



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY[®] OF CLEVELAND WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

CHAPTER AND VERSE



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope all of you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. The hustle and bustle of the last few months is behind us and it is time to take a deep breath and regroup. We had a beautiful Starlight Ball, thanks to **Cathy Caruso** and **Stephanie West** and a very hard working committee of dedicated members. Our Cash, Coins and Covers for Kids for the Christ Child National Day of Service was a great success and we are grateful to **Carol Janas** and **Sue Simon** for organizing the day, and to **Rose Dziak** and **Lorene Varley** for having all the fleece ready for members to make blankets for "My Stuff" bags. The new year brings with it a fresh start and hope for the coming year. In this month's Chapter and Verse is the slate of officers for 2018-2020. If approved, these women will bring a wealth of talent and dedication to our chapter and we are lucky to have them to guide us for the next 2 years. I speak from experience when I say that it is a bit intimidating to step up to the Executive Board, but the support of all of our dedicated members makes the jobs easier. As you know, there are many chairman positions that will need to be filled come July. I hope you will all think about how you could help our chapter by taking on a leadership position. Past chairmen are more than willing to assist in bringing their replacements on board, and the next 6 months would be a perfect to get some on-the-job training!

May the new year bring many blessings on you and your families and on our chapter!

Janie Nickodem

REFLECTING WITH FATHER RALPH

A fresh start is always a good thing! The beginning of the year always provides that for us whether we want it or not! There just may be a good lesson in that for all of us: to provide a fresh start for those around us even without waiting for them to ask for it. Doing such a thing can take a load off our minds while at the same time provide a welcome and unexpected gift to good friends as well as more casual acquaintances. May this new year be filled with fresh starts and many blessings for you!

Fr. Ralph

2017 DATES TO REMEMBER

- General Business Meeting (7901 Detroit Avenue)February 21
- Provisional Information Coffee.....March 14
- Legacy Luncheon and Provisional Installation Mass.....March 21

"Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." - Mary Virginia Merrick, Founder

2018-2020 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of officers for the 2018-2020 term. The slate will be voted on at the Winter Business Meeting on February 21, 2018.

President: Cathy Caruso	Financial Secretary: Meg Kearns
President-Elect: Mary Herrick	Recording Secretary: Sue Simon
Service Vice President: Liz Niehaus	Corresponding Secretary: JoAnn Lamb
Organization Vice President: Carol Janas	

On behalf of the Christ Child Society and the Nominating Committee, we thank you for your dedication to the mission of the Christ Child Society and to the vision of Mary Virginia Merrick.

Donna Kelly, Arlene McNamara, Susan Smith (Chair), Lorene Varley
Nominating Committee

Budget Information

Having come off that last 6 months where we were looking to raise funds at the Red Wagon, Starlight Ball and through the Angels for Christ Child campaign, it might seem like we are always asking for money. Some might wonder why we need more revenue when it seems we have so much in reserve.

As of November 30, 2017, we had \$431,405 in our Layette Endowment Fund. This money is restricted, and can be used only for Layettes. If we didn't raise any other money in a year, our Layette program could continue as it is for about 6 years.

As of November 30, 2017, we had \$308,738 in our checking account after accounting for what will need to be spent on programs for the year. In addition, there were also bills that need to be paid for the Starlight Ball. That seems like a lot of money, BUT...our budget for the year is \$294,450. If we didn't raise additional funds, we would run out of funding for our programs in less than 1 ½ years. A responsible non-profit will keep at least one year's worth of funding in reserve.

So, although it seems like we have a lot of money, it costs a lot to fund the programs that help over 6,000 children each year, as well as keeping our chapter afloat.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Janie Nickodem** or **Cathy Caruso**.

Budget expenses for 2017-18

Administration:	\$36,800
National CCS Dues:	\$10,800
NCCS Convention:	\$1,200
(this is available to help our delegates with the expenses to attend Convention, if needed)	
Uniforms:.....	\$47,000
Jackets:	\$35,000
Cribs and Pack-n-Plays:	\$40,000
Layettes:.....	\$75,000
St. Rocco Library:.....	\$800
St. Francis Library:.....	\$1,480
Membership:.....	\$1,500
Merrick House:.....	\$350
Head Start Early Literacy:	\$2,000
Provisionals:.....	\$3,500
"My Stuff":.....	\$34,620
Communications:.....	\$3,400
Public Relations:.....	\$1,000
Total:.....	\$294,450

Provisional Informational Coffee

Our Informational Coffee for perspective new members of the Christ Child Society is planned for Wednesday, March 14 at 10 a.m. at our office. Members, please talk up our organization as we are always looking for new faces to help us in our mission to serve needy children. Please email either **Jane Donovan** or **Carol Janas** the names and addresses of friends and family who may be interested in joining us. Invitations will be mailed the first week of February.

Read to Me: Make a Difference Day

On October 28, the second annual Christ Child Service Day was attended by 45 members and 2 friends. Seventy-five blankets were made for the My Stuff bags. A total of \$1,090.45 was donated. This money will be used to purchase books for the Head Start Early Literacy Program at Parkview Elementary School in Parma. Any additional funds will be used to purchase flash cards to be placed in the My Stuff bags. Thank you to all for making this day of service a huge success.



THE STARLIGHT BALL

On December 2nd, we celebrated our 66th Annual Starlight Ball at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. We came together once again in hope of the Christ Child's blessings and in support for our mission to serve children in need.

With about 300 guests, members and friends, we enjoyed a beautiful gala, attended by our Bishop Nelson Perez who spoke affectionately of Mary Virginia Merrick and the beginnings of our Christ Child Society. He complimented us and encouraged us in mission and took time to greet and meet many of our members and friends.

Once again Betsy Kling, WKYC meteorologist, graciously hosted our event. She announced the winners of the much anticipated raffle drawings. The \$5,000 cash winner was Suzanne Ungvary.

We are very appreciative of Marlen Jewelers, who once again this year, donated exquisite pieces of jewelry. The 5.48 carat diamond tennis bracelet was won by Robert and **Susan Ferraro Smith**. The Tag Heuer Carrera Calibre 5 Day-Date watch was won by Abby Gonnella.

On behalf of the 2017 Starlight Ball committee, we thank everyone who supported the Ball this year, making it, again, another tremendous success. As Mary Virginia Merrick stated, "The giver and the gift are brought together, and the link is the Christ Child, 'our fellow in the manger lying.'" @1883. May God bless all the little children touched by our Society, where we strive to live our motto of "love leading to action."

Cathy Caruso and Stephanie West

2017 Starlight Ball Chairs



Susan Ferraro Smith
Winner of the diamond bracelet



Abby Gonnella
Winner of the Tag Heuer watch



THE STARLIGHT BALL





Remembrance/Endowment Report

August 24 - October 23, 2017

Memory

Edith Barry
Evelyn Cloherty (6)
Joseph Delsky
John Holodnak
Mary Kobb
Grace Nystorm
Mary Eileen Reusser
Edward Sedlock
Sharon Wilson

Honor

Ann Dowdell - Happy 90th Birthday
Umberto & Maryellen Fideli - Merry Christmas
Mary Lou Mathews - Happy Birthday

In Our Thoughts

Family of Lois Anderson
Kathy D'Amato - death of mother (Janet Walers)
Pat Givens - death of mother (Evelyn Cloherty)
Mary Herrick - death of mother (Mary Kobb)
Family of former member Mary Eileen Reusser

Please notify the Christ Child office regarding deaths of CCS members or their immediate family members.

Send Remembrance/Endowment checks to:
Christ Child Society of Cleveland
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, Ohio 44102
Attn: Abby Sammon

St. John Cathedral Mass for Christ Child members,
living and deceased, and for their families.
Thursday, January 25, Noon
Monday, February 26, Noon
Monday, March 26, Noon

Donations this report period	\$1,175.00
Previous fiscal year to date	<u>\$1,470.00</u>
Total for fiscal year	\$2,645.00

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

January - March 2018

Layette Packing

First Monday, 10:00-12:30
January 8, February 5:
distribution only
March 5 - packing & distribution
Contact: **Donna Kelly**

Euclid -St. John of the Cross Sewing Group

Fourth Wednesday, 12:30-3:30
January 24, February 28, March 28
Contact: **Andrea Dean**

Grandmothers' Program Merrick House

Note: Volunteers must wear socks.
Contact: **Kathy Yoakum**

Heights-St. Dominic Sewing Group

Third Tuesdays, 10:00-2:00
January 16, February 20, March 20
Contact: **Irene Chalko**

Highland Heights Sewing Group

Third Friday, 10:00-2:00
January 19, February 16, March 16
Contact: **Patty Welsh**

Independence Sewing Group

Second Wed. & Thurs., 10:00-2:00
No sewing in January
February 7, 8; March 7, 8
Contact: **Laura Cengic**

Merrick House Pre-School Reading Enrichment

First, Third and Fifth Tuesdays 9:30-11:00
January 2, 16, 30; February 6, 20;
March 6, 20
Contact: **Kathy Yoakum**

"My Stuff" Packing

Third Monday, 10:00-12:00
No January packing,
February 19, March 19
Contact: **Rose Dziak**

The HeadStart Early Literacy Program

First & Third Tuesdays 9:30-11:00/1:30-3:00
January 2, 16; February 6, 20;
March 6, 20
Contact: **Sue Simon** or **Marlene Suchma**

St. Francis Library

Tues. during the school year 9:30-2:00
Wed. during the school year 9:30-2:30
Contact: **Irene Fitzgerald**

St. Rocco Library

Wed. during the school year 8:45-12:00
NOTE: Day change from Mon. to Wed.
Contact: **Paula Conrad**

Showcase

Shifts available on Tuesday-Saturday:
10:00-2:00 / 10:00-4:00 / 12:00-4:00
Contact: **Joan McAuliffe**

***Contact information can be found in our Chapter roster.**

Provisional Installation Mass & Legacy Luncheon

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

A DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Provisional Installation Mass

Celebrated at 10:00 a.m.
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
East 9th & Superior Avenue

Legacy Luncheon

Immediately following Mass
Crowne Plaza at Playhouse Square
1260 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland

Please join us for these wonderful events as we welcome the newest Christ Child members and honor those who are marking membership anniversaries.

PLEASE NOTE: Free valet parking is available at the Crowne Plaza. However, there will be NO SHUTTLE SERVICE between the Crowne Plaza and the Cathedral. Parking by the Cathedral is not included. Please consider carpools to reduce individual costs.

No separate invitation will be mailed.

LEGACY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, March 7th

Payment must accompany reservation form

Please Reserve: ___ Tickets @ \$40 each
___ Silver Patron @ \$60 (\$20 tax deductible) ___ Gold Patron @ \$85 (\$45 tax deductible)
I cannot attend but would like to make a donation of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Phone: _____

Seating Requests (Tables of 8) Indicate Member (M), Guest (G), Other Chapter (O), Provisional (P)

List your name and the names of those you have confirmed will be sharing your table.
Incomplete tables will be filled with other Christ Child members and their guests.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. _____ | M G O P | 2. _____ | M G O P |
| 3. _____ | M G O P | 4. _____ | M G O P |
| 5. _____ | M G O P | 6. _____ | M G O P |
| 7. _____ | M G O P | 8. _____ | M G O P |

_____ **I have no seating preference** _____ **I prefer the vegetarian option**

Checks made payable to the Christ Child Society
MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Cardholder Name: _____

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail reservation form with payment to:
Christ Child Society, 7901 Detroit Ave., Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio 44102
Attn: Legacy Luncheon



Christ Child Society of Cleveland
7901 Detroit Avenue
Suite 300
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 3046

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL: Please deliver by January 17th

Provisional Christmas Party

On Wednesday, December 6, the Provisional Class of 2017 served 56 children at St. Rocco's Contardi Childhood Center. Children aged 3-6 years enjoyed games, crafts, music and song, a visit with Santa, and a lot of love. Each child received a hand-made backpack filled with goodies that were age and gender appropriate. The spirit of the Christ Child Society was everywhere in the building and we're not sure who enjoyed the party more – the children, the teachers and staff, or the member of this Provisional Class.



Articles for the newsletter

Please contact **Kate Johns** if you have any special needs or volunteer requests for the newsletter.
Articles for the January/February issue will be due by Monday, February 12th.

Janie Nickodem
President

Stephanie West
Service VP

Liz Niehaus
Organization VP

Terri Parker
Recording Secretary

Lynne Gerace
Corresponding Secretary

Cathy Caruso
Financial Secretary

Abby Sammon
Endowment/Remembrance

Kate Johns
Newsletter Editor

Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski
Spiritual Advisor

**Please direct questions,
information & articles to:**
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