THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION OF THE
LADIES OF CHARITY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

THE GOOD NEWS

DIOCESE OF ALBANY
40 NORTH MAIN AVENUE
ALBANY, NY 12203

OCTOBER 2026

"We are a group of women filled with positive energy dedicated to making life better for those less fortunate."

Ann D. Rose

TO SERVE RATHER THAN BE SERVED WITH HUMILITY, SIMPLICITY AND CHARITY.



President's Message

Sharon Giordano

Dear Ladies of Charity,

Fall is often the busiest time of the year for our Association and this year is no exception! Hospitality Chair Kelly Murray treated us to an elegant pizza party for our September 12 general membership meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended; it was so nice to see so many new faces! Your generosity donating winter clothing items for the Giving Room was overwhelming! Also in September, two of our members, Kathy Kavanaugh and Marie Copeland, represented us as delegates at the National Assembly in Miami, Florida. Ronnie Blendell, Alba Giordano and I made a presentation to 17 women on behalf of Mary's Corner at The Spinney in Delmar where we were selected for their September charitable donations collection. Our volunteers at the Distribution Center have been busy coordinating supplies and initiating the fall/winter changeover which will roll out at each of our three Mary's Corner sites. Sr. Joanne has taken on the purchasing of clothing, diapers and essential items. Shelby Blendell, our current membership chair, Coats for the Community co-chair and Getting Ahead in a Just-gettin'-by World volunteer, has agreed to participate in an LCUSA membership video talking about why she joined LOC, how her experience as a volunteer has impacted someone she has worked with and how her membership has affected her life. Thank you! Rose Sherin, our 501(c)(3) chair, Sr. Joanne and I met with Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, Catholic Charities CEO, to discuss the progress we have made in our efforts to establish our own 501(c)(3). We assured her that we will still support and participate in the mission of the Albany Diocese and Catholic Charities. It was a great meeting. You have received a letter by email or USPS explaining the process the committee is using to become a not-for-profit corporation along with the proposed bylaws. Discussion and voting on these changes will take place at the November 10 board meeting. All are invited to attend.

LCUSA has asked us each to complete a quick survey about your participation in LOC. Online surveys were emailed to you in early October or you can find the link on our website. They ask that you submit your response by October 16. Also this month we will have our annual Coats for the Community collection and distribution. There are many opportunities to volunteer; Co-Chairs Kathy Ryan and Shelby have sent out a SignUpGenius email with available time slots

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Kathy Mahoney will work with Sr. James at St. Colman's to find the families and students most in need of a Thanksgiving dinner basket as well as Christmas gifts of pajamas and a toy. We will be in full swing assembling these items in November and December. Kathy Powers has volunteered to spearhead our participation with area parishes and their Giving Trees. She will be looking for volunteers to pick up donated items in December.

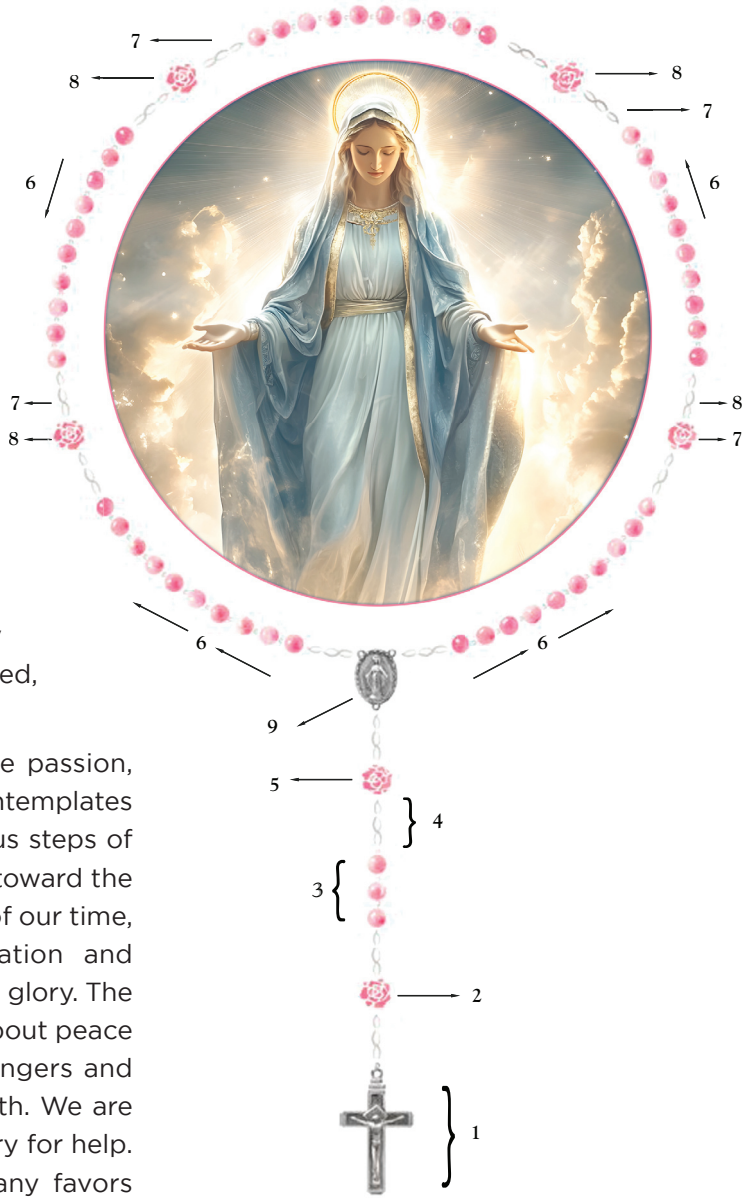
Thank you for your volunteer commitments! The Ladies of Charity is making a significant impact in our community because of the time and effort you put in. You should feel proud of the work we have been able to accomplish together.

Sharon Giordan

Spirituality

Sister Joanne Donovan, D.C., Vincentian Spiritual Moderator

October, the Month of Our Lady and the Rosary



Here we are in the month of October. Last month as I began to think about what to write for the newsletter, I was reflecting on St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and the Blessed Mother, all of whom had a special feast day in September. October is traditionally dedicated to Mary and the practice of Our Lady's Rosary, a devotional prayer honoring the Blessed Mother while one meditates on the life of Christ through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries.

The Rosary had its origin in the history of former ages. Even at the present time it is called "Mary's Psalter." There are many Catholics who consider 150 Hail Marys a substitute for 150 psalms for those who have neither the time, education or opportunity to pray the Hours of Divine Office. "Mary's Psalter" is a shortened, simplified breviary.

The Rosary depicts the entire life of Jesus Christ, the passion, death, resurrection and glory. Of course, the Rosary contemplates and honors Mary. Pope Benedict XVI states that various steps of Christ's mission are traced, with Mary, always oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the center of our life, of our time, of our country and state, through the contemplation and meditation of His holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory. The Rosary, when prayed in a pious reflective way, brings about peace and reconciliation. Today we are faced with many dangers and concerns that threaten both our livelihood and our faith. We are urged by our Blessed Mother to turn again to the Rosary for help. If we consider the power of the Rosary, we find many favors granted to individuals through their praying the Rosary.

October 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Let us consider this October to say the Rosary daily, reflecting on the mysteries of the Rosary which are as follows.

Joyful	**Sorrowful**	**Glorious**	**Luminous**
Annunciation	Agony in the Garden	Resurrection	Baptism of Jesus
Visitation	Scourging at the pillar	Ascension	Wedding at Cana
Nativity	Crowning with thorns	Descent of the Holy Spirit	Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
Presentation	Carrying of the Cross	Assumption	Transfiguration
Finding in the Temple	Crucifixion	Coronation of Mary	Institution of the Eucharist

Making Rosaries, Sharing Faith

Ann Rose

Sr. Joseph Mary of the Sisters of the Presentation warmly invites you to join her in the making and distribution of rosaries for those in need, including missionaries, friends, relatives and others who may benefit from this special gift of faith.

In 1991, Sr. Joseph Mary became involved with *Our Lady's Rosary Makers (OLRM)* of Louisville, Kentucky. This organization provides rosary-making materials at a nominal cost, enabling volunteers to create rosaries that are distributed free of charge to missionaries throughout the world.

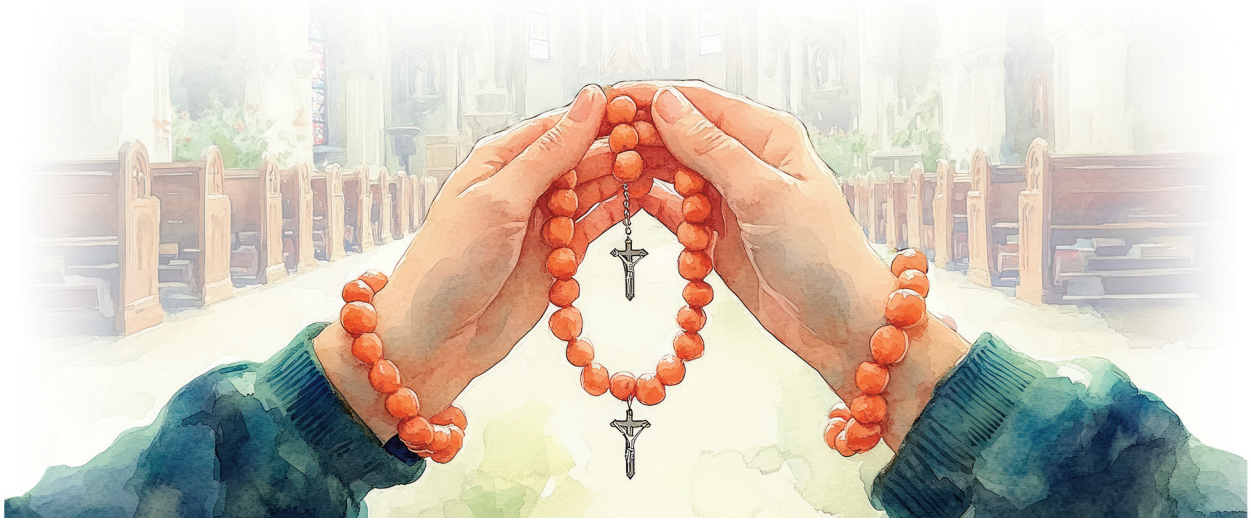
Founded in 1949 by Xaverian Brother Sylvan Mattingly, C.F.X., OLRM was established on the simple but powerful idea of teaching people to make rosaries so they could be freely shared with missionaries. Today, OLRM continues Brother Sylvan's mission by providing affordable materials, resources and support to thousands of volunteers who spread devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary through the Rosary. To learn more about the organization and its history, visit their website at www.olrm.org.

While teaching fourth grade at St. Helen's School in Schenectady, Sr. Joseph Mary introduced her students to this meaningful ministry. The children enthusiastically participated in making rosaries, honoring our Blessed Mother while building a sense of community and service. The rosaries they created were sent to missionaries and distributed around the globe. In total, the students made an astounding 34,000 rosaries!

Sr. Joseph Mary has now revived this ministry and extends an invitation to the Ladies of Charity. A group gathers at St. Colman's on Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. to make rosaries.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile and rewarding endeavor, please contact Sr. Joseph Mary for additional information at 518-791-7980.

We hope you will consider becoming part of this beautiful ministry of prayer, service and devotion.



LCUSA National Update

Kathy Kavanaugh

The National Assembly held in Miami, Florida, September 10-12, was really lovely, inspiring and fun. The Miami LOC went out of their way with planning interesting programs, lots of spiritual growth opportunities and "fun surprises" as they kept alerting us to be on the lookout for!

Our first day, Thursday, three buses transported us to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity. The shrine was established in 1973 by the Cuban exile community after the 1961 Cuban Revolution. It is quite contemporary and beautiful, with a constant stream of people coming inside to pray and to join in Mass. It is not closed to anyone wanting to enter, even when we were experiencing a presentation. We spent the day hearing lectures and a panel about immigration, praying and joining a tour of the art on display. During lunch we were treated to a performance of traditional Cuban dancing.

On Friday there were excellent presentations, one of which was about moving from Charity to Solidarity (the theme of the Assembly). Charity was originally associated with those who were dispensing material support in various manners. However, Charity becomes Solidarity and Solidarity becomes Justice and Justice opens possibility and is transformational so that everyone feels dignity and we become brothers and sisters in Christ. Charity should no longer be an act but something that touches our hearts and moves us to become the means to build a more just and fraternal world.

Fr. Richard Gielow, CM, and LCUSA Vincentian spiritual advisor, offered several reflections, and, as usual, all were thought provoking and inspiring. Another favorite was Sister Marie Hagar, DC, who is executive director of the Vincentian Family Office. She gave a wonderful overview of the Vincentian Family and history as well as inspiring us to take action to try to actively journey with those in need. We are fortunate to have her at the lead in the Vincentian Family.

We had our business meeting, workshops on solidarity and understanding migration today, table discussions on Vincentian spirituality, lovely prayer sessions and much more. For fun there was the raffle room where so many kept bidding in humor on their favs and a wonderful concert by the Voices of Miami. The final Mass and installation of officers was at the St. John Vianney Seminary where they have a huge and record number of new seminarians enrolled. Following a fabulous dinner at the hotel, most of us danced to a terrifically energetic Latin band!

Miami did a spectacular job and it was delightful having Marie and Art Copeland to share the days with!





Albany was well represented by Kathy Kavanaugh and Marie Copeland who came with her husband, Art.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2026

Membership

Shelby Blendell

I am happy to say we have many new members who joined this summer. These new members will be installed in May 2027. They are already involved and you may see some new faces in our ministries. We are always accepting new members. If you have friends or family who are interested in joining please let me know.

It is that time of year again: **dues collection time!** If you have not yet mailed your check, please submit it as soon as possible. (If you are unsure if you have paid, please contact me by phone, 571-228-2783, or email, shelbyblendell@gmail.com.) Dues are submitted yearly. If dues go unpaid for two years the member will be removed from our mailing list. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Send dues checks for $35 payable to *Ladies of Charity* and mail to Shelby Blendell, 36 Ruxton Rd, Delmar, NY 12054.

Our Website, albanyloc.org

Sharon Giordano

We are fortunate that Ann Rose has created and maintains a dedicated website for our Albany Association. It is a wealth of information about our mission, important dates, announcements, our ministries, other ways to be involved and how to donate. Ann has an easy-to-navigate home page, including photos of some of our recent events, and has recently included a very interesting interview she had with one of our founding members, Joyce Roman.

We have benefited from the website as several members of our community have seen our site and have connected with me to donate new clothing, toys, blankets, books and formula for Mary's Corner. Ann posts our current newsletter and has recently added the LCUSA Membership Survey, my letter outlining the 501(c)(3) process we are in, our proposed new bylaws and the proposed new Organizational Structure of our Association which complies with the New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

While Ann keeps the site current, she encourages members to email arose14@verizon.net to submit information pertaining to Ladies of Charity and our ministries. So please, take a look, check it often and stay up to date.



Public Policy/Legislation

Marie Copeland, Chair

Update, August 11, 2026

From the NYS Catholic Conference:

Federal Scholarship Tax Credit Program (Update) - Governor Hochul announced that she intends to opt New York into this program. Taxpayers would receive a 100% tax credit of up to $1,700 for donations to non-profit Scholarship Granting Organizations. Those donations are then used to provide scholarships for eligible students wherever they attend school, helping families pay for tuition, tutoring, special education services, education technology, academic supplies, etc.

Other NYS News:

Empire State Service Corps - With financial support from the Ibis Group, (a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit which funds early literacy programs and civic education), college students will be trained in the "science of reading" this year so that New York can send them out to tutor children. Twenty-five students will be matched with local school districts to provide regular tutoring sessions in grades K-12.

Federal Legislation:

Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults (SILO) Act (Introduced) - This legislation would combat loneliness in senior and disabled populations by providing $62.5 million in annual grant funding to support community-based organizations dedicated to fostering social connection in these at-risk groups. The legislation would provide training for staff to combat and prevent social isolation and loneliness; conduct outreach to at-risk individuals; develop community-based interventions to mitigate social isolation and loneliness; connect at-risk individuals with social and clinical supports; and evaluate the effectiveness of the programs developed and implemented through the grants.

The Modern WIC Act (Update) - This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce. With this legislation, the WIC qualification methods would be restructured by permitting video or telephone certifications, recertifications, and nutritional risk evaluations. The remote access amendment would also permit benefit transfer cards to be received electronically, rather than in-person, and would allow applicants who meet the income eligibility standards to be temporarily eligible for immediate program access on an interim basis, bypassing the mandatory nutritional risk assessment.

21st Century Road to Housing Act (Update) - This bi-partisan legislation became law. This law limits corporate speculation keeping single-family homes in the hands of everyday families; expands affordable supply by modernizing Housing and Urban Development tools and eases zoning barriers to convert unused spaces into homes; supports unhoused neighbors by codifying permanent disaster relief housing; and expands resources for veterans experiencing homelessness..

Older Americans Reauthorization Act (OAA) (Update) - This bipartisan legislation passed the Senate unanimously and now goes to the House. Under this legislation several core programs would be reauthorized through FY 2030, including the national eldercare locator service; regional aging and disability resource centers; grants to support counseling and assistance on pensions and other retirement benefits; grants to support home-delivered nutrition services like Meals on Wheels; programs to facilitate the delivery of supportive services to tribal organizations; and programs to prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The bill also updates existing services to improve oversight, allow more flexibility and strengthen support for family caregivers and direct care workers.

Clear Labels Act - This legislation passed out of committee in the Senate. It would add country-of-origin labeling requirements to the U.S. prescription drug supply chain.

Federal Legislation to Watch:

Affordable Housing and Area Median Income Fairness Act - A multi-pronged approach to confront some of the core challenges that have led to a severe lack of affordable housing in our nation's urban areas.

Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act - This legislation would accelerate more affordable housing by expanding and strengthening the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).

PROKID Act (Introduced) - This legislation would establish essential accountability measures to make sure that children seeking safety are treated with the compassion they deserve.

From CCUSA:

Farm Bill - Congress has not taken action on reauthorizing a Farm Bill. Three main asks by CCUSA are: delaying newly-enacted state cost-sharing requirements for SNAP benefits and administrative expenses by one to two years; eliminating the felony-based exclusion from SNAP participation, by repealing or substantially modifying the lifetime ban; and providing Puerto Rico a structured opportunity to transition from the Nutrition Assistance Program to full SNAP participation over a ten-year period.

Office of Management and Budget Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - This proposed rule could significantly increase the burden of administering federal grants, potentially impacting the ability of Catholic Charities agencies to engage in long-term planning, maintain workforce stability and ensure continuity of services.

From USCCB/JFI:

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians (Introduced) - Senate version of a bill passed by the House in April (H.R.1689) would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend TPS for Haitians to 2029.

New Federal Policy Re: Asylum Applicants - As of July 28, U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is permitted to refer certain asylum applicants directly to immigration courts without first interviewing them.

Update, September 8, 2026

NYS News:

An additional $36 million in state funds will be set aside to support victim services organizations statewide. These new funds will increase New York's financial commitment to these programs to $88.8 million. Of the total new commitment, $11.7 million will go toward rape crisis centers, $4.8 million to child advocacy centers and $11.7 million to domestic violence organizations.

Lost ACA (Affordable Care Act) or state health benefits in New York (NYS Essential Plan) - Losing health benefits qualifies as a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) which opens a Special Enrollment Period allowing you to sign up for a new plan. Go to info.nystateofhealth.net/Marketplace to browse, compare and enroll in a new plan, or call 1-855-355-5777 for customer service.

Federal Legislation to Watch:

New legislation would create a public Office of Drug Manufacturing within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to produce generic inhalers, insulin, naloxone, EpiPens, antibiotics, etc. The act would: increase competition and stabilize the generic drug supply chain; bring down prices for lifesaving medications; and address shortages and affordability.

Senior Accessible Housing Tax Credit Act of 2026 - This would provide a non- refundable tax credit up to an annual limit of $10,000 for taxpayers age 60 and older who make qualifying improvements to help them remain safely and independently in their principal residence or a qualifying second home. Medicare generally does not cover structural home modifications (i.e., wheelchair ramps, widening doorways or remodeling bathrooms for accessibility). Qualifying expenses would also include certain labor costs related to the preparation, assembly or installation of an eligible modification. This legislation would address a gap for older adults to allow them to remain in their homes.

Omnibus Act (Reintroduced) and **Moms Matter Act** (one of 14 bills) - A comprehensive legislative package designed to end the nation's maternal health crisis and eliminate racial disparities in maternal health outcomes, increase investments in maternal mental health programs and expand this vital workforce to better support moms and pregnant women.

From USCCB:

Proposed Rulemaking from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) - Sponsor requirements for unaccompanied children include proof of identity, background check, placement and income verification. USCCB says these requirements could exclude otherwise eligible parents and relatives from sponsoring children, creating excessive barriers to reunification and unnecessarily prolonging children's stays in government custody. USCCB urges ORR to "...look to the totality of the circumstances to determine the best interests of each child."

Update on the Job Corps Program - As of August 10, the administration formally agreed to abandon efforts to shutter the 99 Job Corps centers around the country. This program has helped millions of at-risk youth by providing job training, housing and assistance with GEDs.

The 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees - will be observed by the Catholic Church on Sunday, September 27, 2026, with the theme, "Even Just One of These Children." The Pope emphasizes moving past statistics and percentages to recognize the infinite dignity of every individual child, highlighting the dangers they face—such as trafficking, exploitation, separation from families and trauma along migration routes.

Thank you for your advocacy.

Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure

MARY'S CORNER



Feed Vliet setup

Watervliet (Reported by Mary Clinton and Margaret Capozzola)

Over the summer, Mary's Corner partnered with the Watervliet School District and the Regional Food Bank to bring in the **Feed Vliet** program, helping local families get through the summer months with essential food support.

Thanks to our volunteers and community partners, we achieved incredible results:

- July Impact:
  Mary's Corner served 20 families and 35 children.
- August Impact:
  Mary's Corner served 21 families and 33 children.
- Feed Vliet Total:
  The program served over 50 families throughout July and August with fresh food and vegetables.

We want to give a special thank you to Mary Ellen Sage, who came out to help us in July. It was wonderful to have a new face in the crowd! We truly appreciate everyone who steps up to support our families and make these vital events possible.



Albany

Parents often visit our site with their children and so we have a play area to keep the little ones amused while mom or dad shops. Reading is encouraged with a wide selection of books available to take home.

Barbara Healy clearly enjoys her job!





SATURDAYS WITH THE SISTERS:

Mary Clinton and Lois Keefrider

You will notice some new and exciting events this coming year such as *Trick or Treating* and *Sip and Paint*. (See "Save the Dates" on page 11.)

Beginning in September, Saturday with the Sisters will start at 2 p.m. except for a few special events and the annual BBQ which will be 4 to 6 p.m. We are going back to the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The Sisters and the Ladies certainly enjoyed the last three events:

July 18 – Mocktails

We all enjoy a refreshing sip or two!:



Sr. Margaret Mary, Sr. Joanne and Sheila Morris Barnes



Christine Costa and Sr. Kathleen Natwin

August 15 – ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Perfect for an August afternoon:



Sr. Mary Rose Rizzo and Sr. Madeline



Sr. Doris and Sr. Gloria



Lois Keefrider has the scoop

SEPTEMBER 19 – TEA PARTY

Sweets and a spot of tea? Well, thank you very much!



Judy Reimenschneider and Sr. Faith



Sr. Mary Rose Rizzo, Lois Keefrider, Sr. Mary Frate, Sr. Joanne and Sr. Mary Ellen Thomas



Sr. Madeline, Sheila Morris Barnes, Sr. Margaret Tulley, Sr. Mary Powers and Christine Fennely

COATS FOR THE COMMUNITY:

Kathy Ryan and Shelby Blendell

It's time for Coats for the Community 2026. This event serves our friends needing a coat in Cohoes, Watervliet, Waterford and Green Island.

This year's COATS will take place at the Cohoes Senior Center, 10 Cayuga Place, Cohoes on October 23 and 24. Friday shopping time is 12:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday shopping time is 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Preparation for COATS starts on Sunday, October 18 for setting up the racks. Separating and displaying the COATS continues on Monday, October 20 through Thursday, October 22. You may sign up online with SignUpGenius or contact Shelby Blendell or Kathy Ryan.



Setting up the racks

Full racks and more coats waiting to be displayed

THE GIVING ROOM:

Chris Sheridan

We were delighted by the many contributions of fall/winter clothing you Ladies brought to the fall general membership meeting. On behalf of our guests, thank you so very much!

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY:

Kathy Kavanaugh

Most of our Getting Ahead graduates continue to progress with their established goals. Another one of them is doing very well at Hudson Valley Community College studying coding. We are inspired by her efforts and enjoy sharing in her latest achievements and struggles. Fellow LOC Jeanne Holm and I delivered a number of items to those in need while introducing Jeanne to more of the families we serve. Her assistance is so appreciated by myself and those with whom she met. We are working with a longtime ally at Hudson Valley CC who is going out of his way to help an English-as-a-second-language learner while she takes prerequisite nursing science classes. It has made a particularly positive difference in her journey, knowing that someone who is such a wise and effective resource is always available.

We continue to find homes for a significant amount of furniture and other items given us by very generous people who seem to enjoy learning about those who received their donations. Often they learn of a family's further needs and try very hard to find those items. One woman buys toilet paper and educational toys and books for particular children. Rarely does a day pass that some generous person doesn't donate something to help someone in need. Everything is washed and in really fine condition. Many come from Church of Christ the King. And we even have a vacuum store donating its time to assess the condition of donated vacuums.

We must remember all of the goodness still alive in our communities and thank God for connecting us. Also, please ask Him help us to continue praying for just leadership in our world where everyone can be valued equally.

SAVE THE DATES

Board Meetings at DePaul House:
All meetings start at 5 p.m.

November 10, 2026 February 9, 2027 May 11, 2027
December 8, 2026 March 9, 2027
January 12, 2027 April 13, 2027

General Membership Meetings at DePaul House:
All meetings start at 5 p.m.

December 8, 2026 March 9, 2027 May 2027 TBD

Saturdays with the Sisters at St. Louise House:

November 21	2 p.m.	Christmas Cards to Soldiers
December 5	1:30 p.m.	Christmas Program with Friends in Harmony
January 16	1 p.m.	Ice Cream Sundaes
February 20	2 p.m.	S'mores
March (?)		Friends in Harmony
April 17		Sip and Paint
May 15		Bingo
June 12		BBQ
July 17		Game Day: Board Games
August 21		Mocktails

Coats for the Community

October 19 through 23 – Coat sorting and displaying

October 23 – 1 to 6 p.m. – Guests select coats

October 24 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Guests select coats

Please consult our website, albanyloc.org, for the very latest news and schedule updates.

Albany Association
of the
Ladies of Charity



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT:
albanyloc.org

THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION OF

LADIES OF CHARITY
AIC USA

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