

ASSOCIATION OF THE LADIES OF CHARITY
DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH
2900 Noblestown Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
December, 2024

Dear Presidents: **PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ALL YOUR MEMBERS**

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ and our patrons, Saints Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac, and Elizabeth Ann Seton, this month we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came into the world as one of us.

As part of my Christmas preparation this year I am participating in a book study on Caryl Houselander's *The Reed of God* at my parish. This book is a series of meditations on the humanity of the Mother of God. My thoughts below for you to contemplate come from that book.

By His own will, Christ was dependent on Mary during Advent. He was absolutely helpless; He could go nowhere but where she chose to take Him. He could not speak; her breathing was His breath; His heart beat in the beating of her heart. Today Christ is dependent upon man. In the host He is literally put into our hands. We must carry Him to the dying, take Him into the prisons, hospitals, take Him in a tiny pyx, give Him to little children. This dependence of Christ lays a great trust upon us. During this tender time of Advent we must carry Him in our hearts wherever he wants to go, and there are many places to which He may never go unless we take Him to them.

On behalf of the ALCDP board, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Blessed New Year! Stay safe and healthy and remember to keep Christ in Christmas.

A Christmas Prayer

God of all seasons, as we move through Advent and Christmas, we look for you. You ask us to hold onto hope: the hope that Jesus truly is Emmanuel, God with us; the hope that you will bring light to the darkness, the hope that this good news will reach everyone, even our own hearts.

Thank you for providing a place for all to come in and reflect on your loving kindness. O Lord, for everyone giving up their time to support and serve those who come into the church this Christmas, we ask that you pour out your blessings upon them.

Officers Meeting— We had our bi-annual officers meeting on Saturday, November 9. It was well attended. Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers met in their individual groups after the formal meeting was held. Everyone enjoyed sharing ideas with each other and meeting their counterparts in other parishes.

A deposit was made to St. Nicholas Cathedral for a brunch before the annual investiture in May. After some discussion, the members present agreed that we should NOT have a meal that day. Individual organizations can host their own get-togethers.

Annual Dues – The dues are the same as last year-Active Members-\$20, Honorary-\$4, and Associates-\$15. Please send your updated membership list & dues in as soon as possible. Please contact Ann Hayes, Financial Secretary, if you have any questions or concerns.

The Spiritual Society of the Unclaimed Dead –Bishop David Zubik presided at a mass for the unclaimed dead on Sunday, November 24 at St. Paul Cathedral. Concelebrants were Father Kris Stubna, pastor of St. Paul Cathedral and Father William Wuenschel, pastor of St. Aidan in Wexford. About 100 Ladies of Charity, relatives and friends attended this Mass.

Despite the rainy cold weather, 20 of our ladies along with our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jim Gretz, attended the prayer service for the unclaimed dead at Calvary Cemetery on Nov. 10. A separate service for the unborn children was held at Rachel’s Garden and a wreath placed at that memorial.

If you are interested in receiving a decedent’s name, please contact Janet Stahlman via our office, 412-456-6924.

Twinning Project –this project is being started to help other LOC organizations in our Diocese. Please contact our office if you think your group can benefit from financial help for any project. We have several LOC groups who are willing and able to offer financial assistance. All requests will be kept confidential.

Social Media – Don’t forget to check out our Facebook page. Sherrie Dunlap Gallagher, social media chair, updates the page regularly. Please let her know of any activities you are currently doing that she can highlight on our FB page. She can be contacted at sherrie.e.dunlap@gmail.com.

Junior Ladies of Charity (JLOC) –The junior ladies are the future of our organization. We are blessed to have 5 parishes currently that have a JLOC group. For more information on JLOC, please contact Mary Diaddigo Rex or Hailey Innocenzo Dube’ or call the LOC office at 412-456-6924.

501(C)(3) – Below is the updated distribution information for the quarterly submission of Treasurer Reports and Bank Statements:

Judy Weismann 1619 Sharpshill Road Pittsburgh, PA 15215 weismann2@comcast.net 412 760-9129	Kathy McCartney 1231 Circle Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15221 macsews@aol.com 412 731-6916	Barbara Donehue 48 Pocono Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15220 Bbdred48@gmail.com 412 398-0775
Mary Mother of God	Archangel Gabriel	St. Matthew
St. Teresa of Kolkata	Sts. Joachim and Anne	Christ the Divine Shepherd
St. Isidore the Farmer	St. Joseph the Worker	St. Michael the Archangel
St. Mark the Evangelist	St. Paul Cathedral	Blessed Trinity
Guardian Angel	Triumph of the Holy Cross	St. Catherine Laboure
All Saints	Sts. Martha and Mary	Mary Queen of Peace
St. Oscar Romero	St. John XXIII	Resurrection
Divine Grace	Our Lady of Hope	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
St. Aidan	Our Lady of the Lake	St. Paul of the Cross
ALCDP	St. Jude	Holy Family
St. James	Emergency Fund for Elderly	
St. Thomas the Apostle	St. Raphael the Archangel	

****NOTE:** If there are any new Treasurers who need assistance in what and how to report the quarterly submission to Judy, Kathy or Barb, please contact our office at 412-456-6924. The September, October, November 2024 information is due by 12/15/2024. Updated sales tax exemption forms are available by contacting Judy Weismann at weismann2@comcast.net.

DeMarillac Newsletter – Please remember to send your articles for publication in the Newsletter. Please email them to Peggy Keene, pkeene9@outlook.com or mail them to our office at the address at the top of this letter. The Fall/Winter 2024 edition is at the printer.

Nursing Home Network – Please remember that if you have someone that is going to a nursing home outside of your area to contact Cindy Smith so that she can reach out to the local Ladies of Charity to visit. Please call the office at 412-456-6924.

December, 2024 Rosary Intention

For families: that the powerful graces of this Christmas will draw family members together in fresh expressions of love and belonging that will last for a lifetime.

Prayer to the Vincentian Family

Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor, gives us eyes and a heart directed to the poor. Help us to recognize you in them in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, their misfortune. Enkindle within our Vincentian Family unity, simplicity, humility, and the fire of love that burned in St. Vincent DePaul. Strengthen us so that faithful to the practice of these virtues, we may contemplate you and serve you in the person of the poor and may one day be united with you and them in your kingdom. Amen.

Mark your Calendars: May 18, 2025 – Investiture (2:30 PM Mass @ St. Paul Cathedral)
August 16, 2025 – Annual Meeting at Sts. Martha & Mary Parish
(St. Richard Church, Dickey Road)
September 11-13, 2025 – National Assembly in Bethesda, Maryland

Pittsburgh Website: locpittsburgh.org
LCUSA Website: aic.ladiesofcharity.us
Vincentian Family: <http://famvin.org>
FACEBOOK: Ladies of Charity USA, Association of Ladies of Charity Diocese of Pittsburgh

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

In the Vincentian Spirit,
Karen Tomaszewski, President
Association of the Ladies of Charity, Diocese of Pittsburgh