



**NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

# The Correspondent

Winter 2024

## President's Welcome



Dear Members,

I wish all of you a blessed Lent. This Ash Wednesday the Christ Child Society had the wonderful blessing to gather for a Morning of Reflection and Mass at the Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center. Father Bruno led both events and gave an inspiring reflection on "Finding Grace in the Midst of Loss".

Father Bruno noted that through God, suffering can transform us, and he held up Mary Virginia Merrick as an example. She endured so much pain and suffering due to her paralysis as a teenager, yet she went on to devote her life to improving the lives of poor children. Mary Virginia Merrick founded the Christ Child Society at the age of 21 years old and was actively involved until her death at the age of 89. What an incredible inspiration she is to all of us as we follow in her footsteps and serve the least fortunate children in our community!

I would like to express immense gratitude to Laura Aguirre, Angel Throop, and Eileen Benson, the Chairs of the Auction Committee, for their dedicated efforts in organizing our upcoming Sippin' N Shoppin' Auction, Luncheon, Boutique & Fashion Show on Saturday, March 16th. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year, and we appreciate every Christ Child member for donating auction items and attending the event. It will be an exciting and memorable day together as well as a perfect opportunity for you to introduce friends to the Christ Child Society.

As a kickoff for the Auction, Clarita Gustafson generously opened her home for the Gift Gathering Party on Saturday, February 17th. Members and their husbands enjoyed a lovely evening of wine, appetizers, and socializing. Thank you so much to Clarita for opening her home.

Clarita also graciously hosted a Coffee Chat on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. Clarita's hospitality created a warm and inviting environment. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members. Our greatest asset is our membership, and the more we get to know each other, the more we benefit.

Another way to get to know your fellow Christ Child members is to get involved on the Board. There are more than 40 Board positions, with varying degrees of commitment. Truly there is something for everyone. I personally find that the more that I put into furthering the mission of the Christ Child Society, the more I get out of it. I am so grateful to work alongside so many talented, generous, and friendly women.

It is truly a blessing to be a member of the Christ Child Society.

Cheryl Newell  
President

# Help Achieve Our Mission

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### CALLING ALL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PASADENA MEMBERS

If you have been contemplating ways to increase your involvement, have a passion for giving back, or are eager to support children in need, NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT!

The following positions are still open for 2024-2025:

Position	Description	Time Commitment	In person/Remote
<b>Treasures Chair</b>	Oversee Manners and Etiquette Class	Varies, approx. 1-2 hrs. per semester	In person
<b>Helping Angels</b>	Organize help as needed	Small jobs as needed	both
<b>Auction Assistant Chair/ Committee</b>	Organize fundraising event (Feb/March)	Varies, 5-10 hours plus event	both
<b>Mailing Assistant Chair</b>	Assist with mailing	2-3 hours a year	remote
<b>Hospitality Chair</b>	Provide refreshments for board meetings and other events	1 hour, 3-4 events	In person
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Create quarterly "The Correspondent" Newsletter	3-5 hrs. quarterly	remote
<b>Spring Bunco Chair</b>	Organize event	1-2 hours a year	both
<b>PR &amp; Social Media</b>	As needed promotions	As needed	remote
<b>Historian</b>	Track important organization documents	As needed	both

## National Christ Child Society News



**JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT THIS YEAR'S CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY CONVENTION**

**September 19 - 21, 2024**

**Two of our very own chapter members, Heidi Johnson and Mary Lea Carroll are invited speakers – a moment of pride and excitement for our chapter and community!**

**See page 15 for more details**

## From our Spiritual Advisor....



Dear Members of the Christ Child Society of Pasadena,

Greetings in Christ! I hope you all had a joyful Christmas and New Year and are healthy and staying strong.

We are well within the holy season of Lent now as I write this, and I hope you are having a spiritually renewed time. Lent is always a time to especially focus upon our spiritual lives. Increasingly in our secular society it seems like God is simply out of the picture. This can have a detrimental effect on all of us even though we consider ourselves practicing Catholics and are involved in works of charity like the Christ Child Society.

I urge you this Lent to make some resolutions regarding your spiritual growth.

As you know, the traditional practices of Lent are fasting, prayer and almsgiving. In each of these, it would be worthwhile to do a little extra. This means, for example, in the area of fasting to offer some personal sacrifice of giving up whatever it is that we particularly enjoy in the area of the appetites. This might mean giving up sweets, or liquor or something of the sort. But I also suggest being imaginative about it: one of the new "must have" things in our society is social media. Perhaps during Lent, we might fast from social media or even from the internet altogether or from frivolous entertainment. This would certainly help us focus more on Christ.

In the area of almsgiving, we might take a look at our generosity toward others. You are already generous with your time, talent and treasure in the Christ Child Society but, during Lent, you may want to use the savings from whatever fasting you are doing to give a little more to the poor.

In the area of prayer, I suggest especially daily Mass during Lent as well as praying the Stations of the Cross. The Rosary is always a wonderful prayer for every day of the year, but you might add the Divine Mercy Chaplet to your daily devotions during Lent.

Very soon Easter will be here once again. Take time now to plan to attend the beautiful liturgies of Holy Week. They are very rich in symbolism and meaning and can really help us to get closer to our Blessed Lord. I wish you all a Holy Lent and a joyful Easter!

May the love of the Holy Child Jesus always compel us to serve!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Marcos J. Gonzalez  
Pastor

## Annual Christmas Stocking & Fall Grant Funding Update



### Mission Accomplished!

“Thank you for opening your hearts and sharing the joy of Christmas with 177 children and their families.”

As we reflect on last year, Christmas remains a bright memory for us and for all of the families we were able to positively impact during the holiday season. The Fall Grant allocation allowed us to award each of our 13 Parish schools and 2 Religious Education programs substantial Grant checks. The Parish Ambassadors brought **over \$45,000** to the students in their Parishes. Your incredible donations last year provided registration fees, lunch, First Communion and Graduation fees to name a few.

A special **THANK YOU to each of the Parish Ambassadors** for their commitment to carry out our mission in their Parish. They make time to connect with the Principals and Directors, assist with any questions regarding the Grant forms and encourage them through the Grant process, all for the benefit of the children.

Each year we ask the Principals in each of the parish schools we serve to give us a list of 3-4 families who have the most financial need. These are the families who receive a Target gift card for each child. This year, thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to give cards valued at **\$75.00 to 177 children in 56 families**. The gift cards can be used for games or toys, but are often used for necessities like socks, bedding, or clothing. And maybe that is one of the greatest blessings of our gift, that each family is trusted to use the cards according to their needs.

Co-chairs  
Cecilia Miles  
Margaret Quigley



### PARISH AMBASSADORS

Mimi Stolpe	Rosanna Cacho-Sousa
Mary Sabourin	Jennifer Gowen
Sheila Laco	Stephanie Ginn
Joan McLaughlin	Colleen Welsh
Joanne Goodwin	Olivia Evans
Aline Cacho-Sousa	Lisa Evans
Katie Kelly	Julianne Coppersmith
Fran Buckingham	Tina Fogliani
Virginia Jones	Julieta Bennett
Jean Walston	Elsa Behney

## United in Service Update

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all members who played a crucial role in the success of the United in Service project with the theme "**Find a need and fill it.**" Your contributions made a significant impact, and we are genuinely grateful. Together, we raised an impressive **\$3,765**, which will now be directed to our most deserving schools in the community. These funds aim to empower them to acquire books or reading materials according to their specific needs. Your support has truly made a difference in the lives of those in need, and for that, **we are sincerely appreciative.**

**Please consider joining this invaluable team** and giving yourself an opportunity to connect with a Parish school on a level that allows you to gain insight about this special part of our CCS mission.

**Thank you all for your generosity** which allows us to truly live out and accomplish our Christ Child mission to provide and sustain a Catholic education for so many children in our community. A successful Grant maximizes benefits to the school's children.

**Mission Accomplished!**

## Gift Gathering Party Update

The gift gathering party took place at Clarita Gustafson's charming home on Saturday, February 17! Attendees enjoyed a fantastic time, savoring each other's company, delightful beverages and scrumptious hors d'oeuvres. A big thank you to all the wonderful ladies and their husbands who graced the occasion. They generously donated lovely items for the upcoming auction. However, **we still need many more donations** to ensure the auction's success for Christ Child.



Please join us for our eagerly awaited **largest fundraiser of the year, the Sippin and Shoppin Auction, Luncheon, Boutique & Fashion Show**, taking place on March 16<sup>th</sup>! We are thrilled to gather once again at the Imperial Palace and extend a warm welcome to friends and family

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



#### Calling all Models for Sippin n' Shoppin Fashion Show

Become part of a prestigious group of Christ Child Society models for this year's Sippin n' Shoppin Fashion Show.

Our fashion show models, historically the most amazing members, will have a delightful experience wearing beautiful outfits from Serafina. Invite your most fun friends or daughter to join the "models club". There will be champagne and camaraderie you will cherish forever.

**Seize this wonderful opportunity now!**

Marina at Serafina would like the models to come to the store the week of March 4th-8th. Marina will help you select a dressy outfit and a casual outfit to model in the fashion show. Serafina is located at 2670 Mission St in San Marino. **If you are interested in participating, please contact Eileen Benson via text: 626-278-0187 or email: [bensoneileen@gmail.com](mailto:bensoneileen@gmail.com)**

Thank you so much! Without all of you, there would be no fashion show. We sincerely appreciate you!



- Gift Cards,
- Experiences (concerts, sports, etc.),
- Vacation condos or homes,
- Basket Items New (Wine, Alcohol, Baby Items, Easter Items, religious, decorative, handbags, jewelry, etc.)
- Dinners, Lunches, Parties (bridge, bunco, poker, tequila tasting, wine tasting, etc.)

Please contact Angel Throop, Laura Aguirre, Eileen Benson to arrange drop off or pick up.

## Spotlight on Service

Join us in celebrating Roseann Anderson's outstanding commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

*Congratulations to  
Christ Child Society Member  
Roseann Anderson  
The 2024 Social Service Auxiliary  
Spiritus Benefit Honoree*

*Celebrating a Lifetime of Service  
The California Club  
Friday the 19th of April  
at Eleven O'Clock am*

*To receive an invitation or make a donation in  
Roseann's honor, please contact Kathryn Kenney  
Email: [kathrynbkenney@yahoo.com](mailto:kathrynbkenney@yahoo.com)  
Cell Phone: 626-683-3150*

## Layettes

*"Layettes is the heart of Christ Child nationwide and the Pasadena chapter is one of the most active of their groups"*

We have had a very successful and productive year so far. We have had **7 layette assembly workshops** and have assembled **close to four hundred layette bags** YTD. This is such a wonderful ministry that serves our less advantaged young moms.

Many don't know though the outside hands that help with our program. We have knitters and quilt makers from all over adding to make our program a success. Each layette tote receives a handmade blanket, quilt, booties, and/or hat. These are not just any handmade item. They are keepsakes for these little babies. We want to send a shout out to **Jewel City Knitters. Sue Dietal (pictured right) faithfully attends** our workshops and brings all the beautiful handmade items from their group.



This last year alone we received **206 blankets, 66 baby hats and 16 sets of booties** from their group (pictured left). We would also like to thank **Stitch in Time San Marino, Sierra Madre Knitters and our very many individual knitters from Pasadena all the way to Canada!** Layettes is the heart of Christ Child nationwide and the Pasadena chapter is one of the most active of their groups. Thank you everyone for making this ministry such a success.

## Provisionals: Thanksgiving project



Every November the Provisional class, along with their sponsors and other Christ Child Society members, shop for and deliver Thanksgiving groceries to the families at the Good Shepherd Shelter of Los Angeles. The Good Shepherd Shelter is a transitional shelter for moms and their children who are victims of domestic violence.

The families reside at the shelter while participating in a wholistic program so they can heal and move on to violence free.



On Saturday, November 18th, Christ Child members gathered to load up and deliver the groceries to the shelter where Deana Payne the Program Director gave them a special tour of the campus and school.

This is always a meaningful way to start off Thanksgiving and is especially important to the shelter families who are building new traditions together and benefit from knowing they have a community to support them.



## Our Chapter's 90<sup>th</sup> Year of Service

### MOTHER MARY BORROMEO, MAYFIELD AND CHRIST CHILD

October 2023 marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of Christ Child Society of Pasadena by Mother Mary Borromeo. During this 90th anniversary year, The Correspondent will feature articles on Christ Child Society, Mary Virginia Merrick, and Mother Mary Borromeo. This is the second in this series.

By Sarah Towne-di Cicco

In the early 1900s, Pasadena, with its national reputation as a beautiful and vibrant city, offered its residents all manner of pursuits and schools. Yet, for Catholic women and girls, though there were a number of parishes and parish-based schools, there were no private Catholic schools or women's groups until Bishop John Cantwell, the bishop of Los Angeles came on the scene and determined to do something about it. He decided the General Council of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus should establish a school in Pasadena and wrote innumerable letters until they said "yes".

In May 1931, the General Council agreed. Four months later, Mayfield opened with twelve students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. For the first two years, Mayfield held its own amidst the deepening Great Depression, but many wondered if the school would survive. A women's group would have to wait. It is at this juncture, Mother Mary Borromeo arrived. Though many know her name, who was she, how does she come into the story, and why is she revered?

Mother Mary, (née Bennet), was born in India around 1880, when India was part of the British Empire and Victoria the Empress Regnant. Her father was a physician in the Colonial Service. Like many British children of that period, once she was of school age, she was sent to school in Britain. There, she received an excellent education. Further, her skill at the piano was so remarkable, Tobias Matthay, a renowned pianist and conductor with the Royal Academy of Music in London, accepted her as a student. She also delighted in public speaking (she had a beautiful speaking voice), theatrics (private only), and delving into literature and philosophy

Indeed, her accomplishments were far beyond those of most well-brought up young ladies of the period. She was astute financially, had what she described as a "delicious" sense of humor, cherished truth so much she spoke her mind freely, but with "care and tact so as to never wound", and inspired love and loyalty from those whom she encountered. She came of age during final years of Queen Victoria's reign and, with so many gifts, one would have thought her next step would be marriage. Yet, she felt a persistent call to religious life.



When she was twenty-eight, she sought out the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and became a postulant at the Convent of the Holy Child Jesus in Mayfield, Sussex at the suggestion of her confessor. After her final profession in 1915, she was sent to the most remote outpost of the British Province at that time: Portland, Oregon. Throughout the eighteen years she served there as Superior, she came to know that its reputation as a wild and wooly port town was deserved. Yet, using all her talents, Mother Mary and the other Sisters brought the much-needed message of redemption and fulfillment through Jesus—the faith-filled life, to Portland through the school and their work in the community.

Her next assignment brought her to Pasadena. Though Pasadena wasn't quite as wild and wooly and was more resilient than many small cities were during the Great Depression, yet by 1933 those of the immigrant community weren't the only ones suffering. Even many of the well-off found themselves in want for the first time in their lives. Once again, her quiver of talents would be put to good purpose.

## Our Chapter's 90<sup>th</sup> Year of Service continued

For Mother Mary, her most pressing challenge was keeping Mayfield afloat. Part of her strategy was enlisting the support of local Catholic women. For her, what could be more natural than partnering with Pasadena-area Catholic women to found a local Christ Child Society? Then, these women, members of The Christ Child Society of Pasadena, could work with the Mayfield girls (with perhaps their daughters joining them as students), and find commo

One area of focus for both was the local Mexican community. A number of Christ Child Society of Pasadena and Mayfield events were held at the parish hall of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on South Raymond Avenue. Additionally, Mother Mary devised a Summer School Religious Instruction program there and organized parties and activities for the children, assisted by Mayfield girls and Christ Child Society of Pasadena members.

After shepherding Mayfield and assisting Christ Child through the Depression and the early years of WWII, Mother Mary left in 1942 for St. Leonard's in Philadelphia, returning to Mayfield in 1957. During both periods, those who knew her noted "her spirit of prayer and her absolute fidelity". For her faith meant embracing all aspects of life. If any impromptu or planned dramatic presentation, concert, or gathering were in the offing, Mother Mary "was certain to be part of it". And should music be featured, she would draw upon her profound love of music to plan, rehearse, prepare students, and perhaps, even perform. With the advent of the Dodgers in 1958, she discovered

another love: professional baseball. She became such a devoted fan, when the opportunity arose, she invited the hefty homerun hitter, Frank Howard, for a visit to Mayfield. Apparently, it was quite the sight to see the dainty Mother Mary chatting with the six-foot-seven ball player.

About six years after her return to Mayfield, Mother Mary's life came to a close. Those who loved her reflected "there was a fitness about her death, for it was wholly in conformity with the pattern of her life. ...Her life in God had become second nature, so that her death in God appeared as but a final "exercise" of the day, one to be accomplished with the same faithful love as any other. ...She'd spent her morning at Mayfield Junior School cataloguing music [and] she visited the small chapel which held so many of her memories and prayers of her former days". She then returned to the convent, laid down for a nap, and awakened in her Heavenly home. In tribute, her bier was laid in Mayfield's living room.



HELPING HANDS—Lupe Ballarín (left), Lupe Valdez and Diana Morales help out in the sewing and knitting classes at Mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Pasadena. Materials are purchased by the Christ Child Society of Pasadena as one of the organization's many projects.

The Tidings (Los Angeles, California) · 22 Apr 1949, Fri · Page 10



***"Prayerful strength...serene graciousness...utter dedication to God's loving will. Mother Mary Borromeo has exemplified these qualities for fifty golden years in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus."***

1960 Crossroads Yearbook,  
Mayfield Senior School,  
Pasadena Ca.

A little over ninety years have passed since Mother Mary Borromeo arrived in Pasadena to rescue Mayfield and assist with the founding of Christ Child Society of Pasadena. Both have continued to blossom after her thoughtful and inspired cultivation and care. In writing of her it was said: "...If it is true that holiness is doing the ordinary in an extraordinary way. Mother Mary Borromeo fits this definition. ....no small task within her competence escaped her." Certainly, these words also call to mind Mary Virginia Merrick. With both setting the example, Christ Child Society of Pasadena should continue blossoming for at least another ninety more.

Up next: Christ Child Society's 90th anniversary: Members' memories.

Thank you to Angela Howell, Virginia Jones, Sister Sheila, and Emily Wells of the Archives, for their assistance with this article. Working with only the minimum of materials, their insight and short stories were most helpful indeed. Birth and death dates are approximate based on Mother Mary's necrology.

## Fall Bunco

On Thursday, October 19, 2023 a spirited group of members gathered for a night of dice- rolling delight! Laughter echoed through the room as everyone enjoyed the lively gathering of fellowship, food, drinks, and game playing! We extend a sincere thank you to Sharon McTique, the Fall Bunco Chair, for organizing such an enjoyable event.



## Aces and Faces



In a joyful gathering on November 8, 2023, members of the Christ Child Society of Pasadena came together at The San Gabriel County Club for an enjoyable game of bridge. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as members engaged in friendly play, sharing laughter and camaraderie with friends. We extend our genuine gratitude to Nancy Twist and Christine Dietrick for orchestrating this wonderful and successful event. Their dedication and efforts made it a memorable occasion for all.



## Shop for a Cause at Savor the Flavor

On November 14, 2023 Christ Child members attended a private shopping party at Savor the Flavor in Sierra Madre. Madeline Romo, the owner, shared insights into the latest trends in gifts and award-winning foods that could be purchased just in time for the holidays. The event was well-attended, and 10% of the sales were generously donated to Christ Child of Pasadena. A heartfelt Thank you to all the ladies who participated in this event!



## Celebrating Friendship and Faith



On February 29, 2024 The Connections Coffee Chat coincided with Leap Day. Members gathered at the home of Clarita Gustafson to enjoy coffee and breakfast treats coordinated by the Connections Chairs Martha Leos, Linda Van Dyke and Clarita Gustafson. Everyone enjoyed being together. The Christ Child Society gives so much to the children we serve, and one of the blessings in return is the joy of working together and making new friendships.



### CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY of PASADENA ASH WEDNESDAY MASS AND MORNING REFLECTION

“A Truly Memorable Day!”

The Ash Wednesday Mass and Morning Reflection at Mater Dolorosa Passionate Retreat Center on February 14, 2024 was a beautiful way for our Christ Child Society members and friends to start our Lenten Journey together. We had a great turnout at both the Mass and Morning Reflection.

At the Morning Reflection, Father Bruno spoke eloquently about “Finding Grace in the Midst of Loss” and gave a beautiful tribute to Our Founder Mary Virginia Merrick and her life’s work in the selfless service to Our Lord and all his children.

Terry Mitchell really enjoyed planning this event for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row because of her amazing team! Thank you to Maureen and Scott Dundee for the lovely Saint Valentine’s Day decorations and treats. Also, a big thank you to Cantor Andrew Heath for his beautiful music, our Eucharistic Ministers Sara Law and Patty Walcha and our Lectors Daina Kasutis and Lydia Banales. It was a great team effort!

Holding our event this year at Mater Dolorosa with its beautiful chapel and gardens was truly a special blessing. Mater Dolorosa has many events during Lent and you can learn about them at <https://materdolorosa.org/lent/>. We hope to hold a Christ Child Stations of the Cross at Mater Dolorosa on Good Friday. Look for an Evite to come.

We are all so grateful to Father Bruno and the staff at Mater Dolorosa for a truly memorable day!



# Christmas Open House

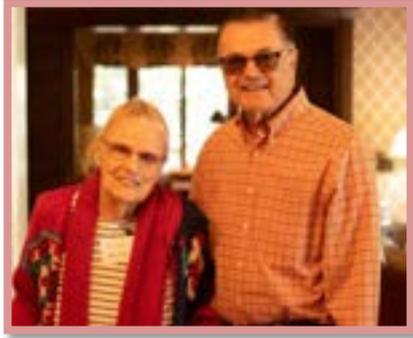
*Celebrating the Season*



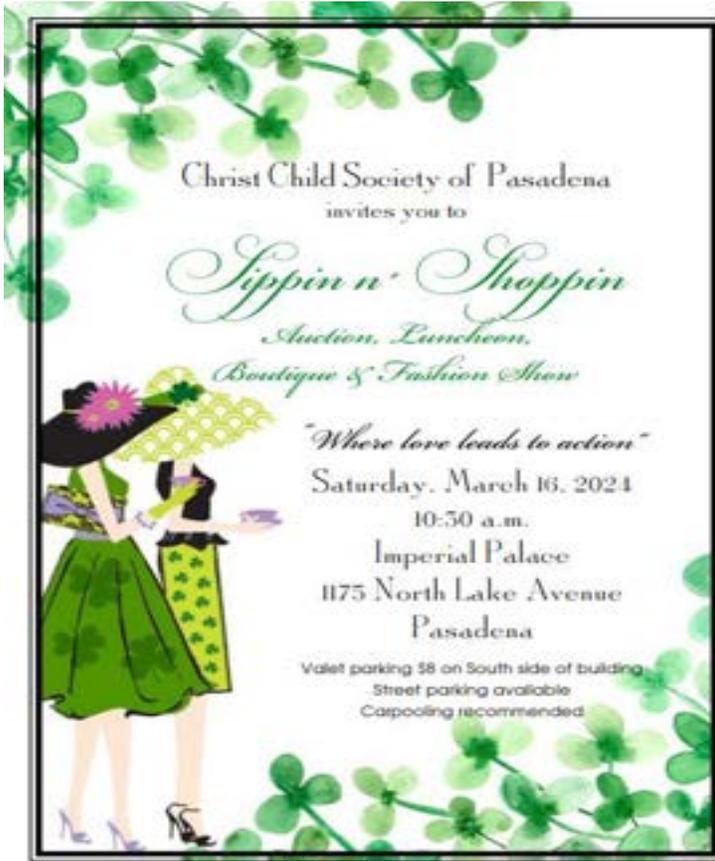
The 2023 Christmas Open House Brunch was organized by Laura Marcin and Kerry Plumer at the beautiful of home of Nancy McDonald. Thank you, Nancy for opening up your home, very generous and gracious of you! Everyone enjoyed catching up before Christmas. We had about 130 women attend. Kerry Plumer and Laura Marcin enjoyed chairing their first committee after being sponsored by Ana Raptis to join Christ Child. Many Blessings for us all in 2024!



Christmas Open House continued



Save the date



Christ Child Society of Pasadena  
invites you to

*Sippin n' Shoppin*  
*Auction, Luncheon,  
Boutique & Fashion Show*

*"Where love leads to action"*  
Saturday, March 16, 2024  
10:50 a.m.  
Imperial Palace  
1175 North Lake Avenue  
Pasadena

Valet parking \$8 on South side of building  
Street parking available  
Carpooling recommended



It's  
**BUNCO**  
TIME!

ROLL on DOWN!

Spring Bunco Night  
Thursday, April 18, 2024



Thursday, May 9, 2024  
**Memorial Mass, Meeting & Luncheon**

10:00 AM Holy Mass, St Andrew Church  
11:30 Luncheon, Annandale Golf Club  
Speaker: Vivian Imbruglia

*"I felt a stirring in my heart to make Jesus more present to the domestic church. I wanted everyone to have a 'window into heaven'. Sacred Image Icons was born... with the mission of a holy icon in every home that the Divine Word may be made image to people, that they may look up and see how and know His closeness to them."*

## For your Information



We are in the process of upgrading the website with new functionality and design. The objective is to make the website easier to use, protect our information, and provide relevant information to the public about CCS and the fabulous programs we have.

We don't have a completion date yet, but we will keep you posted. In the meantime, please be patient with our "tired" website as we work on getting more current information and uploaded for you so when you can't find the evite or the email you need, you will be able to find the info on the website.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

**If your contact information is different from what is listed in our Membership Handbook (email, mailing address, phone number, etc.), please contact Valerie McAndrews, VP of Membership, for all corrections and changes at: [valmcandrews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:valmcandrews@sbcglobal.net)**



## SAVE THE DATE September 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

GET READY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT THIS YEAR'S CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY CONVENTION!

Among the distinguished speakers are two of our very own Pasadena chapter members, Heidi Johnson and Mary Lea Carroll - a moment of pride and excitement for our chapter and community.

What's in store for you?

- Engaging panels and inspiring speakers
- Explore the adorable Layette Land
- Dive into the creative world of Bernina Demo Day
- Networking opportunities
- Valuable break-out sessions for personal and professional growth
- Shop at the Christ Child Store

## Christ Child Society of Pasadena Board 2023-2024

### Executive Board

**President:** Cheryl Newell

**VP Programs:** Leah McCrary

**VP Fundraising/Events:** Julieta Bennett

**VP Membership:** Valerie McAndrews

**VP Communications:** Jennifer Gowen

**VP Finance:** Moya Collins

**Recording Secretary:** Sarah diCicco

**Past President:** Elsa Behney

### Board Members (Voting)

**Auction Chairs:** Laura Aguirre, Angel Throop, Eileen Benson, Cynthia Norman

**Auction Committee:** Kathryn Kenny, Tess Crabtree (Bar), Mary Fitzgibbons, Leslie Ann Holiday

**May Mass/Luncheon:** Angie Miller, Emma Stewart

**Layettes: Chair:** Jacky Samartin Debi Lee (Ordering), Brigid Blackledge, Ginny Doyle (Jan. -June)

**Pair and Learning Session (PALS):** Volunteer Chair or Co-chairs needed.

**Service Projects:** Julianne Coppersmith, Brigette Floyd

**Provisionals:** Luisa Rengifo, Linda Van Dyke

**Christ Child Treasures:** Volunteer Chair or Co-chairs needed.

**Events Treasurer:** Patty Brugman

**Hospitality:** Barb Mitchell

**Newsletter (The Correspondent):** Maria Sarry

### Board Members (Non-Voting)

**Fall Mass:** Aline Cacho-Sousa/Eileen Cameron

**Christmas Open House:** Nancy McDonald, Laura Marcin, Kerry Plummer

**Ash Wednesday:** Terry Mitchell/Maureen Dundee

**Aces and Faces:** Nancy Twist, Christine Dietrick

**Fall Bunco:** Sharon McTigue

**Spring Bunco:** Mary Murray

**Connections:** Martha Leos, Linda Van Dyke, Clarita Gustafson

**Christmas Stocking Fund:** Margaret Quigley, Cece Miles

**Easter Shoes:** Katie Litwin-Bolton

**National Day of Service:** Past Presidents

**Memorials & Remembrances:** Sarah diCicco

**Corresponding Secretary:** Volunteer needed for monthly events email.

**Handbook:** Anamaria Palffy

**Talent Bank:** Becky Sarni

**Assistant Treasurer:** Angela Hawekotte

**Dues Treasurer:** Sara Law

**Public Relations & Social Media:** Jennifer Hemming

**Mailing:** Denise Clark

**Historian:** Margaret Quigley

### Guests of the Board

**Advisor /Past President:** Becky Sarni

**National CCS President:** Carol Pickle

**National CCS Board Member:** Rebecca Sarni

**NCCS Canonization Advisory Board Chair:** Roseann Anderson

**Spiritual Advisor:** Rev. Marcos J. Gonzalez

CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
2023-2024

**2023**

August 29 – (Tuesday) Layettes meeting 5-7 pm

August 30 – (Wednesday) Layettes meeting 9 am-11 am

September 8 – (Friday) Executive Board meeting 8:30 am

September 12 – (Tuesday) General Board meeting and Provisional Orientation 9 am

September 21 – (Thursday) Correspondent articles due

September 24 – (Sunday) Fall Mass 5 pm

September 29-30 – (Friday, Saturday) National Christ Child Society Conference in Potomac, Maryland

October 3 – (Tuesday) Layettes meeting 5-7 pm

October 4 – (Wednesday) Layettes meeting 9-11 am

October 19 – (Thursday) Fall Bunco

November – “Christ Child Society: United in Service 2023” All Christ Child Chapters will complete a service project during the month of November in honor of Mary Virginia Merrick’s birthday. To be planned by past presidents of Christ Child Society of Pasadena.

November 2 – (Monday) Mary Virginia Merrick’s Birthday (1866-1955)

November \_\_ -- Correspondent articles due date TBD

November 4 – (Saturday) Layettes meeting 9-11 am

November 8 – (Wednesday) Aces and Faces 9:30 am -2 pm

December 7 – (Thursday) Christmas Open House

**2024**

January 10 – (Wednesday) Executive Board meeting

January 16 – (Tuesday) Layettes meeting 5-7 pm

January 17 – (Wednesday) Layettes meeting 9-11 am

January 17 – (Wednesday) General Board meeting

February 14 – (Wednesday) Ash Wednesday Morning of Recollection and Mass (at Mater Dolorosa in Sierra Madre?)

February 15 (Thursday)-- Correspondent Articles due

February 15 – New Member proposals due

February 17 – (Saturday) Gift Gathering Party]

February 17 – (Saturday) -- 2023-2024 Auction Obligation Due (\$100)

February 28 – (Wednesday) Executive Board meeting

March 6 (Wednesday) – General Board Meeting

March 12 – (Tuesday) Layettes meeting 5-7 pm

March 13 – (Wednesday) Layettes meeting 9-11 am

March 16 – (Saturday) Annual Auction Luncheon Fashion Show at Imperial Palace

April 18 (Thursday) – Spring Bunco

[May 15 (Wednesday) – Correspondent articles due

[May 9 (Thursday) – Memorial Mass, Annual Meeting and Luncheon]

[June \_\_ -- General Board meeting Old Board/New Board]

June 1 – (Saturday) 2024-2025 Annual Dues Due – Late fee of \$20 assessed after June 1.



**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY  
OF PASADENA**  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

PO BOX 50914  
PASADENA, CA 91115

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pasadena, Calif.  
Permit No. 140

Visit our website at  
[www.christchildpasadena.org](http://www.christchildpasadena.org)

## THE CORRESPONDENT

### **2023-2024 Executive Board**

President: Cheryl Newell  
VP Fundraising/Events: Julieta Bennett  
VP Programs: Leah McCrary  
VP Membership: Valerie McAndrews  
VP Finance/Treasurer: Moya Collins  
Recording Secretary: Sarah diCicco  
Past President/Nominating: Elsa Behney

### **Guest(s) of Board**

Advisor: Becky Sarni

### **The Correspondent**

Editor: Maria Sarry  
Public Relations/Photos: Jennifer Hemmings



*Christ Child Society of Pasadena is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.*

**National Christ Child Society:** 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 504, Rockville, MD 20852  
<http://nationalchristchildsoc.org> email: [office@nationalchristchildsoc.org](mailto:office@nationalchristchildsoc.org)