



March/April 2018

# CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY® OF CLEVELAND

## WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

CHAPTER AND VERSE

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We are looking forward to a wonderful celebration on March 21, when we welcome our newest members at the Provisional Installation Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, and then celebrate our anniversary members at the Legacy Luncheon to be held at the Crowne Plaza Cleveland at Playhouse Square. Twenty-three provisional members will be installed at the Mass. They are a thoughtful, talented, organized group of women who have bonded with each other and have embraced the activities of our chapter. We look forward to welcoming them and will enjoy their energy as they join in on our Christ Child projects and events.

We are also pleased to honor 58 anniversary members who have shared their talents with us going back as far as 55 years! Although there are things that have changed since the long-time anniversary members joined, I think it is safe to say that the commitment of our members to our chapter and to each other remains the same. We have anniversary members who remain active in our projects and events, as well as members who continue to support us. We are thankful for all these members and their ongoing commitment to our mission.

Congratulations to our 23 newest members...just think, in 2072 you can celebrate your 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Thank you and congratulations to our 58 anniversary celebrants...we appreciate your years of service.

**Janie Nickodem**

### REFLECTING WITH FATHER RALPH

The celebration of Lent and Easter are sure signs that Spring is upon us with its promise of rebirth and new life. The early days of Spring provide a freshness in the air and the lengthening days are a welcome sign of the new season upon us. I hope the signs around us are also signs of what is going on within us as well. Making good use of the penitential season of Lent is a great way to prepare for a spiritual springtime in our hearts. Trying to step away from old, bad habits while developing better ones is a life-long process for all of us, and one that finds special impetus at this time of year. May the Resurrection of Jesus find us all refreshed and renewed and willing to continue our efforts in Christ Child to do good things for those who so desperately need those signs of love and caring that the many works of the Christ Child Society provide.

Fr. Ralph

#### GREAT NEWS!! WE HAVE A SHUTTLE!!

There WILL BE SHUTTLE SERVICE between the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the Cathedral for the Provisional Installation Mass and Legacy Luncheon!! A Christ Child angel led us to the shuttle provider...we are so grateful!

#### INFORMATIONAL COFFEE

The Informational Coffee for perspective new members is planned for Wednesday, March 14 at 10 a.m. at the Christ Child Headquarters. Please extend an invitation to a friend or family member to attend and RSVP as quickly as possible to either **Jane Donovan** or **Carol Janas**.

**"Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." - Mary Virginia Merrick, Founder**



*Mary Virginia  
Merrick Award, 2018*

For the past 35 years, our Chapter has recognized one of its own whose spirit, values, and service exemplify those of Mary Virginia Merrick. This year, the prestigious Mary Virginia Merrick Award will be presented at the Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, June 20.

Who do you believe is deserving of this award? Who do you believe has given of herself in the name of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland, either publicly in the "front lines" or quietly and consistently "behind the scenes?" Please consider nominating the member you believe deserves this special recognition. Your nomination is important...your opinion matters...your thoughts count!

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING AND RECEIVED BY MAY 18**

Please include your nominee's name and why you believe she deserves the 2018 Mary Virginia Merrick Award. All nominations are confidential and are due by May 18. For a list of past recipients, please refer to Page 1-5 in the Christ Child Roster. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact **Mary Herrick**.

Mail to: Christ Child Society – MVM Award  
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Or email to: **Mary Herrick**

## YEARS TO CELEBRATE

The following Members are Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries this Year.

*Congratulations!*

### 55 years

Mary Margaret Rhoa

### 50 Years

Jean Ebner  
Eileen Gaertner  
Mary Clare Porter  
Trudy Schmidt

### 45 years

Jeanette Barry  
Carole Price  
Helen Smith

### 40 Years

Ann Kathleen Drescher

### 35 Years

Sallie Ethridge  
Martha Greco  
Joan Kilbane  
Karen M. Killeen  
Theresa Menosky  
Joyce Montgomery  
Abigail Sammon  
Judy Votteler

### 30 Years

Kathleen Breen  
Mariann Grdina  
Florence Orris  
Patricia Velotta  
Carol Ziegler

### 25 Years

Monica Bruck  
Sivewright Carden  
Anne Chorba  
Mary Graves  
Mary Pat Hely  
Peg Rowland  
Janice Sunderhaft

### 20 Years

Mary Bennett  
Kathleen Michael  
Jeanne Salzman  
Joanne Saporito  
Ann Steinbrunner

### 15 Years

Catherine Abraham  
Cheryl Ann Collova  
Alice Graham  
Meg Kearns  
Grace Starinsky  
Irma Stewart

### 10 Years

Linda Danhoffer  
Anne Dombrowski  
Susan Jurecki  
Lynne Rambasek

### 5 Years

Linda Cerio  
Irene Fitzgerald  
Mary Herrick  
Elizabeth Innocenzi  
Laureen Jamison  
Patricia Liebenauer  
Joyce Linton  
Kathleen O'Connell-Burton  
Ardis Radak  
Georgeann Simia  
Susan Simonetti  
Leslie Vecchio  
Joann M. Volk  
Carol Zanath



# Remembrance/Endowment Report

December 12, 2017 - February 13, 2018

## Memory

Ann Dowdell  
Mary Eileen Reusser (5)  
Fran  
Terese Blaha (4)  
Helen Jarosc  
Joseph Butano  
Bill Bauer  
Donna Ledin

Kitty Webster  
Philip Koch  
Chris Standring  
Ida Williams  
Caroline Meder (7)  
Sharon Coughlin  
Ernest and Ling Pritts Fisco

Please notify the Christ Child office regarding deaths of CCS members or their immediate family members.

Send Remembrance/Endowment checks to:  
Christ Child Society of Cleveland  
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102  
Attn: Abby Sammon

## Honor

Umberto and Mary Ellen Fideli - Merry Christmas  
Pat Velotta - Merry Christmas

## In Our Thoughts

Jane Fancet - speedy recovery

St. John Cathedral Mass for Christ Child members,  
living and deceased, and for their families.  
Monday, March 26, Noon  
Wednesday, April 25, Noon  
Friday, May 25, Noon

*At the beginning of January, acknowledgement letters for tax purposes are sent to all members who contributed \$50.00 or more during the previous year. The total amount of annual donations to Remembrance is listed in that letter. This is the only acknowledgement sent.*

Donations this report period	\$7,430.00
Previous fiscal year to date	<u>\$2,645.00</u>
Total for fiscal year	\$10,275.00

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### March - May 2018

#### **Layette Packing**

First Monday, 10:00-12:30  
March 5, April 2, May 7  
Contact: **Donna Kelly**

#### **Euclid -St. John of the Cross Sewing Group**

Fourth Wednesday, 12:30-3:30  
March 28, April 25, May 23  
Contact: **Andrea Dean**

#### **Grandmothers' Program Merrick House**

*Note: Volunteers must wear socks.*  
Contact: **Kathy Yoakum**

#### **Heights-St. Dominic Sewing Group**

Third Tuesdays, 10:00-2:00  
March 20, April 17, May 15  
Contact: **Irene Chalko**

#### **Highland Heights Sewing Group**

Third Friday, 10:00-2:00  
March 16, April 20, May 18  
Contact: **Patty Welsh**

#### **Independence Sewing Group**

Second Wed. & Thurs., 10:00-2:00  
March 14, 15; April 11, 12; May 9, 10  
Contact: **Laura Cengic**

#### **Merrick House Pre-School Reading Enrichment**

First, Third and Fifth Tuesdays 9:30-11:00  
March 6, 20; April 3, 17; May 1, 15, 29  
Contact: **Kathy Yoakum**

#### **"My Stuff" Packing**

Third Monday, 10:00-12:00  
March 19, April 16, May 21  
Contact: **Rose Dziak**

#### **The HeadStart Early Literacy Program**

First & Third Tuesdays  
9:30-11:00/1:30-3:00  
March 6, 20; April 3, 17; May 1, 15  
Contact: **Sue Simon** or **Marlene Suchma**

#### **St. Francis Library**

Tues. during the school year 9:30-2:00  
Wed. during the school year 9:30-2:30  
Contact: **Irene Fitzgerald**

#### **St. Rocco Library**

Wed. during the school year 8:45-12:00  
**NOTE: Day change from Mon. to Wed.**  
Contact: **Paula Conrad**

#### **Showcase**

Shifts available on Tuesday-Saturday:  
10:00-2:00 / 10:00-4:00 / 12:00-4:00  
Contact: **Joan McAuliffe**

\*Contact information can be found in our Chapter roster.

# What Is the National Christ Child Society?

As we immerse ourselves in our chapter work, it is easy to forget that we are all part of something much bigger - the National Christ Child Society with 43 chapters and 6,000 members nationwide! NCCS's Executive Director Carolyn Pumphrey, the staff, and the National Board help with the formation of new chapters, help existing chapters operate effectively, and make sure that chapters stay true to the mission of the organization – serving children in need, for the love of the Christ Child. NCCS provides educational materials and guidelines, serves as a resource for questions as local chapter officers turn over, and hosts national conventions and conferences to educate and unify the chapters. National Board members lead seminars and workshops, depending on their areas of expertise. In addition, NCCS holds educational webinars throughout the year on topics that range from treasurer tips to cultural awareness to communicating effectively, to name a few.

National board members work together on various committees, namely, membership, programs, communications, conference/convention planning, development and finance. Through committee work, they provide chapter leaders with the tangible tools and information they need to grow and improve their chapters. For example, the Program committee developed the "Calm Your Baby" card and the revised blanket warning tag and NCCS made them available to chapters at no cost. One of NCCS' Strategic Plan goals is for 80% of our chapters to have a literacy program in place by the end of this year, since studies show that early exposure to reading can significantly improve a child's success in school and in life. With this goal in mind, the program committee developed the "Read to Me" card – again available to chapters at no cost, to be included in your signature layettes and the committee is working on best practices so chapters who do not have a literacy or reading program, can start one.

The Communications committee developed new branding guidelines so that we can present a unified look. Each chapter was given various templates and materials to help them achieve this goal. And recently, the revised National website was launched, designed to be easy for all chapter members to access any information they are looking for! The Communications committee also united all the chapters as we participated in our second annual nationwide volunteer day of service – Make a Difference Day.

ANY CCS member is eligible to become a National Board member. You may think it sounds like a lot of work, but the rewards received far outweigh the time we give.

*"Working with the NCCS Board has been an exceptional experience....This group's energy seems to be limitless and is charged by love": Mary Jo Dawson, CCS of Detroit and NCCS Vice President.*



# Provisional Installation Mass & Legacy Luncheon

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

## A DOUBLE CELEBRATION

### Provisional Installation Mass

Celebrated at 10:00 a.m.  
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
East 9<sup>th</sup> & Superior Avenue

### Legacy Luncheon

Immediately following Mass  
Crowne Plaza at Playhouse Square  
1260 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland

Please join us for these wonderful events as we welcome the newest Christ Child members and honor those who are marking membership anniversaries.

**PLEASE NOTE: Complementary valet parking is available at the Crowne Plaza. THERE WILL BE SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN THE CROWNE PLAZA AND THE CATHEDRAL, BEGINNING AT 9 A.M.**

*No separate invitation will be mailed.*

## LEGACY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

### Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, March 7th

*Payment must accompany reservation form*

Please Reserve: \_\_\_ Tickets @ \$40 each  
\_\_\_ Silver Patron @ \$60 (\$20 tax deductible) \_\_\_ Gold Patron @ \$85 (\$45 tax deductible)  
I cannot attend but would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Seating Requests (Tables of 8)** Indicate Member (M), Guest (G), Other Chapter (O), Provisional (P)

List your name and the names of those you have confirmed will be sharing your table.  
Incomplete tables will be filled with other Christ Child members and their guests.

- |          |         |          |         |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. _____ | M G O P | 2. _____ | M G O P |
| 3. _____ | M G O P | 4. _____ | M G O P |
| 5. _____ | M G O P | 6. _____ | M G O P |
| 7. _____ | M G O P | 8. _____ | M G O P |

\_\_\_\_\_ **I have no seating preference** \_\_\_\_\_ **I prefer the vegetarian option**

Checks made payable to the Christ Child Society  
MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail reservation form with payment to:  
Christ Child Society, 7901 Detroit Ave., Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio 44102  
Attn: Legacy Luncheon

--- THIS PAGE WAS LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY ---



## 2017 DATES TO REMEMBER

Provisional Information Coffee.....	March 14
Legacy Luncheon and Provisional Installation Mass.....	March 21
Spring Luncheon/Business Meeting and Installation of Officers at Shaker County Club.....	June 20
Day of Recollection at St. Barnabas .....	July 25

---

### SHOWCASE

We want to say Thank You and extend our appreciation to two ladies who donate to Showcase in a special way. They are not members of the Christ Child Society but, who knows, maybe someday.

Michelle Pitoscia, beautician of Signature Styles, a beauty salon in Strongsville, displays and sells the jewelry that our very own **Marlene Lentz** re-designs for the Society and Showcase. Michelle donates all the proceeds she receives from the jewelry sales to Showcase.

Cheryl Bonner, proprietor of Stanton Jewelers in Westlake, has been giving of her time and talent by donating all the batteries for watches we receive in donations. She also inspects some of the pieces of jewelry to let us know if they are valuable and should be priced accordingly.

Ladies, We Thank You!

---

### SHOWCASE BAG SALE AND SPRING CHANGEOVER

The next bag sale will run from Saturday, March 10 through Wednesday, March 14. Spring Changeover will take place Thursday, March 15 and Friday, March 16. Changeover is a great opportunity to get volunteer hours! It is a lot of work, but a lot of fun! Lunch will be provided both days. Please contact **Pat Givens** to volunteer for Changeover.

### DUES

The Board has been reviewing our expenses in relation to our dues. Current dues are \$60 for active members, \$85 for sustaining members. National receives \$32 of each member's dues. This leaves \$28 per active member and \$53 per sustaining member to offset our administrative and communication costs (including the newsletter), which yearly run approximately \$140 per member. To offset this deficit, the Board is discussing an increase in dues by \$15 per member, both active and sustaining. Dues were last raised in 2007. If you have any questions or concerns with regard to our membership dues, please contact **Janie Nickodem**.

---

### TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Join Fr. Ralph on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan (including Petra), October 1-12, 2018. Mass will be offered daily at many wonderful and deeply spiritual sites. Cost is \$3,995 plus airfare. For more information, contact Magi Travel at [www.magitravelinc.com](http://www.magitravelinc.com), trip #1825 with Fr. Ralph Wiatrowski; call Magi Travel at 952-949-0065; or call Fr. Ralph at St. Barnabas Parish 330-467-7959. You won't be disappointed!

Save the Date

## *Annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting*

Installation of the new Officers

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Shaker Country Club  
3300 Courtland Blvd, Shaker Heights, OH 44122





**Christ Child Society of Cleveland**  
7901 Detroit Avenue  
Suite 300  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Permit No. 3046

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL: Please deliver by March 1st**

### Articles for the newsletter

Please contact **Kate Johns** if you have any special needs or volunteer requests for the newsletter.  
Articles for the March/April issue will be due by Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Janie Nickodem**  
President

**Stephanie West**  
Service VP

**Liz Niehaus**  
Organization VP

**Terri Parker**  
Recording Secretary

**Lynne Gerace**  
Corresponding Secretary

**Cathy Caruso**  
Financial Secretary

**Abby Sammon**  
Endowment/Remembrance

**Kate Johns**  
Newsletter Editor

**Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski**  
Spiritual Advisor

**Please direct questions,  
information & articles to:**

Newsletter Editor  
Christ Child Society  
7901 Detroit Avenue  
Suite 300  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Christ Child Society of Cleveland  
is chapter of National Christ  
Child Society, Inc.  
6110 Executive Blvd.  
Suite 504  
Rockville, MD 20852  
1-301-881-2490  
fax: 301-881-2493  
[www.nationalchristchildsoc.org](http://www.nationalchristchildsoc.org)