

## Lay Missionaries of Charity

*“Give yourself fully to God.  
He will use you to accomplish great things  
on the condition that you believe much more  
in His love than in your own weakness.”  
~ Mother Teresa*

“The Lay Missionaries of Charity are a branch of the Missionaries of Charity of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

The LMCs have as their focus growth in holiness of the family, after the example of the Holy Family. LMCs are family oriented, parish centered, and at our essence, “contemplatives in the heart of the world”. By doing “Small things with great love” we strive to bring the presence of God to all those we meet. In a letter of 1991, written from Calcutta, Blessed Teresa wrote: “What Jesus wants from you as an LMC is deep love for your own, compassion and forgiveness, loving to the very limit of love, the cross. Make your home another Nazareth, where prayer and work love and sacrifice fill your days. “Our life is a life of prayer and service which bears fruit in the world.”



## Lay Missionaries of Charity

Congratulations to our Lay Missionaries of Charity who will be making "Vows for Life" at the 10:00 Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28. Following are the biographies of the LMC's.



I have been a member in vows of the Lay Missionaries of Charity (LMC) at St. Anthony' Parish for the past ten years. My apostolate is to do my best to perform my daily activities as a Catholic Christian and to show a good Christian example to all I come in contact with.

The LMC is an integral part of my apostolate by serving God through serving the Catholic Church, my family, and my fellow man. By taking part in the LMC prayers and group activities, I have a better understanding of how to carry out my apostolate.

I wish to make my LMC Vows for Life in order to further grow in virtue, to better understand and practice my apostolate, and to follow Jesus more closely. – *Kent Hansen*

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Sixty years ago, this June, a blind date was arranged for Kent and me by his cousin. Three weeks later, we were engaged. He then left for overseas duty and came home seven months later for our wedding.

Ken and I placed my wedding bouquet on the outdoor altar at the Grotto of Our Sorrowful Mother in Portland. That was the most beautiful day—everything seemed so perfect. We had such dreams for our future—our home, our children, and our life, in general. Never could we have dreamed, on that perfect day, that in our future: we would be advised to terminate the pregnancy of our 7<sup>th</sup> child, due to a measles exposure; that we would be told that another child was mentally handicapped, that we would receive a call from a son who had just had a bad trip on LSD; that a daughter would share with us that she is gay. Never in our wildest dreams could we have thought that these things in our future, but on that most perfect day we did pray for strength, courage, and guidance as we started on this new journey.



As the children came along, our lives got busier and busier. Life in general became a prayer, dealing with our day to day struggles and triumphs. Our faith and trust in God is what carried us through, where it led us to the Lay Missionaries of Charity. I was drawn the LMC because of their special mission to work for the salvation and sanctification of our own families. I was drawn to the charism of what was dearest in my heart. St. Mother Teresa said, "What Jesus wants from me as an LMC is deep love for our family, compassion, forgiveness, and loving to the very limits of love—Love begins at home." I have been a member for ten years, having renewed vows yearly. I will be renewing vows for life on Sunday, April 28, 2019, Divine Mercy Sunday. –*Bev Hansen*



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In 1993, I lost my 34-year old brother to HIV/AIDS. One of the most trying times of my life was seeing him suffer so painfully. One of the most blessed times was seeing him die a happy, holy death in Mother Teresa's home for the dying, surrounded by her sisters, family, friends, and fellow dying AIDS sufferers.

The three months I spent at Seton House, in Denver with Martin suffering and death, the spirit of Mother Teresa became a part of me and led me to eventually become a part of the family of Missionaries of Charity as a Lay MC. God's precious gift was the privilege of, that year, meeting and being blessed by a BIG SAINT.

For nineteen years, I have annually renewed my vows to the Lord. Now, I am blessed and profoundly grateful to be able to make my "Vows for Life" on Divine Mercy Sunday, 2019, for the honor and glory of God. –*Angela Bourgerie*

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I was introduced to the Missionaries of Charity in 1993 by my wife Angela. I began going to Mass and Adoration at the Contemplative House in San Diego. Then, I volunteered my time, working at the convent and helping the sisters, both in San Diego and Tijuana.

I was blessed to meet Mother St. Teresa in 1995 and to receive her blessing. I continue, to this day, to grow in enthusiasm for the charism and way of life of the Missionaries of Charity. I

made my first vows, as a Lay Missionary of Charity in 2009 and renewed them each year, thereafter. I will make my "Vows for Life" on Divine Mercy Sunday, 2019.

– *Denny Bourgerie*

