

# Ladies of Charity of the United States of America

## President's Postings • May 2017

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### From the President

Happy Easter! Happy Feast of St. Louise de Marillac!

Much has transpired since my last posting to you.

- LCUSA hired a new Executive Administrator. Ashley Larsen is a young woman with a number of years' experience. She has been with us since Mid-February, so some of you may have already made her acquaintance. She is doing very well, considering she had to "jump in" right in the middle of receiving dues and association reports. She has slowly been updating the data base with all the members you have provided. Please welcome her when you have the opportunity.
- Thirteen Ladies of Charity from the United States joined over three hundred other women from around the globe in Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne, France to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding by St. Vincent de Paul. I was privileged to be among those representing the U.S. It was an awesome experience to carry the U.S. flag in the opening ceremonies, just as my mother had done many years ago. MaryAnn Dantuono, our past president, was elected to the AIC International Board. There is more about the AIC meeting posted on the website, and an article in the upcoming Servicette. Be sure to read all about it.
- The national board held its first meeting of 2017 in Leavenworth, Kansas at the Marillac Retreat Center of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Twenty-four women and Fr. Richard Gielow met over two days (evenings included!) to pray and plan for the future of LCUSA. Among those things discussed were my goals for my presidency – 1) Financial – explore and develop avenues by which LCUSA can sustain itself financially; 2) Membership – reach out to younger women to become Ladies of Charity by opening up to and embracing new ways of serving the poor; and 3) Service – encourage local associations to adopt new ways of serving and working with those in poverty which would enable them to move out of poverty (a hand up rather than a hand out.)
- I travelled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to attend their investiture of 177 new Ladies of Charity. Besides the investiture, over 200 women were recognized for more than 25 years of service to the poor. Over 400 women attended the event. Incredible!
- *On the occasion of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vincentian charism, the Holy Father, through the Apostolic Penitentiary, has granted the whole Vincentian Family, a Plenary Indulgence (Confession, Communion, and Prayers for the Pope). Those will receive it who participate in the Eucharist or in some public or private prayer service (Our Father, profession of faith, invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St. Vincent).*

Current Challenges (perhaps you will have some ideas about these – I welcome all input):

- LCUSA has lost its lease on the office in Kansas City. Catholic Charities has sold the building and we have been given 60 days in which to find a new space. Our new address (temporarily) is **P.O. Box 595, Lee's Summit, MO 64063**. Our phone number remains the same.
- We are searching for a graphic designer to assist us with the layout of the Servicette and our other publications. This person does not need to be located in Kansas City, as most of the work can be done via internet. If you know of anyone, please have them contact me.
- I promise to be more current with this posting in the future, so as to avoid the lengthiness of this one! Pray for me – I am an inveterate procrastinator!

Looking Forward:

- [International Day of Prayer – Feast of St. Louise de Marillac](#)
- [National Assembly](#)
- [Vincetian Family gathering in San Antonio "Welcome the Stranger"](#)
- [Vincetian Family Gathering in Rome in October, 2017](#)

There is a new video of the Ladies of Charity; the next installment in the series by Joan and Martin Ball. [Click here to see it.](#)