Seton High School in Bladensburg, homes for abandoned children, such as St Ann's and the demand for demanding care and showing the love of Jesus Christ to others.

In the Spirit of St Vincent and St. Louise,  
Viola A. Johnson-Robinson,  
President Archdiocese of Washington Board





# Beginning in France

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Ladies of Charity Archdiocese of Washington Board of Directors, as one of its 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities, will be sponsoring a one-day program, titled, "400 Years of Vincentian Leadership: A Workshop for Leaders," on Saturday, September 16, 2017, at St. Ann's Home for Children, Youth, and Families, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The anticipated audience is those in leadership positions or on track to assume leadership positions (e.g., local presidents and one other local association leader), as well as LOC ADW Board members.

The Workshop will be supported by the Board in order to offer those serving their organizations in leadership positions, the opportunity to strengthen their Vincentian identity and broaden their sense of belonging to the greater Vincentian organization, to bring about a clearer idea of their mission and vocation; thereby enhancing their ability to lead and contribute to the organization's continued growth in its 400<sup>th</sup> year and beyond.

As a result of attending this workshop the participants will be able to:

- Explain the history, purpose, and mission of the International Association of Charities (AIC).
- Describe how knowing the AIC's past and present operations can strengthen our understanding of our identity as a member of the larger Vincentian family.
- Review the Ladies of Charity of the United States of America (LCUSA) organization and how it relates to the AIC, the Ladies of Charity (LOC) Archdiocese of Washington (ADW), and the local associations.
- Discuss the ADW's organization/structure and how it relates to the above entities.
- Identify how understanding the AIC can result in what we each can do to:
  - Commit to the Vincentian organization's values;
  - Reach out to others in doing our mission and in growing associations; and
  - Help strengthen our leadership infrastructure.

A continental breakfast and tasty box lunch will be served. More information will be sent later this summer.

O Gracious God, St. Louise de Marillac devoted her life to helping St. Vincent de Paul serve the needs of the poor. She often taught: "Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor, honor them, as you would honor Christ Himself". I lift up to You the programs in my church and community that help the needy, and the people who do the work. Multiply the donations. Teach me how to think generously. Give me a heart that desires to care for the poor as if I were serving Jesus directly, and help me to see Jesus in each person that begs on the street corner or church door. St. Louise, pray for us.

**Amen**

**Mary Hand**  
Immediate Past President, LOC ADW  
and  
**Dr. Rita Robinson**  
Former Mid-Atlantic VP, LCUSA  
Past President, LOC ADW

**Calvert County  
St. Anthony's  
Ladies of Charity**

In April, St. Anthony's held a Dental Clinic sponsored by Catholic Charities via Health Partners, a non-profit primary healthcare organization, founded by Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Health Partners, located in Waldorf MD, provided a dentist, two assistants and one hygienist.

This clinic provided x-rays, fillings, extractions, cleanings and treatment plans to sixteen clients.

Also in April, St. Anthony's inducted five new Ladies of Charity.

Easter Holiday Meals - a total of 196 meals were distributed which represented approximately 700 household members.

Monthly Bonus Bags - May's offering was shampoo and deodorant/antiperspirant along with paper towels and toilet paper

**May Pantry Report**

Monthly Total Statistics	May 2017	May 2016
# HHolds served	218 (16% increase over 2016)	188
# people served	596 (31% increase over 2016)	456

# Households Served	May Average	Fiscal YTD Average
Tuesday Openings	34	40
Wednesday Opening	10	14
Saturday Opening	36	26

May 2017 Characteristics	
# Large Families in the month	75 (34% of total)
# New Families in the month	11 (5% of total)
# Repeat visits	39 (18% of total)
Total lbs pre-packed & distributed	5,442.6 lbs

Note: May had 5 Tuesdays

June's offering is laundry detergent, kitchen trash bags along with paper towels and toilet paper

Holiday Meals - End Hunger has received a grant which will help offset Thanksgiving Holiday meals - we will receive 52 meals including a turkey and non-perishable side's dishes for FREE. Starting July 1st thru October our pantry will receive weekly fresh produce along with a food drop of up to 6,000 lbs. (which is monthly).

This is on trial for 1 month to make sure no food is wasted along with a possible food drop fee of \$300.

By: Susan Wilson

## St. Anthony of Padua



These are new members: Caren Argeles, Julie Donovan, Diana Johnson, Karen Macken, and Kathleen Suthard (Note- Liz Driscoll second from right represented Caren Argele, and Debbie Macken – on right represented Karen Macken – these ladies had to work

On April 22, 2017, at the monthly Mass for the St. Anthony's Chapter of the Ladies of Charity, North Beach, MD, five new members were inducted: Caryn Argeles, Julie Donovan, Diana Johnson, Karen Macken, and Kathleen Suthard. (Two new members had to work that weekend, so two current members stood in for them during the induction ceremony.) Our new members had already been engaged in helping with some of our ministries: the Food Pantry, which serves over 200 families per month, the HeartFELT program, which provides groceries for food insecure children in the local elementary school, and the Prayer Shawl ministry, which provides shawls for Parish members with long term illnesses.

The number of newly inducted LOC members brings the total membership in our chapter to over 90! Our membership includes multiple generations of Ladies of Charity, and more than half of our members are very active in ministries. The Ladies welcome the new members and look forward to working with them in the various ministries that the Ladies of Charity at St. Anthony's support.



Cheryl Gilmer, Treasurer, Peggy McKelly, Secretary, Liz Driscoll, Vice President and Jean Sebold, President

On May 27, 2017, at the monthly parish Mass for the St. Anthony's North Beach Chapter of the Ladies of Charity, new officers were inducted for the upcoming term beginning July 1, 2017: Jean Sebold, President; Liz Driscoll, Vice President; Peggy McKelly, Secretary, and Cheryl Gilmer, Treasurer. As officers of the chapter, these ladies will be overseeing the various ministries that the Ladies perform for St. Anthony's Parish: the Food Pantry, which serves over 200 families per month, the HeartFELT program, which provides groceries for food insecure children in the local elementary school, and the Prayer Shawl ministry, which provides shawls for Parish members with long term illnesses.

This month, our chapter thanks Susan Wilson, who has been the chapter president representing Calvert County to the Archdiocese of Washington LOC Board for four (4) years, and Ann Klein, who has been our Treasurer for four (4) years. Both Ladies worked very hard to expand our ministries, represent us in the ADW organization, and implement best practices for LOC organizations.

The Saint Anthony's chapter of the Ladies of Charity is very active and the officers oversee many areas of coordination with the parish and establishing and reviewing many possible ministries that are provided throughout the year.

By: Barbara Coker

## A Special Sunday Spent With Ladies of Charity

A special thanks to the Ladies of Charity representing the District of Columbia and Prince George’s County for welcoming Viola Johnson-Robinson, LOC ADW President, and me to your quarterly June meetings. What a great opportunity to meet so many members and to witness the installation of new members for both groups. We appreciated very much the hospitality that was shown to us. Viola and I want everyone present to know that we witnessed first-hand the Vincentian spirit that filled the rooms where we met on this special Sunday celebrating the feast of the Holy Trinity!

Beautiful liturgies began each event with the opportunity to engage with members during the day. Welcoming the new members, as well as seeing and meeting other members, filled the morning and afternoon. Again, thank you – Bertha Guerra, DC President; Jamila Stone, OLPH President; Beverly Motley, PG President; Tara Linn, St. Mary of the Mills President. A special thanks to all those in attendance for the work you do to serve those less fortunate throughout our region. The Archdiocese of Washington Board of Directors values you and your time, talent and treasure.

As Ladies of Charity, you came to mind when reading these words of St. Elizabeth, “Every good action is a grain of seed for eternal life.” WOW what does that say about your good actions and the seeds that you are planting for all eternity. Elizabeth gives us a lot of hope to look forward to as we show our love to others. Again, thank you for all you do in planting those seeds a grain at a time through your actions and service to others.

Lucy Ann Saunders  
Former LCUSA President



### District of Columbia

Claudine Sims, Monica Price, Celeste Richmond,  
Margo Cooke, Dawn Marie-Gray



### St. Hugh of Grenoble

Martha Loutsch  
Peggy Rooney  
Celeste Yeager

### St. Ignatius of Loyola

Maureen Ella

### St. Mary of the Mills

Marilyn Baxter. Maria Jordon  
Sylvie Djafang Debbie Ricigliano  
Donna Lipka  
Monique Rainford Bourn

## Annual May Day Celebration



This year we celebrated our Annual May Day Celebration Crowning of the Blessed Mother and Feast of St. Louise de Marillac.

Mass was celebrated by our Spiritual Moderator, Father Simo, in the chapel of St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families

The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary was done by Peggy Campbell, President of Holy Ghost LOC, Charles County Association.

After Mass, the LOC enjoyed lunch provided by ADW members. Engaging in fellowship, members sampled a variety of sandwiches, salads, desserts and drinks. Raffles were held as an annual fundraiser followed by our ADW President giving a brief talk on her trip to France.



St. Louise De Marillac

## St. Matthias the Apostle

The Saint Matthias unit of the Ladies of Charity ended their year with a Day of Recollection. The Day of Recollection was a means-of-giving-thanks to the Lord for providing the unit with numerous resources to give aid to those in need, and to give honor to our patron, Saint Louise de Marillac. The theme of the day was "Giving to the less fortunate". The day began with Mass celebrated by our spiritual advisor Fr. Milton Jordan; followed by a service which included: prayers to Saint Louise de Marillac, the rosary, and readings from the Old and New Testaments. Deacon Alton Davis delivered the sermon/reflection which highlighted the various acts of giving. He reminded us that we each have been given special talents to be used to help someone and that we must not squander away those talents.

Over the years, our enrollment has increased to twenty-four (24), and we're still recruiting. We're anxious to recruit younger members since ninety (90%) percent of our membership are retirees. Thus far, our activities have not been totally hindered because of age. Our primary activity is the food bank. A bag of non-perishable food is distributed weekly to residents within an eight (8) mile area of the church. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, a holiday basket (ham/turkey) is provided to families in need. We are currently exploring other activities of lending a hand to the shut-ins of the parish and providing assistance to our parish school children.

By: Gwen Jackson



On Sunday, June 4, 2017 the Saint Matthias the Apostle Ladies of Charity participated in sponsoring the Retirement Celebration for Father Milton Jordan. LOC members worked along with the church's Parish Social Life Committee, Knights of Columbus and others to host this memorable event. The celebration included a grand Mass attended by concelebrants, guest clergy, family, friends and hundreds of parishioners. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a luncheon featuring multi-ethnic cuisines representing our diverse parish population. Among the many presentations, LOC Jackie Bates designed and compiled a Commemorative Booklet for Father Milt containing "farewell" messages from parishioners. Father Milt has been our Spiritual Advisor for several years. We will miss his strong faith, supportive actions and sense of humor

By: Arlene Taylor



Visit our website <http://ladiesofcharityadw.org/> This website is designed to keep you informed about events in our Archdiocese.

### Archdiocese of Washington Newsletter:

Please send articles, stories, pictures for the July newsletter. We issue two newsletters, per year. Please share with other LOC ADW members what you have been doing for the 6 month period.

Send articles to:

**[locdioceseofwashington@yahoo.com](mailto:locdioceseofwashington@yahoo.com)**

or mail to: Jacqueline Bates, 5523 Center Avenue, Lanham, MD 20706. Be sure to include your telephone number with any mail copy.

## Marian Spirituality A Distinctive Characteristic of Vincentian Charism

### Lucy Ann Saunders, Past LCUSA President (training as \*VSM)



to

Marian spirituality has a deep tradition within the church from the earliest time. Ladies of Charity are called to find in Mary inspiration and an example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Vincent, Louise and Elizabeth Ann all were nourished in their spirituality with a special devotion to Mary.

St. Louise had many little devotional practices to honor Mary. She wrote a prayer of offering to the Virgin placing her son and herself under Mary's protection after her husband's death. She lists several practices in her Rule of Life to honor Mary; Hail Mary and the rosary. She went on pilgrimage to Chartres where she consecrated the Daughters of Charity to Mary. She referred to Mary as the only Mother of the first Daughters of Charity. In the last words of her Spiritual Testament, St. Louise stressed to her sisters, "Pray earnestly to the Blessed Virgin, that she may be your only Mother."

"Charitable women informed Vincent de Paul about persons in need in 1617.... As a result, he established the first Confraternity of Charity (Ladies of Charity) at Chatillon-les-Dombes. The foundation was the genesis of the Vincentian family. The confraternity was the first institutional expression of the Vincentian charism with its distinctive Marian character. In their foundational document, Vincent implores the ladies to take the Mother of God 'for patroness and protector of the work'. (AMM Spring Bulletin 2017, Betty Ann McNeil, DC).

This Marian character was reflected by Vincent as he was known to focus on:

1. The Immaculate Conception: Mary was born without sin and emptied herself to welcome God: Vincent desired his followers to welcome God, to be filled with God; to clothe oneself with Christ who emptied Himself as did Mary.
2. The Annunciation: Mary knew her smallness before God and gave herself to God to serve others in order to accomplish God's work.
3. The Visitation: Vincent suggested to his followers that Mary's promptness in her Visitation to her cousin, Elizabeth, was a model of service to those living in poverty.

Ladies of Charity are called by Baptism and called again in our organization to be attentive and available to follow the Will of God in all times, to allow Christ to take form in us and to proclaim the gospel of love for those living in poverty in tangible ways. How do you see Mary as a part of your life when serving others? Had you thought of Mary as being the patroness and protector of our Ladies of Charity work?

The Ladies of Charity USA also focused on this Marian Spirituality when they announced their 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The picture of the Annunciation on LCUSA's anniversary card captures a beautiful scene of a young Mary painted by Henry Ossawa Tanner in 1898 and found in the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A beautiful picture that serves as a reflection on how we as Ladies of Charity respond to God's call to serve. Yes Ladies, we are filled with the Marian Spirituality and the charism of St. Vincent de Paul -- gifts that keep on giving and strengthening us as we serve in our ministries.

\*Vincentian Spiritual Moderator



Ladies of Charity  
 Archdiocese of Washington  
 5523 Center Avenue  
 Lanham, MD 20706

*To Commensurate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
 Association of the International Charities (AIC)  
 Saint Matthias Church  
 Ladies of Charity  
 Pray the **Rosary***

### 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rosary Chart

The Saint Matthias the Apostle Catholic Church Ladies of Charity decided to acknowledge the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AIC in a very prayerful way. We chose to say 400 Rosaries! For each Rosary completed by a LOC member a golden praying hands sticker is placed on a specially designed chart divided into 400 spaces. This devotional event was started on March 9th. Our goal is to have the 400 spaces filled in by the time of the Annual Convention on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

By: Arlene Taylor

