



THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

December 2015

308 South Scott Street, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, In 46624 (574) 288-6028 (fax) 288-4282 (e-mail) info@christchildsb.org

Mission Statement

The South Bend Chapter of The Christ Child Society is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the personal service and clothing of all needy children and infants in the love and spirit of the Christ Child.

Executive Board

President:

Peg Riggs

President Elect:

Debbie Spillman

Vice President (Fundraising):

Holly Hosinski

Vice President (Membership):

Anne Choinacky

Vice President (Clothing):

Linda Wray

Recording Secretary:

Joanne Van Avermaete

Corresponding Secretary:

Jane Reed

Treasurer:

Fr. Kohlerman to Lead Day of Reflection

Father Charlie Kohlerman CSC will again lead Christ Child members in their annual day of prayer and reflection. He will speak on the "Holy Year of Mercy," the message of Pope Francis and its implications for our lives and mission, and reflecting on the compassion of Christ - the heart of our mission to serve children in need.

Members responded very positively to Father last year - his spirituality, his sense of humor and his insights and knowledge of our Christ Child mission. Moreau Seminary will again be the site of the February 24 activities. The day's schedule is the same as last year, 8:30 to 2:30. Details can be found on the registration form on page 6.

Fr. Kohlerman spent 12 years at Fatima Retreat Center at Notre Dame preaching retreats and parish missions. He currently serves as the Religious Superior of Our Lady of Fatima House and is also on the Formation Staff of Moreau Seminary.

Nominations Sought for 2016-2017 Board

Now is an exciting time for our Society. We continue to explore the ideas of new fundraisers, the process of moving to a larger and more organized center, and involving our membership to ensure all members are welcome and included in chapter activities. Think about where YOUR time and talent can best be used.

The Board of Directors is beginning the process of accepting nominations for 2016-2017 appointments. Each year approximately five members of the board retire and five new members begin three-year terms. We are looking for women who are willing to take leadership roles and bring their skills to the organization. Since ours is a working Board, they will be expected to take on a leadership roles on a project or in the Clothing Center. The organizational chart in the front of the directory indicates the available roles; please take a look.

Serving on the Board is a great opportunity to help continue the success of our chapter, to get to know other dedicated women, to learn more about Christ Child and to take care of the chapter's business.

Please consider serving on the Board yourself or give us a suggestion of someone you would recommend. The nominating committee will contact the nominees and explain the responsibilities involved. Please send your suggestions to Peg Riggs (340-2881) pegriggs7@gmail.com or Debbie Spillman (292-2002) debispl@aol.com.

CALENDAR

Dec 2. 9. 16Center Open
for Clients 8:30 AM

Dec 9. Volunteer Potluck Luncheon
11:30 Center

Dec 23In Memoriam Mass
St. Patrick's 12:15 PM

Jan 19.....Board Meeting
10:15 Dickinson Room, main SJCP

Jan 27In Memoriam Mass
St. Patrick's 12:15 PM

NO JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Deadline for February newsletter
January 19

Ann Korb (277-6443) ack339@aol.com

CLOTHING CENTER CLOSED January February

Data Updates

- Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/ChristChildSB
- Follow us on Twitter: @ChristChildSB
- Check us out online: www.christchildsb.org

From the President . . . Peg Riggs

**"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind.
To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy,
is to have the real spirit of Christmas." Calvin Coolidge**

When winter comes to St. Joseph County, I want to stay inside, watch movies, make soup and spend time with my family. I have no interest in being outside in the frigid weather. That cold is what drives me to serve the Christ Child Society. The children in our area must have something warm to wear. The temperatures dip well below freezing and every child should be protected from the elements. Every child deserves a winter coat. Keep this in mind when you are tucked inside your warm house with plenty of food and layers of clothes to keep you comfortable. The children in our area should have basic clothing to keep them warm.

Through November, the Clothing Center has been open 19 times, with only three more Wednesdays in December. To date 3105 children have received new clothing. The Clothing Center will be CLOSED in January and February 2016. Take the time to rest up for March, when we come together to make the Layettes of Hope for Women's Care Center.

There are six Christmas themed teddy bears in the office that we want to raffle off at the December volunteer potluck. We will sell tickets December 2 and 9. Tickets are \$1.00; bring cash! We want to be sure there is an opportunity for "non-Center" people to get in on the raffle.

It has been a great year in the Center. New and old faces filled the hallways and rooms week after week. It is such a special time to spend with fellow members who have the same pull to serve the Christ Child. Providing clothes for these families is rewarding, but bonding with other workers within the Center is PRICELESS. I thank God for all of my Christ Child friends. Thank you all for your time, talent and treasure to help the under privileged children in St. Joseph County. You are amazing!

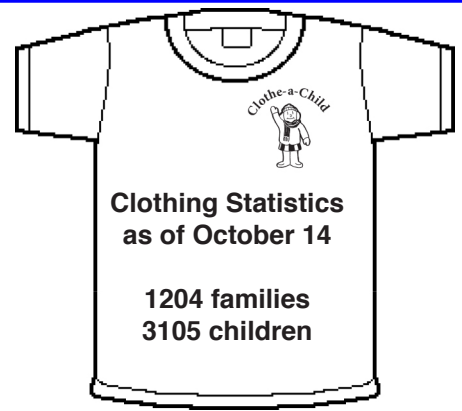
Please continue to keep the families who come to the Clothing Center in your prayers. May they find peace in 2016.

Christ Child Volunteers at 'BOOK or BOO'

At the request of Barbara Coyle of BetterWorldBooks in Mishawaka nine members and grandchildren assisted with BWB's first Halloween Celebration for the community. Anne Choinacky, Kay Houser, Mary Kubiak, Mary Beth McGrath, Mandy Skworcan and granddaughter Clementine, Joanne Van Avermaete, Linda Wray and grandson Daniel donated three hours to help with the event. They put together the gift bags, handed them to visitors, assisted with the free books for each attendee and answered questions. This was our opportunity to give back to BetterWorldBooks who continue to support Christ Child's "A Book for A Child," part of our Literacy Program.



Christ Child member Nimbi Cushing was honored as a "Hometown Hero" on October 28 at a breakfast at the Gillespie Center. Fifteen individuals who performed extraordinary work were chosen with nominations from the public. Pictured here with Nimbi are Pat Corcoran, Judy Kuzmich, Nimbi and Barb Fedder. Nimbi not only volunteers at the Christ Child Center but also with her church and many other local organizations.



Clothe-A-Child 2015-2016

Clothe-A-Child campaign letters were mailed to members and friends of Christ Child Society on November 4 and donations are coming into the office helping us continue the mission of sending layettes to our local hospitals and opening our doors to the 4,000 children who look to The Christ Child Society for their warm winter clothing.

The campaign continues to run into 2016 with our goal of \$75,000. Please know how important your donation is to The Christ Child Society. If you have misplaced your letter, you can mail your donation to The Christ Child Society, Clothe-a-Child I, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624 with a note with your name, address and phone number. You may also donate by credit card by visiting our website at: www.christchildsb.org.

Thank you so much for helping The Christ Child Society continue the mission of Mary Virginia Merrick, our Founder.

"Nothing is ever too much to do for a child"

Good-Bye, Tori

December 31 we say "good bye" to our first administrative assistant Tori Williams. She bravely took the journey of being the first paid position for Christ Child Society of South Bend.

We, as an organization, have learned the benefit of having that ONE person who is willing to work in the Donor database, get the mail, answer phones, work with ALL of the chairs of the fundraisers and luncheons and keep our administrative affairs in order.

Thank You and Good Luck, Tori!

On the Long Road to Canonization . . .

As many of us are aware, Mary Virginia Merrick is being considered for canonization.

The impact of the foundress of Christ Child Society named a saint of the Catholic Church would do much to advance the mission that we all hold so dearly: service to God's children in need. New chapters may be formed as Catholic laity become even more acquainted with the good works of The Christ Child Society. For chapters across the country which have often been described as the best kept secret in their diocese, the spreading of the story of Mary Virginia Merrick and the fact that her vision continues today through 43 chapters nationwide, may become the best told story in their diocese as the path to canonization continues to spread the good word about the Christ Child Society.

"Servant of God"

In 2003, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington D.C. where Miss Mary lived and worked initiated an inquiry into her life's work and contacted The Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The Congregation issued a *nihil obstat* stating that it had no objection to the cause moving forward, thus declaring her a "servant of God" in the Catholic Church.

Diocesan Investigation

On Easter Monday in 2011, Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington D.C. officially opened the diocesan investigation into the Cause for her Beatification and Canonization. Having passed the first phase of deep investigation into her life and written works, the cause is presently ready to be taken to Rome for the next phase of the path to sainthood. More information about the process is available in the following places: The Cause for Canonization Website www.MaryVirginiaMerrick.org, Facebook at www.facebook.com/maryvirginiamerrick and Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Virginia_Merrick).

South Bend's Role

As one of the oldest and most dynamic chapters of The Christ Child Society, South Bend has taken an active role the canonization process during the past year. Fr. Ted Hesburgh's letter of endorsement of Mary Virginia Merrick's canonization and his video in the final weeks of his life attesting to her selection in 1915 as the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Award recipient, both point to our local affirmation of her path to sainthood. Before his death this year, Reverend Theodore Hesburgh who once worked as a young seminarian in one of the

settlement houses established by Mary Merrick endorsed the cause for her canonization.



Fr. Hesburgh Endorsement

'Despite the personal challenges she faced in terms of her own health and welfare, she lived her life in an exemplary manner that all American Catholics can strive to model. I wish the Christ Child Society well as they work diligently to move forward on the road to canonization for their foundress. It is my pleasure and great honor to endorse the cause of Mary Virginia Merrick's canonization.'

Monetary Gift

Recently NCCS President Anne Kelley asked chapters to consider a monetary gift to help with some of the expenses related to preparing the cause for canonization for the Roman phase. Expenses for this phase include stipends paid to liturgical scholars for the reading of every written word available from the works of Mary Virginia Merrick.

At South Bend's October Board meeting Anne's request was met with a unanimous vote to donate \$5000 to further the cause. The Board is inspired by the progress made thus far and trust that our gift will help further the cause for canonization. It is our hope that our membership will consider prayerful support and a personal gift of any size to advance the cause for canonization of our amazing foundress: Mary Virginia Merrick; Servant of God.

**Annual Statement
The Christ Child Society
July 1, 2014- June 30, 2015**

Balance on Hand 7/1/14\$621,878.76

RECEIPTS

Membership & Dues	\$34,454.00
Fundraising	238,852.96
Other Income	121,015.22
Endowment	15,437.50
Funds Trans from IN. Trust	31,000.00
Funds Trans from Closed Acct	170,000.00
	\$610,759.68

IN TRUST OPERATING FUND

Market Change	6,490.21
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TOTAL RECEIPTS 617,249.89
\$1,239,128.65

DISBURSEMENTS

Contributory	\$202,138.13
Fundraising	32,182.91
General Administrative	223,129.39
Occupancy	40,196.82
Endowment	16,437.50
Transfer from IN Trust Opt	15,000.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....\$529,084.75

Balance on Hand June 30, 2013 \$710,043.90

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

1st Source Bank	\$343,249.77
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IN Trust Operating Fund	366,794.13
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TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS\$710,043.90

IN TRUST ENDOWMENT FUNDS.....\$719,797.75

TOTAL ASSETS..... \$1,429,841.65

New Member Information

Barrett, Mary Ann 52689 Willow Bend, Granger, IN 46530
 Delahanty, Lynette 3426 Sutton Dr, Mishawaka, IN 46545
 Finn, Alice 3307 Field Gate Dr, South Bend, IN 4662
 Harding, Janice 52168 Plantation Dr, Granger, IN 46530
 Hickey, Karen 1410 Wayne St, South Bend, IN 46615
 Hudson, Stacie 3934 Grandview Pl, Thomson, IL 61285
 Jones, Sharon 22451 Madison Rd, South Bend, IN 46614
 Miller, Kathleen 16988 Woodshire Ct, Granger, IN 46530
 Mullett, Sharon 33083 Lake Forest Ct, Niles, MI 49120
 Nagle, Mary Carol 324 W 7th, Mishawaka, IN 46544
 Philips, Jane 6429 Redenbacher Ct, South Bend, IN 4661
 Witt, Stephanie 17399 Farmington Ct, Granger, IN 46530
 Youts, Antoinette 54823 Cheyenne Meadows Dr, Osceola 46561

The Layette Department

is currently in need of
NEW

6-9 month BOYS and GIRLS outfits,
outfits meant for play time, not special occasions,
just every day outfits

AND

6-9 month BOYS and GIRLS pram suits.

If you are shopping over the next few weeks,
please consider picking up an outfit (or two or more)
to support our mission. Your donation will hold us over
until the shipment arrives in late December.

Thank You for Supporting Christ Child



Clothe A Child II Chair, Katy Perry, accepts \$11,754.00 check from Barb Levan, Community Affairs Supervisor of Martin's Supermarkets.



Mutual Bank raised \$4715.05 for Clothe A Child II this year. Picture above are Katy Perry, Katie Andrews (teller), Peg Riggs and Julie Romero (service manager). Katie was the top seller for Mutual this year.



To thank Christ Child for the thousands of shoes purchased from them, Payless Shoes held a "Coats for Kids" community service project this fall with all the clothing items collected by the eight participating stores given to Christ Child. Above Katie Frazine, manager of University Park Mall, and Susan Walsh, chairperson of Christ Child's shoe department, load boxes and bags of clothing to take back to the Center for distribution.

Gifts and Memorials

The beautiful Gold Christ Child Remembrance Card is a convenient way to send donations in any amount to the Christ Child Society, as an In Memoriam or in recognition of a special occasion or accomplishment. A donation can be made in memory of deceased friend or relatives who will also be remembered in a perpetual monthly Mass. The card also makes it possible to celebrate happy occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries in the same way. When requesting a Remembrance Card, members are asked to print legibly since the names will be printed in each newsletter with the donor's name in parentheses. Extra cards are available in the office or from Joan Hardig (277-7787)

In Memoriam

Dr. Kathryn Artnak (Judy/Hugh Kuzmich, Pat/Joe Corcoran)
Sue Bowers (Donna/Don Kyle)
Elizabeth Busa (Don/Carol Nash)
Eleanor Choinacky (Layette Dept, Judy/Hugh Kuzmich, Kristy Botich, Peg Riggs, James/Anne Choinacky, Mark/Janice Choinacky, Finley Family, Steinhofers Family, Rothballer Family, Richard/Donna Dziubinski, George/Patti Grenert, Phyllis Lentych, Angela Stajkowski)
Alex Cholis (Ed/Joan Hardig)
Jim Chrzan (Donna/Don Kyle, Thomas/Barbara Lavelle)
Jean Felaiski (Don/Carol Nash)
Carla Fletcher (Peg Riggs, Kristy Botich, Judy/Hugh Kuzmich, Ed/Joan Hardig, Frank/Andrea Incropera, Layette Dept, Ann Riley)
Lillian Gonsoroski (Tom/Mary Wisniewski, Ed/Joan Hardig)
Jean Gryp (Bill/Marian Bickel, Rosie Shafer, Ed/Joan Hardig)
Katherine Koternoha (Toni Pikuza)
Mary Beth Mackin (Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp)
Betty Maloney (Don/Carol Nash)

Pauline Menyhart (Fred/Katherine Kagel)
Rosemary Mooreman (Bill/Jan Killilea)
Suzanne Pearman (Esther Cyr)
Margaret Prentkowski (Ed/Joan Hardig)
Dr. Michael Rodriguez (Tom/Judy Burmeister)
Charles Webber (Knights of Columbus)

Special Occasion

Bill/Marian Bickel - 60th Wedding Anniversary (Bickel)
Joan Biltz - Special Intention
Jan Christianson - Happy Birthday (Jean Richards)
Fr. Paul Doyle - Thank you (Mary Lou/Pete Mullen)
Bob Kowalski - (Bill/Jan Killilea)
Diane Miller - Get Well (Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp, Catherine Thurin)
Pete/Mary Lou Mullen - 50th Anniversary (Tami McNally, Janette Burkhart-Miller, Tom/Maureen Cahir, Marjorie/John Bycraft, Jim/Pat Short, Maureen Conboy)
Martha Rupchock - Get Well (Tee Miller)
Margie Yarger's Mom (Jim/Pat Short)



- 1 Barbara Zimlich
- 3 Judith Kuzmich
- 4 Nimbilasha Cushing
- 5 Melanie Chapleau
- 6 Janice Morrical
- 7 Tricia Shafer Bradley
- 9 Susan Walsh
- 11 Amanda Skwarcen
- 13 Kathleen Marien
- 14 Kathryn Screes
- 15 Maria Muhlherr
- 18 Holly Hosinski
- 18 Peg Riggs
- 19 Phyllis Kubale
- 21 Ruth Huyvaert
- 22 Patricia Huston
- 23 Teddi Murray
- 23 Megan Seidl
- 24 Arlene Spitz
- 25 Mary Jaicomo
- 26 Charlene Hutti
- 28 Martha Hosinski
- 28 Rolande Parent
- 28 Betty Strantz
- 29 Marie Burt
- 29 Linda Wray
- 30 Kelly Harrison
- 30 Michelle Remley
- 31 Beverly Bruneel

Book Club

All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr
January 20
Pat Healy (272-5640)

SAVE THE DATES

Spring Mass/Luncheon
Thursday, March 17
Mass - Alumi Hall
Luncheon - Morris Inn

Derby Day Luncheon
Friday, May 6
showcasing clothing from
On the Fringe Botique

Christ Child Society Guardian Angels

A special membership category was established in 1998. A one time \$1000 enrollment fee for deceased members or spouses, benefiting the Christ Child Society Endowment Fund, will insure the Society's ability to continue the future good works.



The Guardian Angels are honored with their names appearing on a plaque in the Christ Child Society office. The family of the deceased will receive an enrollment certificate. Each angel will be remembered monthly and each year at our annual Mass. A special page in our directory will list our angels annually.

Current members and spouses may pre-enroll in the program. These "angels in waiting" will be kept on a special list and officially enrolled upon their deaths.

Please refer any questions to Sheila Emge (277-6421).

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1286
South Bend, Indiana 46624



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SOUTH BEND, IN
Permit No. 239

Return Service Requested

*The Christ Child Society wishes
its members, its benefactors and its clients
the happiest and holiest Christmas season.*

Take a Day Off Just for You

Christ Child Day of Prayer and Reflection at Moreau Seminary

Wednesday, February 24, 2016, Moreau Seminary, 8:30 AM- 2:30 PM

Reflections by Rev. Charlie Kohlerman, CSC

Doughnuts, fruit, coffee, tea 8:30-9:15

Morning Reflection 9:30

Mass 11:00

Lunch 12:00

Reflection and Benediction 1:00-2:30

Please send reservations with your check for **\$16.00** payable to *The Christ Child Society*
at PO Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624

Price includes all food, drink and the retreat. **Please include any special dietary needs.**

Names(s) _____ phone _____

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, February 17

Please park in the 'East Lot' off Moreau Drive (old Douglas Rd) and enter through the lower level. Someone will be at the door to greet you and direct you. An elevator is available to take you to the main level.

Questions: contact Jean Fuehrmeyer 574-855-3028 or jfuehrmeyer@gmail.com or

Joanne VanAvermaete 574-291-3089 or jvanavermaete@gmail.com