



Ladies of Charity, Diocese of Buffalo

1122 Broadway, Buffalo, NY 14212 (716-895-4001)

Eileen C. Nowak, Director

The Charity Link

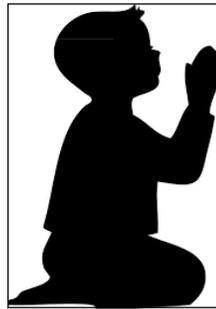
Spring 2017



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First Communion 2017



First Communion is an important event in the lives of children. A critical part of this event is the purchase a new white dress, shoes, and veil or a new suit and tie.

Ladies of Charity assist the families of children living in poverty who cannot afford the special outfits for their First Communion. Your donation will enable these children to celebrate their special holy day. *Ladies of Charity's* First Communion Ministry provides for children who otherwise would not have the proper clothing for this occasion.

Parish Religious Education Coordinators in the Diocese of Buffalo identify First Communicants in need. Their parents receive a Burlington voucher for a dress or suit, shoes, socks, belt, veil and undergarments.

We are asking for your help to continue this ministry. Please use the separate form for your donation and send it to: LOC, 4001 Broadway, Buffalo, NY 14212. Thank you for your assistance.

Memories of a *Lady of Charity*

By Eleanor Cipollone (now 88 years old)

I joined *Ladies of Charity* when I was 26 years old. I have many favorite memories, but here is one of my favorites. One of my first *volunteer* tasks was taking a little boy from the neighborhood shopping for his First Communion clothes. He needed shoes, shirt, tie, socks and even underwear. After a long day of shopping I brought him to my house for a spaghetti dinner. He met my family and we all enjoyed the meal and company. A few weeks later, I sat in Ascension Church while he made his First Communion.

Almost twenty years later, a man approached me in the street one day while I was out and asked me if I remembered him. I did not recognize him but to my surprise, this was the same young man I took shopping for clothes. Though I did not recognize him, I never forgot that little boy. I was glad he remembered me! He told me how he enjoyed that whole day and expressed his appreciation.

Editor's Note: None of us realize the impact our *volunteer* work has on the people we assist or show a kindness or caring. Even twenty years later, one act was still remembered by this young man.

LOC website: locbuffalony.org

National *LOC* site: aic.ladiesofcharity.us

2015-2016 Advisory Board

Executive Board

Director	Eileen C. Nowak
President	Kathleen Sieracki
VP of Programs/Publicity	Kathy Roseti
VP of Membership	Christina Eberl
Recording Secretary	Susan Ward
Treasurer	Sally Kingsley
Store Chairlady	Joan Quigley
Spiritual Moderator	Holly Walter
President Advisor	Marilyn Leslie

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Advocacy/Social Outreach	Holly Walter
Backpacks	Janice Ferguson
Christmas Children	Ceil Borcz
Christmas Homebound	
Fresh Start	Leona Prinzbach
Layettes	Nancy Ortolano
LCUSA	Holly Walter
Reading Enrichment	Nancy Ortolano

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Newsletter	Sue Robak
Publicity	Kathy Roseti
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Quilt Raffle	Carol Prowse/Marilyn Leslie
Style Show Co-Chairladies	Betty Connor & Kathy Dolan
Junior Ladies of Charity	Marian Snyder

Members at Large Maxine Anstett, Mary Carroll,
Sharon Darisse, Kathy Dolan, Denise Golpl, Elaine Ko-
pecky and Mary Ann Meegan

Office Staff

Team Leader	Patra Mangus
Secretaries	Ciera Jones & Cindy Wagner
Center Assistant	Delma Funderburk

Mission Statement

Diocese of Buffalo Ladies of Charity is an organization of women volunteers embracing the ideals of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. We inspire and encourage each other while working with the needy to break the cycle of poverty in our communities and in our world.

Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all you do to help make a difference for the thousands of clients we served in the last year.

Looking forward into 2017, the opportunity for anyone to **volunteer** for *Ladies of Charity* is huge. We can not do the wonderful works by this amazing organization without the amazing YOU!

There are no real words that can express how thankful those we help daily are. Their smiles and their breathing a little easier when they are helped certainly says it all.

Continue what you do and continue your good works as a *Lady of Charity*.

Eileen C. Nowak

St Ameila's LOC

By Karen Biesinger Chairperson



Each year during the fall months' meetings the St. Amelia *Ladies of Charity* crafts a gift for the homebound and nursing home parishioners. This year, as you can see in the picture, we made the swaddled Infant Jesus lying in a manger. We attached cork on the back to act as an easel, so that it could be placed on a table near them.

They were distributed through the St. Amelia Outreach **volunteers**. Our *Ladies* had many smiles and enjoyed making the gift, particularly when it came to the swaddling, an activity which hasn't been done in a long time but well remembered.



Members of Canisius College's Student Life Facilities and Public Safety delivered their annual toy donations to by *Ladies of Charity* in Buffalo. Their **volunteer** efforts brought joy to many children in WNY. **Thank you** Griffs.



Catholic Charities/*LOC* toy distribution at St. Stan's community center in Buffalo. Pictured are Sr. Mary Durenbeck, Fred Heuer and Cindy Scibetta, all of the Appeal Dept. **volunteering** at the event.

***LOC* Reaches Across the Diocese**

To *Ladies of Charity* and Catholic Charities, the best wishes and much gratitude for the gifts of Christmas to my sons. You are a blessing in my life. God bless everybody. Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts. Blessings this Christmas and always.

Johanna
Dunkirk



Ladies of Charity was a hub of holiday activity. Carolyn Kwiatkowski, Catholic Charities outreach specialist, and Pat and Mary, **volunteers**, filled Christmas gift orders for children and teens.

Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. ~Author Unknown
The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers. ~Terri Guillemets

President Kathleen Sieracki



In 2016 the Diocese of Buffalo *Ladies of Charity* enabled people in need to choose free clothing valued at over \$20,000; provided more than 60 layettes filled with brand-new supplies for newborns; prepared 3400 boxes and bags of household supplies for individuals and families making a fresh start; participated in a reading enrichment program with pre-school children; enriched the lives of isolated people through the Telephone Assurance Program and helped over 700 children begin the new school year with backpacks filled with school supplies. Nearly 3400 children and over 700 homebound adults received new gifts for Christmas. All this service was accomplished through the *volunteer* efforts of the Advisory Board, *LOC* members and friends of our association.

In addition, thirty *Junior Ladies of Charity* in Lancaster *volunteered* at many service locations throughout the area. This newsletter is designed by a *volunteer* editor. Our major fundraisers are led by *volunteers* and others create a warm, welcoming and dignified atmosphere for customers in our store. As free will offerings, many members made donations to support our First Communion Program, funding outfits for children referred by their faith formation director.

As *Ladies of Charity*, our *volunteerism* and generosity has an extra spiritual dimension. We follow the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louis de Marillac and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, seeing the face of Christ in the persons we serve. As your president, I am in awe of everything you accomplish. Thank you very much.

“May our Lord continue to grant you His holy graces and increase them constantly so that you may persevere in His love and service.”
~St. Louise de Marillac.

Advocacy News

By Holly Walter

We have received a Public Policy Update from the NYS Catholic Conference of Bishops concerning several issues coming up in the New York State budget. The Bishops advocate support for affordable housing, education funding, migrant workers and higher education funds for children of undocumented immigrants (**Dream Act**). The bishops oppose efforts to legalize physicians' assisted suicide and expand abortion rights. Please join the Catholic Action Network at www.nyscatholic.org and be ready to take action by going to the website and adding “**Latest Action alerts**” and send an e-mail to your legislators and the Governor.

On the Federal level please continue to support the **RAISE Family Caregivers Act** (A1719), the **Credit for Caring Act** (HR 4708) and the **Care Placing Act** (S. 1549 in Congress by calling toll free 844-259-9351 for the first bill in the House (HR) and 844-259-9355 for the second in the Senate (S). After dialing the numbers listen to a brief AARP message and then press “1” and connect to your representative's office.

We have been advocating for caregivers this past year in our *LOC* organization nationally and locally. We need to advocate for many issues before Congress and state legislatures that aid the poor and help women and families as well. Advocacy, an important tool, lets our representatives know our opinions and what we expect of them as legislators.

JLOC at the Response to Love Center



Junior Ladies of Charity Activities



Pictured: JLOC at Ronald McDonald House

Thirty-three *Junior Ladies of Charity* from St. Mary's Parish decorated 650 Christmas cookies and packaged them up for delivery to Symphony Manor Assisted Living Facility, Lancaster and Hope House, a shelter for battered women and children in Buffalo. The girls also wrapped gifts for the two immigrant families they adopted for Christmas. They also assembled 12 gift bags of toiletries and cleaning supplies for the residents at Gerard Place, which provides transitional housing for young single mothers. The girls concluded their 2016 activities with a trip to The Ronald McDonald House in Buffalo to prepare a meal for the residents. What a way to end the year!

Welcome to *LOC* Kate Koscielniak



Miss Kate Koscielniak has joined *LOC* and will serve as one of the moderators of *JLOC* at St. Mary's in Lancaster. She was a *JLOC* member from the 6th-12th grade. As a member Kate had many oppor-

tunities to **volunteer** including Response to Love Center, making holiday treat bags or crafts for St. Elizabeth's Home and buying Christmas presents for immigrant families. Kate attended UB and Ithaca College majoring in Speech-Language Pathology. Currently working at a speech pathologist at The Summit Center, Kate is happy to help out with the *Junior Ladies*. Kate will play a vital role in the continued success of *JLOC*.

Mary Faulhaber, *Lady of Charity* June 2, 1926-January 10, 2017



"Wherever we may be, God is with us, so we must be always joyful." St. Louise de Marillac

To know Mary Faulhaber was to love her. She joined *LOC* at age 19 and was promptly chosen as district chairlady because she was one of the few who could drive. After moving to Lancaster, she helped found St. Mary's *LOC* in 1946. Mary was always "on the lookout" for new members. Advisory Board members Carol Prowse, Marian Snyder and Holly Walter all remember personal invitations from Mary to join *LOC*. At Christmas one year, when asked by one of her daughters what gift she would like, Mary said she would like her to join the *LOC* and so she did. Mary inspired many through her belief that it is a privilege to be a *Lady of Charity*.

Mary was diocesan president 1967-68, served on the Advisory Board for nearly 50 years, **volunteered** monthly in the store and was a member of the mailing committee. She was instrumental in finding the current location for our center. She chaired the Christmas Program for children for several years, coming in almost daily to package gifts so no one would be left out. She led a group who organized birthday parties at Hopevale, a shelter for teenage girls. Several years later, a young woman who lived for a time at Hopevale still remembers the joy of those occasions.

Mary's family wrote, "In whatever activity she was involved, she was always dependable, dedicated to excellence, and willing to serve in whatever capacity needed, whether that be as the lead person or the one quietly doing the job behind the scenes. To her family she passed on well the core Christian values of faith, hope and love through her untiring service of God and neighbor." May she rest in peace. We will all miss her and hope to live up to her example.

Albion Ladies of Charity - Established in 1970, Celebrate their Anniversary



Pictured Front Row (L to R)- Mary Ann Tillman, Marilyn Leslie, Kathleen Sieracki, Father Cszimar; Second Row - Kathleen Roseti

A Mass was held on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016 in Albion to commemorate the Albion Ladies of Charity Anniversary. Rev. Richard A. Cszimar, Pastor of Holy Family Parish celebrated the Mass. Included was a Memoriam for the deceased Ladies of Charity with the reading of the names and a handbell ringing. Mary Ann Tillman, Parish Chairlady, led the celebration, sharing with parishioners information on the many ministries and fundraising efforts the Ladies organize in order to help those suffering in poverty.

Kathleen Sieracki, Buffalo Diocese LOC President spoke, sharing a brief history of the Ladies of Charity. The Ladies hosted a reception following the Mass, and invited Buffalo Diocesan Board Members Kathleen Sieracki, Kathleen Roseti and Marilyn Leslie. The Ladies shared with Board members their women's prison ministry, Christmas gift purchases for those in need, purchase of books for children, contributions to the local soup kitchens, fundraising through the sale of wax ornaments made from the unused portion of altar candles and their booth at the annual parish lawn fete. This was the first of many planned visits during the **400th Anniversary Year** by the Buffalo Diocesan Board to their Parish Associations to learn about the many activities happening in the parishes across the Diocese.

A Family to Family Christmas at St. Gregory the Great



Pictured L-R: Judy Huber, Lucy Kazmierczak, Patty Vitanza, and Kathy Roseti

The Ladies of Charity (LOC) and the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) of St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville collaborated to make Christmas special for a family of three adults and six children. Judy Huber is a member of both groups and is familiar with the family and their needs. LOC purchased a toy, craft and outfit for each child and the adults each received an outfit and a scarf. SVDP provided food, including a turkey, and cleaning and paper products.

Judy and Patty Vitanza delivered the gifts on December 13. Patty reported: "It was unbelievably heartwarming to see the look on the grandmother's and daughter's faces. Grandma told us that she had explained to the children that Christmas might not be what they hoped this year but she will do her best to provide something under the tree.

When the grandmother saw what we were bringing in, her eyes were so wide with joy and a smile from ear to ear. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, our Savior, and I know that is what we are taught to focus on, but...I gotta tell ya, I think Jesus felt the same love and joy we experienced giving this family gifts for all of them and enough food for not only Christmas Day but the next couple of weeks."

A Gift of Hats, Gloves and Prayer



The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Our Lady Help of Christians (OLHC) Parish in Cheektowaga chose the *Ladies of Charity* for their Christmas project in 2016. Kathleen Sieracki, president, visited their November meeting and talked about *LOC* ministries. Everyone then stood around the tables where the beautiful hats and scarves were displayed in many designs and colors (including the popular camouflage print), laid hands on the creations and prayed over them.

During cold winter weather, the warmth of both the garments and the prayers will surround the children who receive them. The donations filled five large boxes. The church does not have an *LOC* group, but parishioners Claudia Sieracki and Mary Ann Campbell are active members who *volunteer* at the Center. Thank you to the caring women of OLHC for their generosity, creativity and prayers.

Have you considered leaving a bequest to *LOC* of Buffalo in your will or asking your *family* to mention *LOC* for memorial donations at the time of your death?

Your bequest & donations will assist those living in poverty & help *LOC* to continue its charitable work.

Your Help is Needed

With this year commemorating our observance of the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the *Ladies of Charity* in France, our attention can be focused on the early years of our own establishment here in the Diocese of Buffalo. Through journals, newspaper articles, photos and personal recollections, we can see the rich history of so many *Ladies* who have gone before us and made our association the vital organization it is today.

According to records from St. Amelia's *LOC* archives, "The *LOC* of Buffalo evolved from the *Volunteer* Bureau of the Catholic Charities..." ("came into existence in 1929 during the depression"). "A small number of Catholic women (35 attended the first meeting) were asked to assist with the distribution of food checks to the poor..." In 1931, an Advisory Board was formed. Then, in 1941, Most Rev. John Duffy (Bishop of Buffalo) and Rev. Eugene Loftus (Director of Catholic Charities) established the *LOC* on September 24 in St. Joseph's Old Cathedral. More than 2,800 members were taken in at that first enrollment.

In an October 1953 Buffalo Courier Express article it was mentioned that there were 12,000 members in the local association! That year, an annual luncheon in honor of St. Louise de Marillac would be held in the Statler Hilton Golden Ballroom. The newspaper article stated that the ballroom only held 800 guests: *LOC* members were "urged to make reservations early."

Interest in our early years of the Buffalo Association has resulted in several personal remembrances, photos and articles. If you would like to share with us, please contact the *LOC* Center (phone # 895-4001). Any correspondence or archival materials will be copied and returned to you, if you wish.

Marilyn Leslie
Buffalo *LOC* Association Historian

Fresh Start Needs:

Blankets/sheets/bedspreads/comforters
Dishes/glasses/pots and pans/silverware
Coffee pots/toasters/ small appliances
Drapes/curtains
Electronics such as clocks

<Save the Date>

**Mass of Remembrance/Enrollment/
Volunteer Luncheon**

May 4, 2017 at the **OLV Basilica**. Luncheon to follow at 75 Caldwell St in Lackawanna.

Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the **Charity Link** is June. 15, 2017. Please e-mail items to: Sue Robak at ladiesofcharity1122@gmail.com or mail to Sue Robak 5386 William St., Lancaster, NY 14086.

Saturday Store Dates

Saturday April 1
Saturday May 6
Saturday June 3
Saturday July 8



**AIC 400th Anniversary
1617-2017**

Store Closing Dates

Holy Thursday / Good Friday	April 13-14
Mass of Remembrance/Enrollment/ Volunteer Luncheon	May 4
Memorial Day	May 29
Independence Day	July 4

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