

St Jerome's Ladies of Charity



Information Booklet

2017

The Ladies of Charity



Mission Statement

To provide Vincentian leadership to women acting together against poverty

Motto

To Serve Rather Than Be Served With Humility, Simplicity, and Charity

Logo

Faith, Hope, and Charity

The common symbols depicting these three virtues are: the cross for faith, the anchor for hope, and the burning heart for charity.

St Vincent de Paul



St Louise de Marillac



St Elizabeth Ann Seton



Pray for Us!

History

The Ladies of Charity is an organization of Catholic lay women founded by Saint Vincent de Paul, patron of all Charity, in the Diocese of Lyon, France in 1617. To maintain the spirit of charity and unity among future associations, Saint Vincent chose Louise de Marillac to visit the associations to see that they were properly organized and that work was performed with the right spirit. Together with Saint Louise de Marillac, they went quietly about their tasks, seeking no recognition, satisfied with the knowledge that they were serving Christ in the person of the poor. These volunteers brought aid to the poor in the French country side. But as their work continued to prosper, Vincent's zeal helped them to quickly spread into other districts. By December 8, 1617, the first association of the Ladies of Charity was canonically established. In March 1934, Pope Pious XI canonized Louise and proposed her as a model for the Ladies of Charity.

The first American Lady of Charity was a 23-year old wife and mother named Catherine Harkins. Born in Ireland, she came to America with her parents and was taught by the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland. When she married, she moved to St. Louis, settling in St. Vincent de Paul Parish. There, encouraged by Father Urban Gagnepain of the Congregation of the Mission, she formed an association on

December 8, 1857. It was the first American association of the Ladies of Charity. There were 12 members and she was their president.

Since their origin, the Ladies of Charity have lived the spirit of their founder through daily prayer and personal service to the poor. The Association, in response to prayer and mutual sharing, seeks to be open to the call of Christ through the Church in meeting new forms of poverty with dedication and creativity. The Ladies of Charity seek every opportunity to make Christ present by serving the material and spiritual needs of the sick, the poor, and the marginalized of our society.

That same Vincentian spirit characterizes the Association today. Ladies of Charity continue in the mission of direct service to the poor in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, to serve rather than be served with humility, simplicity, and charity. It asks the personal gift of self, time, devotion, sacrifice, and perseverance in the effort to bring dignity to each person and to respond with compassion to every human misery.

The joy of being associated with women dedicated to the mission of Christ in the family of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac may be yours as a Lady of Charity.

St Jerome's Ladies of Charity General Information

St Jerome's Chapter of the Ladies of Charity was founded in 1932!

We're celebrating over 80 years of service

Meetings

The Ladies of Charity meet September through May on the third Sunday of each month following the 10:30 am Mass in the Rectory Meeting Room.

Membership

Membership is attained after attending any combination of three meetings and/or participation in three LOC sponsored events. Members, once inducted at a quarterly meeting of the Prince George's County Ladies of Charity, are considered a Lady for life.

Dues

Annual dues for the Ladies of Charity are \$20.00 to support the National LCUSA (\$10) and the Archdiocese LOC activities (\$10). An annual subscription to the LCUSA Quarterly publication of the *Servicette* is included. Our Chapter is funded through members, donations and fundraising projects and activities.

Participation and Volunteers

Ladies of Charity are asked to be active in one or more of our ongoing service projects by donating their time or requested items.

Ladies may volunteer to participate in one of many ongoing committees that serve our community, to assist in one of the activities we volunteer for from once to several times a year, or to donate time or goods towards any of our various collections or "one time" activities.

The breadth of activities the LOC supports calls on our membership for a variety of talents and levels of participation.

"To Serve rather than be served in Humility, Simplicity and Charity"

Ladies of Charity Affiliations

International and National

The *Ladies of Charity*, an international organization within the Vincentian Family of organizations founded by St. Vincent de Paul and his followers. Worldwide, The Ladies of Charity has an approximate worldwide membership of 250,000.

Ladies of Charity, USA provides leadership and oversight to all of the regional and local Chapters across the country. LCUSA operates at the national level, supporting our unit activities and giving voice to our charitable works on a broader scale. Each year there is a national convention that is alternately held in one of the five regions in the U.S.

LCUSA Information: <http://www.ladiesofcharity.us>

Archdiocesan and County

Our unit is affiliated with the *PG County and the Archdiocesan Ladies of Charity*. We operate mainly at the parish level as a “unit”. There are eleven units in the Prince George’s County LOC and we are also part of the Archdiocesan LOC. There is a separate Board of Directors for the PG County LOC and the Archdiocesan LOC.

Members from St. Jerome’s are strongly encouraged to attend at least one event held by the County or Archdiocese each year. Each September a handout of “Dates to Remember” is given to all Ladies that lists upcoming events for St. Jerome’s, PG County and Archdiocesan events. Information about upcoming events is discussed at our monthly meetings.

LOC Archdiocese of Washington Website: www.ladiesofcharityadw.org

St Jerome's Ladies of Charity Board of Directors

Board members carry out supporting administrative tasks of the LOC as well as assist Committee Chairs in securing volunteers for projects and soliciting donations of goods or financial assistance. Each member of the Board of Directors agrees to serve at least a two year term.

President - *Jen Auer*

Vice President- *Maureen Roul*

Secretary - *Kendra Jochum*

Treasurer- *Kathrine Somok*

Spiritual Moderator- *Father Scott Hahn*

Contact Information



St Jerome's Ladies of Charity
"To Serve Rather than be Served in Humility, Simplicity, and Charity"

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StJeromesLadiesofCharity

Celebrating 80 Years of Service since 1932

StJeromesLOC@gmail.com

Please visit us on www.Facebook.com/StJeromesLadiesofCharity

Visit the LOC Archdiocese of Washington Website: www.ladiesofcharityadw.org

St Jerome's Ladies of Charity Ministry Committees and Service Interests

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Clothes Closet and Clothing Exchanges

Ladies collect and provide clothing to those in need within the Parish and community.

Junior Ladies of Charity

Junior Ladies of Charity are young women of Grammar, High School and College age who are engaged in Christian Service on behalf of the Association of the Ladies of Charity. Junior members work on their own service projects but are also part of the larger parish chapter- they can focus their projects to support our committees as well as ideas of their own. Material donation drives and direct service activities are regularly encouraged. Ladies will support this subgroup with Students of St Jerome's Academy and other young girls within the Parish.

Membership and Publicity

Ladies work towards maintaining our Chapter's membership directory, recruiting new members, coordinating inductions, collecting annual dues, serving as mentors for new members, maintaining contact with local organizations to publicize our Chapter and expand our service projects.

Ministry of Praise

Ladies sponsor a group of parishioners whose only objective is to encourage more people to engage in daily prayer. Prayer intentions are distributed bi-monthly.

Nigerian Community

Ladies maintain connection with the members of the Nigerian Community at St Jerome's. Ladies also work to identify and develop a supportive relationship with a Sister Parish in Nigeria.

Nursing Homes- Residential Care Centers

Ladies provide material donations for nursing home residents, assist with program functions, visit residents, and offer direct services based on needs. Local nursing homes include Sacred Heart, Malta House, Independence Court, Carroll Manor, and Spring Grove Hospital.

Family Crisis Support

The Family Crisis Center is the only domestic violence program in the County that also provides emergency shelter services to victims experiencing domestic violence in their intimate partner relationships. Shepherd's Cove is another regional shelter for families that provides year round support for adults and children. Ladies coordinate collections for material and monetary donations as well as provide direct volunteer services.

Pregnancy Aid

The Pregnancy Aid Center (PAC) is a non-profit, community-based women's health clinic and social service agency in College Park, Md. Ladies coordinate collections for material and monetary donations as well as provide direct volunteer services. Assistance provides support for first time mothers, children, and expanding families.

St Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families

St. Ann's provides care for women and children in need of assistance. Both emergency and short-term residential placements are provided for up to 50 infants and young children; a transitional housing program, Faith House, assists eight mothers and their children; there is a teen mother outreach program; and a daycare center for 85 infants and preschool children. Ladies donate clothing, diapers, formula, toys, and money as needed throughout the year. Gift baskets of toiletries and small items for the Faith House moms are collected each December for Christmas. The Ladies of Charity also make monetary and gift card donations to St. Ann's throughout the year from donated or raised funds.

St Jerome's Café

Ladies and other parishioners prepare and/or serve lunch in rotating teams each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the Gold Room for the needy in our Community. The Café also serves as a pantry for individuals in need.

Sunshine Correspondence

Ladies write and send "Get Well" or "Thinking of You" cards to members of St. Jerome's Parish who are ill or home bound let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Members receive Mass cards as appropriate.

UMD Catholic Terps

Approximately twice a year, Ladies assist in preparing and serving a dinner for approximately 150-200 Catholic students at the University of Maryland College Park Catholic Student Center. Ladies provide casseroles, salad and dessert for the students.

Welcome Home Prison Mentoring

The Prison Outreach Ministry and its Welcome Home Reentry Program live the Gospel Mandate to serve men and women returning to their communities after incarceration. They seek to reduce recidivism, educate the community and develop strong systems of support, by building relationships and by matching returning individuals with compassionate volunteer mentors from communities of faith and civic organizations. Ladies serve as Mentors to men and women incarcerated in PG County and encourage additional Parish members to engage in this program.

Ideas for New Services and Special Projects are Always Welcomed!

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