

ASSOCIATION OF LADIES OF CHARITY  
DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH  
111 Boulevard of the Allies  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
February 1, 2018

Dear Presidents:

With the Lenten season set to begin in a few weeks, let's remember some words from our beloved Pope Francis: ***DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?*** *Fast from hurting words and say kind words; Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude; Fast from anger and be filled with patience; Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope; Fast from worries and have trust in God; Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity; Fast from pressures and be prayerful; Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy; Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others; Fast from grudges and be reconciled; Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.* I wish you a grace filled Lenten season.

This year's Investiture Mass will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018 beginning at 3pm with Mass at St. Paul Cathedral. A sit-down dinner will follow immediately at Rodef Shalom Ballroom, 4905 Fifth Avenue (about 3 blocks up from the Cathedral). There is ample parking and the Ballroom seats 400 so plenty of room for our members. A special presentation to 20 of our members celebrating 25 or more years as a member will be celebrated. **Enclosed with this letter is the dinner reservation form for your group. All of the ladies who are attending the dinner should be listed on the form. Please enclose a check, made payable to the Ladies of Charity. The cost of the dinner is \$35.00.**

You should have received the application form for those wishing to be invested in January. If you did not receive the application, please call the office immediately. ***All investees should have the opportunity to discern joining the Ladies of Charity for at least six months to one year.*** Your members will receive individual invitations to the Investiture Mass/Dinner, but please make sure that all RSVP's for your parish are on the enclosed form. Also, if you are willing to make a donation towards the basket raffles, or provide a basket, it would be gratefully appreciated. The proceeds from the basket auction help to defray the cost of the dinner. Please contact the office and let us know if you can help us in this endeavor.

***The Hager Grant Applications are due in the office February 9th.*** A separate email with the forms was sent to the Presidents on January 16, 2018. Last year, eight parishes in the Pittsburgh Diocese received Hager Grants. If your group is interested, the forms are also available on the Pittsburgh website or call the office for a form. If you have received a Hager grant in the past 3 years you are not eligible.

Assembly planning is in countdown position – less than 9 months and we will be greeting our fellow Ladies of Charity members from across the USA. Please do what you can to help fundraise as these efforts are keeping the cost of this year's assembly very reasonable. Heart ornaments are available to sell at \$5.00 each just in time for Valentine's Day. Please call the Office at 412 456-6924 to order yours. They make wonderful gifts for our shut-ins and fit perfectly in a greeting card. When returning any fundraising proceeds, please mark envelopes with either Heart ornament or Snowflake ornament so our records can reflect correctly.

Well it's official – Ladies of Charity USA Launches Ground-breaking Caregiving Service in Pittsburgh, PA. A press release has been issued with the news asking us to ***Join the movement! LOC are drawn to making fundamental differences in peoples' lives. We will train caregivers; pay competitive wages; and deliver capable compassionate care to the most vulnerable among us.*** Josiah Mooney and Sister Carole Blazina will be at the March 10<sup>th</sup> President's meeting to discuss this initiative in more detail. The position description and news release are available on the [locpittsburgh.org](http://locpittsburgh.org) or [aic.ladiesofcharity.us](http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us) websites or call the Diocesan office for more information.

The following are some other activities, that are being planned for this coming year – I encourage you to mark your calendars and share with your members and more information about these events will be forthcoming closer to the date:

- March 10, 2018 9:30am President's Meeting – Word of God Parish/Swissvale – 7446 McClure Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218 Guest Speaker – Josiah Mooney, Consultant, Ladies of Charity Caregiving Initiative; Sister Carole Blazina, SC, LOC Caregiving Initiative Board Member
- April 29, 2018 3:00pm Investiture Mass and dinner, St. Paul's Cathedral Oakland/Rodef Shalom Ballroom Oakland
- August 11, 2018 Annual Workshop – St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish - Baldwin
- September 20-22, 2018 – LCUSA National Assembly, Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA

Ways to stay connected:

Pittsburgh Website: [locpittsburgh.org](http://locpittsburgh.org)

LCUSA Website: [aic.ladiesofcharity.us](http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us)

FACEBOOK Ladies of Charity USA

Association of Ladies of Charity Diocese of Pittsburgh

If you have questions/suggestions, please call and leave a message with the LOC office at 412 456-6924 Thank you for all that you do!

In the Vincentian Spirit,

**Judy Weismann**, President

Association of the Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Pittsburgh