

ASSOCIATION OF LADIES OF CHARITY  
DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH  
111 Boulevard of the Allies  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
December 1, 2017

Dear Presidents:

A big thank you to the ladies at St. Columbkille's Parish in Imperial and Holy Trinity Parish Robinson who together hosted the November 11th President's Meeting. About 50 ladies from 23 Parishes attended and were treated to a delicious breakfast and informative meeting with a presentation from Laura Vicente, Executive Director Family Promise along with Sandy Mertens, a Lady of Charity from St. Benedict the Abbott Parish who has worked with the Family Promise organization for many years. If you want more info about how you can support this much needed organization, please contact the Diocesan LOC Office.

Peggy Keene, Mid-Atlantic Secretary, shared the LCUSA's plans to start a Home Caregiver Program. National has funding to start a home caregiver organization and are looking for sites to launch this initiative. Surveys were given to members present to share their opinions if this would be a service that would be beneficial to the Pittsburgh area. Although some reservations were listed, members overwhelmingly agreed that there is a need for this service in the Pittsburgh area and that the Ladies of Charity organization would be a recognizable steering association for attracting family members of elderly clients who want to remain at home during their remaining years. The survey responses are due to National by December 1<sup>st</sup> which I will share and keep you informed as things go forward.

Peggy Keene also shared the video that was aired at the 2017 Assembly in Kansas City along with the Board Members who attended in their aprons and scarves made by our very own Karen Radu advertising Pittsburgh as the site of the 2018 Assembly. Karen Radu also brought the quilt that she put together with the squares from all of the LOC organizations across the United States. We hope to have the quilt and video at upcoming LOC events which I hope you will all have the opportunity to see how "Pittsburgh Shines."

Fr. Ed Litavec joined about 50 ladies on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> for the visit to Calvary Cemetery to pray for our deceased Ladies of Charity and the unclaimed souls. An overcast sky greeted us as we arrived at the Cemetery – however as Fr. Ed led us in prayer – the sun started shining! Even though this event usually takes place as the weather turns colder, it always warms my heart to take part in this wonderful tradition.

Remember to mark the closing of our 400th Anniversary Year on December 8<sup>th</sup> with some type of recognition or prayer at your local parish organizations. We certainly had a successful year with over 175 investees at the April Investiture Mass and over 200 recipients of 25 Year Medals at our Investiture Dinner and our August Workshop attracted 250 LOC members. Congratulations to all of you for all that you do.

Catholic Charities needs help to feed the needy on an emergency basis in preparation for their Winter Warming Station. If your parish organization is able to donate non-perishable snack food items, please contact Catholic Charities at 412 456-6996 or [llasen@ccpgh.org](mailto:llasen@ccpgh.org) for information.

Our Assembly planning is moving forward – Help is still needed with fundraising and sponsorships. Contact Kathy Donatelli [kathydonatelli@gmail.com](mailto:kathydonatelli@gmail.com) or 412 956-9540 if you are able to sell ornaments at your parish – Several hundred snowflake ornaments are still available and a new heart shaped ornament is in the works. Contact Nancy Bianculli [nb7510@outlook.com](mailto:nb7510@outlook.com) or 412 818-1719 if you have companies and/or folks in mind as potential sponsors of the 2018 Assembly.

As we draw closer to the end of a very busy year, may the blessings of the Christmas season be with each of you, your members and your families!

Following are some other activities, that are being planned for this coming year – I encourage you to mark your calendars and share with your members and more information about these events will be forthcoming closer to the date:

- March 10, 2018 President’s Meeting – 9:30am Place TBA
- April 29, 2018 3:00pm Investiture Mass and dinner, St. Paul’s Cathedral Oakland/Rodef Shalom Ballroom Oakland
- August 11, 2018 Annual Workshop – St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Baldwin

Call your Congressman: Calls & Action Needed TODAY. The administration has started ending Temporary Protected Status protections for our immigrant neighbors – Congress needs to hear from us now! If you can act on this, please do. **Remember that the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism directs us to welcome the stranger.** Urge Your Members of Congress to Support TPS Holders and #SaveTPS! (202) 224-3121 please call 3x for your 2 Senators and 1 Representative.

Ways to stay connected:

Pittsburgh Website: [locpittsburgh.org](http://locpittsburgh.org)

LCUSA Website: [aic.ladiesofcharity.us](http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us)

FACEBOOK Ladies of Charity USA

Association of Ladies of Charity Diocese of Pittsburgh

If you have questions/suggestions, please call and leave a message with the LOC office at 412 456-6924

Thank you for all that you do!

In the Vincentian Spirit,

**Judy Weismann**, President

Association of the Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Pittsburgh