

History of the Ladies of Charity

The Association of Ladies of Charity originating at the parish of Chatillon-les-Dombes in the diocese of Lyons, France was founded by the pastor, Father Vincent de Paul when he realized the importance of regulating the good works of charity when responding to the needs of the poor. The Association, canonically was approved on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1617. St. Louise de Marillac, St. Vincent's first woman director was canonized for her labors.

International Association of Charities (AIC) website: <http://www.aic-international.org/>

Ladies of Charity of the United States of America website: <http://aic.ladiesofcharity.us/>

History of the Junior Ladies of Charity

The association officially came into existence in November 1909 in France through the encouragement of His Eminence Cardinal Amette, archbishop of Paris and by the Superiors of the Lazarists in the Parish of St. Nicholas of Chardonnet in which St. Louise had lived for eleven years.

History of the Ladies of Charity of Arkansas

The Ladies of Charity of Arkansas is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization listed in the Official Catholic Directory (OCD) under the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock. It is the first local chapter of the Ladies of Charity in the state of Arkansas and began in January 2008 with the approval of then Diocesan Administrator J. Gaston Hebert followed by the signing of the Charter by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor in the Spring of 2008, 7th Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock. The Ladies of Charity of Arkansas is affiliated with the national Ladies of Charity of the United States of America and a member of the International Association of Charities (AIC). LCARK Website: <http://www.lcark.org> and e-mail: lcark@dolr.org. NATIONAL MOTTO: To serve rather than be served with humility, simplicity, and charity. PURPOSE: To improve the lives of the poor and disadvantaged in the state of Arkansas through education, empowerment, and evangelization.

PURPOSE of the 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.

Member Information for the Junior Ladies of Charity of Arkansas

Mission

Junior Ladies of Charity are composed of youth and young adults with a desire to reach out and serve those less fortunate. They do this by observing the charism of St. Vincent de Paul, of seeing Christ in persons who are poor, and finding ways to be of service in body, mind, and spirit.

The Junior Ladies of Charity are called to serve as catalysts for service, leadership and change in their school, parish, community, work places, their families and in a society in need of their presence and influence. "Service, commitment and leadership" become a "way of life" for these junior ladies members. They will also come to understand the need to change the systems that allow and encourage the continuation of poverty and despair in our society.

Membership and Responsibilities

1. Grammar, high school, and college students interested in committing themselves to serve others are eligible for membership.
2. New members of the Junior Ladies of Charity are installed in a solemn reception Mass.
3. Junior Ladies of Charity do not pay dues.
4. Junior Ladies of Charity are encouraged to educate themselves regarding present day needs and issues, preparing themselves to be leaders, in the service of the poor, who will effect needed changes in society.
5. The group, under the guidance of the Moderator, will decide on the need they feel they can best serve and the manner in which they will do so.

More information

1. Each group of Junior Ladies of Charity will have a Moderator. The Moderator inspires, and motivates the group in organizing and by providing spiritual development, educational experiences, leadership training and service opportunities.

The Moderator will prepare an annual report of the activities of the Junior Ladies of Charity and submit it to the Regional Vice President of the national Ladies of Charity USA and also will present a report of current and future projects at each general membership meeting of the Ladies of Charity of Arkansas.

2. The Junior Ladies of Charity are welcomed to publish their own newsletter for distribution by the Ladies of Charity of Arkansas on their website and other electronic or printed methods.
3. The Junior Ladies of Charity can assist the Ladies of Charity in carrying out their service commitments.

JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY OF ARKANSAS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date _____, 20____

I would like to become a **JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY** and agree to try to be present at the Investiture Ceremony in September to receive my crucifix.

I promise to do all that I can in the volunteer services for charity in collaboration with the Ladies of Charity of Arkansas.

NAME _____
please print full name

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

PARISH _____

SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____

.....
Emergency Contact Information:

NAME _____

RELATIONSHIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

Charity is the action of your heart.