



NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY.
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

The Correspondent

Highlights from 2024-2025

President's Message



As I conclude my term as President, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. It has been an incredible honor to serve alongside such a dedicated and compassionate group of women. I have been continually inspired by your generosity through the time you have given, the talents you have shared, and the financial support you have offered.

Thanks to all of you, we have been able to continue our mission of serving children and families in need with love, dignity, and care. Your efforts, large and small, have impacted countless lives, and I am so proud of all we have accomplished together.

This special 2024-2025 recap issue of the Correspondent highlights the many meaningful activities we have undertaken this year: raising over \$110,000 at our annual auction; assembling 500 Layettees; awarding over \$70,000 in fall and spring grants for students through our Parish School Support program; and providing 198 Christmas gift cards of \$65 each and 196 Easter gift cards at \$50 each for parish families. Together these efforts beautifully illustrate what we can achieve when we act with purpose, heart, and a shared commitment to our mission.

A powerful reminder of the importance of our mission came in the wake of the devastating Eaton fire. In response, generosity poured in from individuals and eighteen Christ Child chapters across the country from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Stuart, Florida, from El Paso, Texas, to Summit, New Jersey and others in between. Thanks to this remarkable support, we raised \$60,000, a very large percentage of which came from fellow chapters, and we have already distributed over \$4,000 in emergency grants to families who lost their homes. Witnessing this outpouring of love and support was deeply moving and a testament to the strength of our extended Christ Child family. As we have seen in the past six months, fire recovery is a marathon and not a sprint, and we are well equipped to help families in need as they continue to recover.

In the past two years, I have learned so much about leadership from all of you. I have learned that leadership is about listening, lifting each other up, and supporting each other. It is about being willing to go outside of your comfort zone, and even your skill set, and then working really hard, and together we can make a huge difference in the lives of others. It is so worth it, and I hope that you will all continue to make your important and meaningful contributions to our wonderful organization.

Thank you for your unwavering support, your friendship, and your dedication to the Christ Child Society. I leave this role filled with gratitude and confidence in a bright future ahead. I am thrilled to pass the torch to our next President, Leah McCrary, and I look forward to continuing this meaningful work with all of you.

With love and appreciation,

Cheryl Newell
President, Christ Child Society of Pasadena
2023-2025

Christ Child Society of Pasadena Board 2025-2026

Executive Board

President: Leah McCrary
VP Programs: Maria Finnegan
VP Fundraising: Debi Lee
VP Membership: Valerie McAndrews
VP Communications: Martha Leos
VP Finance: Moya Collins
Recording Secretary: Sarah Towne diCicco

Board Members (Voting)

Annual Auction: Becky Sarni (chair), Alicia Schmitz, Julie Poxon Penney, Kerry Plumer, Ashley La Mothe (treasurer)

Layettes: Jacky Samartin (chair)
 Sue Feldmeth (assistant chair)
 Nancy McCullough (assistant chair)
 Brigid Blackledge (purchasing)
 Ginny Doyle (purchasing)
 Sue Fulps

Pair and Learning Session (PALS):
 Sharon McTigue
 Nancy King

Service Projects:
 Julianne Coppersmith
 Bridget Floyd

Provisionals:
 Susan de Pietro
 Linda Van Dyke

Hospitality: Sarah Towne diCicco

IT/Website: Olga Castellanos

Newsletter: Mary Sabourin

Board Members (Non-Voting)

Fall Mass:
 Mary Sabourin
 Terry Mitchell

United in Service: Past Presidents

Fall Bunco: Toi Treister

Christmas Stocking Fund:
 Mary Ambrose
 Elizabeth Bury

Christmas Open House:
 Sandy Larson
 Endora La Mothe

Ash Wednesday: Susie Baggott

Aces and Faces: Tina Fogliani, Annette Brandin

Spring Bunco: Nancy Walker, Rita Fortner

Connections: Emma Stewart, Betsa Richards, Mary Lea Carroll (retreat)

Easter Shoes: Jaren Closson, Michele Coudures

Corresponding Secretary (HAPPENINGS): Alicia Schmitz

Memorials and Remembrances: Anette Castro Ramirez

May Mass/Luncheon: Aline Cacho-Sousa, Ana Raptis

Handbook: Diana Ayers

Talent Bank: Becky Sarni

Assistant Treasurer: Ashley La Mothe (auction)

Events Treasurer: Patti Brugman

Dues Treasurer: Sara Law

Mailing chair: Denise Clark, Jennifer Gowen

Historian: Virginia Jones

Public Relations: Angie Miller

Social Media : TBD

Nominating: Cheryl Newell

Volunteer Opportunity

JOIN THE BOARD!! SOCIAL MEDIA position open

If you are looking for a way to be more actively involved in Christ Child and have an interest in social media, this could be a great opportunity for you! This role involves helping to support our online communications and sharing our mission with the broader community. For more information, contact Elsa Behney at epbehney@aol.com

Stewards of Our Mission: The Finance Team



Our dedicated finance team, *pictured clockwise from left, starting with Eileen Cameron in blue: Patti Brugman, Moya Collins, and Sara Law*, has worked tirelessly managing the financial side of our mission—a critical part of keeping everything running smoothly. We are truly grateful for their precision, dedication, and behind-the-scenes efforts. Their work ensures we can continue making a difference in the lives we serve.

New Provisionals and 25-Year Member Honorees

A Warm Welcome to Our New 2025-2026 Provisionals

Mary Cosgrove
 Jamie Dabao
 Ana Duarte
 Kari Fraser
 Erin Galyen
 Maricel de Cardenas
 Kathleen McAniff
 Cindy McNamarra
 Katrina Roski Pearl
 Denise Lariviere
 Andrea Leos
 Linda Acres

A Heartfelt Congratulations

to our members celebrating 25 years of service in 2025. Your dedication to the Christ Child Society is an inspiring example of love in action.

Marion Riley Campbell – Non Resident
 R-Lene Mijares DeLang
 Kelly Dunn
 Olivia Evans
 Lyle Bayle Hanf
 Katie Marsh
 Judy Martin
 Kathleen McCrimlisk
 Muriel Newell – Sustaining
 Patti Pascale
 Jeanne Walston – Sustaining

National Christ Child Society Conference 2024 News



-- Left to right -- Heidi Johnson (Pasadena member and speaker); Becky Sarni (Past President), Leah McCrary (incoming president), Cheryl Newell (outgoing president), Kacey Riley (non-resident member of Pasadena), Carol Pickle (non-resident member of Pasadena), Mary Lea Carroll (Pasadena member and speaker).

At last year's 47th National Christ Child Society Conference, our Pasadena Chapter was proud to be strongly represented. Attending were two of our past presidents, Becky Sarni and Carol Pickle, current president Cheryl Newell, incoming president Leah McCrary, and non-resident member Kacey Riley. The convention featured inspiring speakers who brought renewed energy and insight to attendees from across the country. We were especially proud to see two of our own—Heidi Johnson and Mary Lea Carroll—take the stage as presenters, making this a truly meaningful and proud moment for both our chapter and the Pasadena community.

National Christ Child Society Conference 2025

National Conference 2025

Be
the
Light

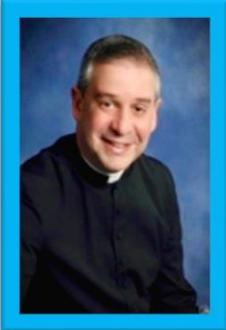
September 12th & 13th, 2025

Pooks Hill Marriott
5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, Maryland

For more information go to the
National Christ Child's Society
website:
Nationalchristchild.org

NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

From our Spiritual Advisor....



Dear Members of the Christ Child Society of Pasadena,

Greetings in Christ! I hope you are all enjoying the summer and perhaps are taking your vacation or soon will.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Memorial Mass on May 16th and then the luncheon following at Annandale Country Club. Congratulations to all the new and renewing officers!

I'm writing this to you as we begin summer, and I know many of you will soon be going on vacation (or perhaps have already taken it). As I always remind you, it is important to remember that our spiritual lives must never go on vacation. Sometimes people mention that they have a hard time finding a church for Mass when they are away from home. I would like to recommend to you a wonderful website that can help you with this. It is called: www.masstimes.org. There you can enter a city, an address, or a zip code and it will give you all the Catholic churches in the area along with the times for Masses, Confessions, etc. and the languages offered. It is a great resource when traveling. Please make use of it prior to your trip so you can plan accordingly. You can also go to the App Store and search for "Catholic Mass Times" there is a wonderful app that helps you find the closest Catholic Church.

One of the things I most enjoy when I'm on vacation is the extra time which I have to do some quality reading. For most of us, our lives are usually so busy that we can't take long periods to read. I always take a few books with me which I am able to enjoy reading on vacation. I suggest you take at least one which is a good Catholic book. It is important for us to always strengthen our spiritual life as well as deepen our faith.

This year, 2025, is a Jubilee Year which means that we are afforded the opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ. It has only been a couple of months since the election of our wonderful new Pope, Leo XIV, who happens to be an American! This is a beautiful gift from God, and I think it challenges us Americans in particular to a greater practice of our Faith. As members of the Christ Child Society, it is especially appropriate for us since we care for the most vulnerable among us and thus bring the love of Christ to others.

I hope you all have a relaxing and peaceful summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our Fall Mass.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Marcos J. Gonzalez
Pastor

Annual Memorial Mass and Luncheon

Cloaked in May Gray, we entered St. Andrew Church for the annual Memorial Mass, only to be greeted by bright sunshine upon our exit—a beautiful spring day befitting the luncheon that followed at Annandale Country Club.

Spiritual Advisor Fr. Marcos Gonzalez celebrated the Mass, accompanied by the angelic voices of the St. Andrew School Choir. The celebration concluded with the presentation and blessing of 19 new Christ Child Society members and a group of new Provisionals. Scholarships were also awarded to St. Andrew, St. Philip the Apostle, and Mayfield Senior Schools in support of Catholic education.



Members and guests were then welcomed at Annandale with trays of bubbling Prosecco. President Cheryl Newell opened the luncheon by welcoming everyone and conducting the annual meeting, followed by a delicious Cornucopia Salad. Outgoing Board members were recognized, and the incoming Board was introduced, along with 11 members honored for 25 years of service to our organization.

President-elect Leah McCrary then introduced guest speaker Lorraine Ovalle, principal of St. Louis of France School in La Puente. Her heartfelt gratitude to the Christ Child Society and boundless energy were evident to all—further highlighting the meaningful impact we continue to make in the lives of children and families throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Thank you to the event co-chairs Angie Miller, Daina Kasputis, and Kerry Plumer; readers Julianne Coppersmith and Emma Stewart, extraordinary minister Sharyn Godfrey and all who helped make this a memorable day.

Service Projects: Grants Update

Love in Action: Christ Child Chapters Respond to Eaton Fire Relief

On January 7th, the devastating Eaton fire forever changed our community. The destruction uprooted the lives of many of the children we serve in addition to numerous within our own membership. The fire burned houses and businesses throughout parts of Pasadena and Altadena. Homes and jobs were lost, and two of the Parishes we support, St. Elizabeth's School and Sacred Heart in Altadena, were unable to continue their school program and religious education programs because of fire and smoke damage. In addition to reaching out to our members, the National Christ Child Society made an appeal on our behalf for Eaton Fire Relief.

Love poured in from individuals and eighteen Christ Child Chapters across the country: from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Stuart, Florida, from El Paso, Texas to Summit, New Jersey, and many, many chapters in between. **To date we have raised \$59,869 (roughly 80% from national donations) and made grants of \$4,380 to displaced families with emergency needs.**

This is a small amount given the generosity we received; however responsibly stewarding these gifts is more complicated than it appears. It is difficult to find and assess need: families moved outside of the San Gabriel Valley to live with relatives or to find affordable housing, which means they are scattered far and wide away from their school communities.

Additionally, because they are not attending schools with their trusted teachers and principals, we lost the emotional connections that help us identify those who are struggling.

Furthermore, we realize that fire recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. We anticipate that requests will balloon as families will need to purchase new uniforms, pay for fees, lunches, and other school services children return to school and families try to regain their footing back in the Pasadena and Altadena neighborhoods.

We are well positioned to find and help the students most in need as they continue to rebuild and find their way back home this summer, fall and into the coming school year.



This year, your generosity and love allowed us to allocate funds to make an impact and a difference for good in the lives of many students in the 13 parish schools and 2 religious education programs we support. Every donation goes directly to these children, in our continuous efforts to keep them connected to their catholic faith education.

- This Fall we granted \$37,085 and gifted 198 Christmas gift cards valued at \$65 each.
- This Spring we granted \$38,189 and gifted 196 Easter gift cards valued at \$50 each.

Our Grants program is strong and successful because of our Christ Child membership. We are grateful for and blessed by your commitment to the children in our Partner Parish schools and religious education programs.

A Story from One of Our Own: Mary Lea Carroll

Thanks to the continued generosity of our members, this year's *Easter Shoes Spring Appeal* provided 196 (\$50.00) gift cards for children and families during the Easter season — a small gesture that brings joy and dignity to those we serve. In the spirit of this tradition, member and author, Mary Lea Carroll shares her essay “*Easter Shoes*,” a heartfelt and humorous reflection on childhood, gratitude, and the deeper meaning behind something as simple as a new pair of shoes.



EASTER SHOES

By Mary Lea Carroll

Well famously one Easter, I and most of my siblings all received brand new Easter shoes. Mine were black patten leather. The boys' were smart-looking saddle shoes.

How exciting it was to get anything new and that Easter there they were, six pairs of shoes lined up in the living room, looking shinny and expensive. And they fit! We were far too young to wonder where they came from.

Easter: rebirth, renewal and all about being alive! At this time of year, I am reminded of one of the weirdest Easter egg hunts we kids ever had. . .

There were nine of us, growing up all together in the big white house on Santa Rosa Street in Altadena. Money was really tight for my parents so Mom always looked for ways to make extra money. She did things like sell custom Christmas cards by appointment to wealthy ladies—she did things like sell newspaper advertising door to door to businesses and she did something— for years—which was to write a column for our local paper. It was called “Conversations with Jane Ray.” She loved Erma Bombeck, and styled her column after Erma’s witty style. It was Erma who announced in one of her columns that “nobody ever died from an unmade bed.” My mother, like mothers all over the country, took Erma’s advice to heart with relish. Anyway—how Mom made money off her column was when she mentioned a business in “Conversations with Jane Ray. They would then pay her, or she’d get something in fair trade. For example, she’d write— “This week Riley’s Tuxedo is running a special. What surly teenage boy doesn’t look great in a tux? Perfect timing to take Danny in for his prom tux!” And they’d give her the tux. That’s how she got our family portraits done. The car repaired—a set of glasses—school shoes for us. Her breezy “Conversations with Jane Ray” provided for much of our family’s needs.

So, Easter Sunday, we wore our new shoes to church. We wore them through the brunch of ham and deviled eggs and Easter cake—and we wore them as we ate our way through our Easter baskets so they’d be empty for the big egg hunt. My parents were not playful people in the least but they truly enjoyed putting this massive egg hunt on together. Mom started at the beginning of Lent blowing out eggs so we had dozens and dozens of hollow colored eggs. She stayed up late stuffing each one with little notes saying things like “rain or shine you win a dime.” Or “a tisket a tasket a penny in your basket.” Back then, even a penny had value to us. Penny candy meant it cost one penny. You can imagine how motivating such an egg hunt was for nine kids under 13 years old.

The big house on Santa Rosa had a huge yard, full of ivy and bushes and lawns. That year, the night before the big egg hunt it had rained. Nobody cared that it was sopping wet outside and when Dad called “go!” — we all ran out into the yard with our new shoes on. Well—because it was so wet, what began happening was that my beautiful patent leather shoes started to come apart! With Kevin’s saddle shoes, the soles flapped open! John’s saddle shoes, the laces just broke. The buckles fell off Bethie’s straps. Kevin tripped when one sole flapped all the way off. Mom—watching this, started cursing under her breath, “Dammit. Dammit. Dammit. . . .”

A Story from One of Our Own: Mary Lea Carroll *continued*

What was happening? Our Easter was getting ruined! We waited for Mom to start yelling at us for not being careful, as she surely did at other times. She could have a really short fuse, off the deep end she went when we drew on the wallpaper—her top blew when the kickball broke the window—she smacked us when we let mulberry juice, from the mulberry tree next door, go down the front of our white uniform shirts. But that day, no, she got over herself quickly and was soft and soothing, telling us not to worry, it wasn't our fault. But, why wasn't it our fault?

Well, Mom got such a great deal on those shoes by running a nice ad for a—a Mortuary Supply Center!

A company that supplies all the necessities for embalming and OPEN CASKETS! —the false-front shirts, the wigs, the clip-on ties. This is where our Easter shoes came from! It never occurred to her of their one-time use . . . of how something would've had to've gone terribly wrong if the one these shoes were intended for got up and started running around. Of course, she didn't tell us where the shoes had come from until years later, which cleared up the mystery of why she hadn't been mad because, I'm sure what she felt was gratitude, her children *could* run around and were very much alive. And just, thank God her children didn't need those shoes for real.

Mary Lea Carroll's essay "Easter Shoes" was published in *Pasadena Now* on March 31, 2025, coinciding with the upcoming release of her third book, *Across the Street Around the Corner—A Road Home*. The book came out in June and will be available at Vroman's and other booksellers.

SAVE the DATE: Christ Child Society of Pasadena Chapter Honored!

Christ Child Society of Pasadena to Receive Lifetime Angel Award

EXCITING
NEWS!!

We are proud to share that the Christ Child Society of Pasadena will be honored with the ***Lifetime Angel Award*** by the Good Shepherd Shelter at their upcoming gala **Sunday, October 19, 2025**. This meaningful recognition celebrates our longstanding commitment to serving families in need. Please mark your calendars — more details to come. We hope to have a strong CCS presence there!

PALS (PAIR and LEARNING SESSION) Program

PALS IS BACK IN ACTION!!!



We are so excited to announce the return of the Pair and Learning Session (PALS) program. After a COVID hiatus, we are back in action meeting weekly at Saint Andrew's school. Currently there are six adult volunteers supporting upwards of twenty-four TK through 3rd grade students to help build their reading skills and fluency. And the timing could not have been better...several displaced St. Elizabeth students who have been re-located to Saint Andrews due to the Eaton fires are also benefiting from the extra attention PALS is providing. This is such a rewarding program for both volunteer and student. If you are interested in joining the PALS team, please reach out to Sharon McTigue (sharonmctigue@me.com) or Nancy King (Kingsters@icloud.com) for more details.



Layettes

A Ministry of Love, a Mission of Care—500 layettes Strong!

It's been another busy year for layettes. We had several workshops in the fall which supplied many of our agencies. Winter/Spring took an unexpected different turn with the fire devastation in our community. We were able to supply many of our local parishes with layettes to our families in need.

We were excited to partner with Mayfield Senior School for a first ever "yarn drive" to help supply our ever-important knitters. Over 150 skeins of yarn were delivered to Jewel City Knitters.



Thank you to Jewel City Knitters, St. Rita knitters, Stich in Time knitters, and all of our member knitters. Again, this year, we had knitters as far as Canada supplying our layettes with beautiful blankets, hats and booties.

Holy Angel's School again did a toiletry collection and will finish the year with a yarn collection. Habitat for Humanity has continued to fill in the gap with toiletries as well.



We assembled and delivered nearly 500 layettes, right on our annual target. Our layette ministry is truly a gift to our Christ Child Chapter. As its primary purpose is to service the agencies community, it also serves as an ongoing opportunity for each of us involved to community build within our group. I am so grateful to our committee, Sue, Brigid, Ginny, and Lydia. Lastly, a big thank you to Susan De Pietro for all of her help with the Provisionals.

Thank you,
 Jacky Samartin
 Layette Chairperson

Layettes continued....

IT ALL STARTED WITH A SINGLE STITCH.....



Ginny Moore, a long-time member, who has been donating the most beautiful and delicate white blankets and booties for YEARS.

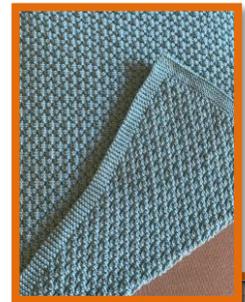
Many moons ago, in November of 2022, a knitting class was held by Ginny Moore, a CCS member since 1977. A handmade item-- knitted, crocheted, quilted--is the “jewel” of the Layette bag for new mothers needing extra support for their new babies.

Aline Cacho-Sousa was one of the students that November and became inspired! Since then, she has kept going, learning new stitches and patterns and contributing many baby blankets over the last few years. It certainly takes a village to fill 500 layette bags every year and as long as we keep encouraging new skills and gifts of time and resources, new mothers will receive these precious gifts from the heart from our Layette Program. Thank you, Ginny, for sharing your talents and thank you Aline, and all the other volunteers, for your generosity.

Submitted by Olga Castellanos



Aline Cacho-Sousa displays one of the many handmade blankets she has lovingly contributed to our Layette Program.



Aline’s creations are a vibrant reflection of her skill, spirit, and compassion.

Christ Child Annual Fundraiser

*Sippin' n Shoppin'
A Shamrockin' Success!*

**\$109,000
raised**



This year's Sippin' n Shoppin' was a beautiful day filled with laughter, community and generosity. Held on March 15, 2025 at the Imperial Event Venue, the event brought together over 160 members and friends of the Christ Child Society.

Guests browsed unique finds from The Classy Bag Lady, Shelly's Fashions and Truly Blessed Jewels, while enjoying drinks from Riley's Pub and a delicious lunch. The silent and live auctions, plus a lively paddle raise, made it a fun and impactful afternoon.

One of the highlights was the spring fashion show by Pearls of San Marino, modeled by our very own members and emceed by Pearls owner, Lauri Wax.

Throughout the day, the spirit of giving was everywhere. Moira Lynch, Executive Director of the National Christ Child Society, and Phyllis Cremer, Principal of St. Elizabeth Parish School, shared moving words—reminding us of why we gather and give. Phyllis spoke about the challenges her students are facing in the aftermath of the Eaton Fire, making this year's fundraising efforts especially meaningful.



Christ Child Annual Fundraiser *continued*



Thanks to the generosity of our members and guests, and the hard work of so many of our member volunteers, we raised **\$109,000.00** to support children and families in need throughout the San Gabriel Valley. We're especially grateful to Angel Throop, Kate Kenney, Eileen Benson, and Angie Miller for leading the charge with such dedication and heart. A big thank you also goes out to Debbie Lee for the beautiful centerpieces, our Provisionals, Treasurers, and everyone who helped with invitations, donations, basket wrapping, and more.



Cheers to our wonderful bartenders — Fritz Miller, Jeff Throop, and Ross Benson—and to Doug McCrary for keeping the live auction lively and fun.

It was a joyful day, full of connection and purpose. As always **Love Leads to Action** — and your support helps us fulfill our mission.



Celebrating Friendship and Faith



CONNECTIONS

During the 2024–2025 term, our members gathered not only to enjoy coffee and breakfast treats, but also to share a delightful wine and cheese evening, graciously coordinated by CONNECTIONS Co-Chairs Clarita Gustafson and Martha Leos.



While our hearts remain devoted to serving children, these moments together remind us that one of the most treasured gifts of our work is the fellowship and friendship we find in one another.



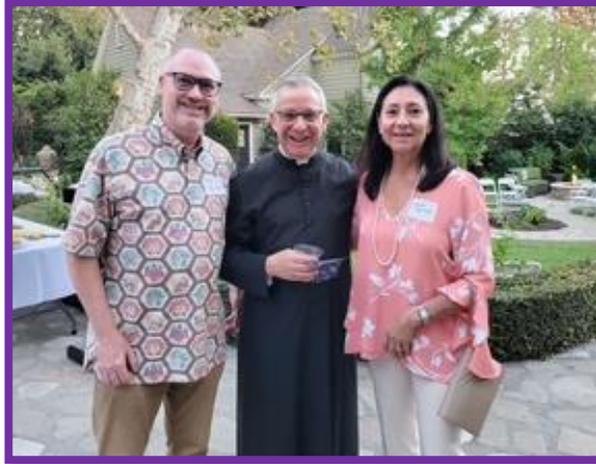
Ash Wednesday Morning of Reflection and Mass



On Wednesday, March 5, 2025, our chapter gathered at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center to observe Ash Wednesday together. Father Wolfen Xacier led a meaningful morning reflection and celebrated Mass, helping us enter the Lenten season with prayerful intention. The peaceful setting and shared experience offered a beautiful start to our spiritual journey. Special thanks to Terry Mitchell for chairing this cherished event.



Celebrating Friendship and Faith continued Fall 2024 Mass

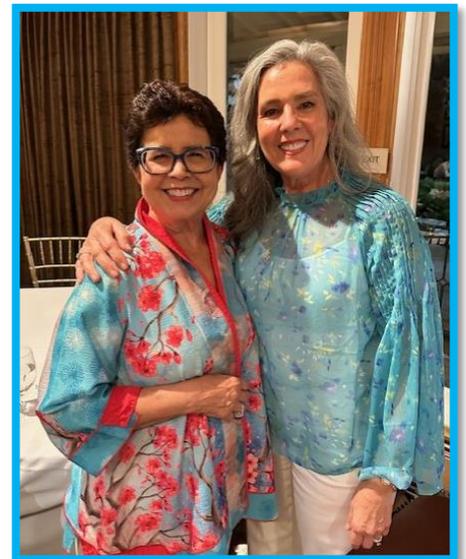


On October 20, 2024, our Fall Mass was held at the beautiful home of Becky and Jim Sarni, whose gracious hospitality set the tone for a heartfelt gathering. Fr. Marcos Gonzalez celebrated the Mass, offering words that reminded us of the strength and grace found in community. Members, along with their families and friends, came together to share in prayer, reflection, and fellowship. It was a joyful afternoon filled with warmth, connection, and gratitude—an opportunity to pause and celebrate the friendships that sustain our mission. We are so thankful to the Sarnis, our Co-Chairs Ann Sanders and Mary Sabourin, and all who joined us in this special tradition.

Fall 2024 & Spring 2025 Bunco Nights



Our Spring and Fall Bunco Nights were filled with laughter, friendly competition, and the simple joy of being together. These relaxed, lighthearted evenings have become a cherished tradition, giving members a chance to connect over snacks, stories, and shared smiles. Whether rolling for Bunco or cheering one another on, the spirit of camaraderie always shines through. Special thanks to our Fall and Spring Bunco Chairs, Lisa Evans (Fall 2024) and Deborah Schwarz (Spring 2025), for organizing these wonderful gatherings. We look forward to many more joyful game nights ahead!



Aces & Faces



On November 6, 2024, members of the Christ Child Society of Pasadena and friends gathered at the San Gabriel Country Club for a delightful day of bridge and lunch. Guests enjoyed reconnecting over a favorite pastime, spending time with old friends, and meeting new ones. Many thanks to all who attended and supported the event. We hope even more members and guests will join us next fall. Special thanks to Co-Chairs Tina Fogliani and Annette Brandin for organizing such a wonderful and successful gathering. Their dedication made the day truly memorable for all.



Christmas Open House



Celebrating the Season

The December 2024 Christmas Open House Brunch was held at the lovely home of Ana and George Raptis. Ninety-five Christ Child Society members and guests gathered to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with warmth, joy, and generosity. Guests enjoyed a delicious brunch prepared by Mary Pat Brandmeyer, while the beautiful garden setting was made even more festive with exquisite holiday floral arrangements and centerpieces by Leonora Moss of Sierra Madre. This cherished annual event not only marks the start of the season but also reflects the spirit of community that defines our organization. In the true Christmas spirit of giving, members generously contributed to the layette fund, helping brighten the lives of those we serve. Heartfelt thanks to Ana and George for graciously opening their home, and to Connie Harding, Karen Maguire, and Mimi Butler for so beautifully chairing this memorable gathering.



For Your Information

WEBSITE UPDATE



Olga Castellanos has spearheaded the monumental task of revamping our website, which is now in its final stages of review. We are hopeful it will launch before the end of the year! As we are fond of saying, "It takes a village," and Olga has relied on the help of many CCS

members to provide and review content, as well as to share their web development expertise and knowledge of our organization. Thank you to board members Jennifer Gowen, Debi Lee, Valerie McAndrews, Leah McCrary, Cheryl Newell, Becky Sarni, and members Sandy Larson and Mary Sabourin. Submitted by Jennifer Gowen

Thinking of Someone Who Would Make a Great CCS Member?

It's never too early to start considering friends who might be wonderful additions to the Christ Child Society of Pasadena!

Contact: VP of Membership Valerie McAndrews at membership@christchildpasadena.org

Membership Process Overview:

- Applicants must be sponsored by **two current Active members** who:
 - Are in good standing
 - Have been active for at least one full year
- Sponsors complete a **Provisional Member Proposal Form**
- **Applications are due in March**
- Applications are **reviewed and submitted to the Board for approval**
- Upon approval, applicants receive an **invitation in April** to become a Provisional member in May
- New Provisionals are **introduced at the annual May Mass & Luncheon**

The Provisional Year:

- Provisionals are admitted **once a year in May**
- They receive a **formal orientation** led by the Provisional Chairwomen
- Sponsors and Chairwomen provide **guidance and support** throughout the Provisional year

Active Membership: After successfully completing the Provisional year and its obligations, Provisionals are welcomed as **Active members** at the **following year's May Mass & Luncheon**.

Stay Connected! Update Your Contact Information

If you have changed your address, e-mail or cell phone number, contact VP of Membership Valerie McAndrews at membership@christchildpasadena.org or mail any changes to her at 1715 Chelsea Road, San Marino 91108.

Membership Dues & Auction Obligation Update

- **Annual dues** are now **\$100 per member** to support CCS's growing initiatives.
- Members are also asked to fulfill their **auction obligation** at **the same time**.
- Each member contributes **either \$100** or an **item of equal value** to the auction.
- This change helps **streamline fundraising** and **simplify the process**.

How to Pay:

- **Via QuickBooks or Zelle:**
- **Check:** Payable to "CCS" & mailed to VP of Finance, Moya Collins
- Include a **note with your name** and what the payment covers.
- Donating an item? Please **contact the auction team** to arrange drop-off.

The invoices were emailed July 2nd, and **payment is requested by July 21st**. A **\$25 late fee** will be collected for payments received **after July 31st**. As this will be the first year collecting dues and Fundraising Obligations at the same time, we want to be accommodating. Please reach out to us or our VP of Finance, Moya Collins at treasurer@christchildpasadena.org (626) 590-1514 with any questions.

Calendar of Events 2025-2026

A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful members for your continued support in helping fulfill the mission of the Christ Child Society.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Keep an eye out for the Fall issue of *The Correspondent*, which will include the Calendar of Events for the upcoming 2025-2026 term.



Christ Child Society of Pasadena Board 2024-2025

Executive Board

President: Cheryl Newell
Vice President, Programs and President Elect
 Leah McCrary
Vice President Fundraising/Events
 Debi Lee
Vice President, Membership
 Valerie McAndrews
Vice President, Communications
 Jennifer Gowen
Vice President, Finance: Moya Collins
Recording Secretary: Sarah Towne diCicco

General Board

Annual Auction: Angel Throop (Chair)
 Angela Miller (Assistant Chair, Auction Procurement and Assembly)
 Sarah Scott (Auction Procurement and Assembly)
 Eileen Cameron (Assistant Treasurer)
 Eileen Benson (Fashion Show)

Annual Auction Committee

Tess Crabtree
 Luisa Rengifo

Memorial May Mass/Annual Meeting/Luncheon

Angela Miller
 Daina Kasputis
 Kerry Plumer

Layettes/Voting Member

Jacky Samartin (Chair)
 Brigid Blackledge (Scheduling/Deliveries)
 Lydia Zeigler (Purchasing Assistant)
 Ginny Doyle (Purchasing)
 Sue Fulps

Pair and Learning Session (PALS)

Sharon McTigue
 Nancy King

Parish School Support/Service Projects

Julianne Coppersmith
 Bridget Floyd

Provisionals

Linda Van Dyke
 Susan De Pietro

Christ Child Treasures: Open

Hospitality: Open

Events Treasurer: Patti Brugman

Dues Treasurer: Sara Law

IT Director/Website: Olga Castellanos

Newsletter (The Correspondent):

Board Members

Fall Mass: Ann Sanders, Mary Sabourin

Fall Bunco: Lisa Evans
Christmas Open House:
 Mimi Butler
 Karen Maguire
 Connie Harding
 Ana Raptis (hostess)

Ash Wednesday/Morning of Reflection: Terry Mitchell, Maureen Dundee (assistant)

Aces and Faces: Tina Fogliani, Annette Brandin

Spring Bunco: Deborah Ballins Schwarz

Connections:
 Martha Leos
 Clarita Gustafson
 Mary Lea Carroll (Mater Dolorosa Retreat)

Christmas Stocking Fund: Julieta Bennett, Maria Finnegan

Easter Shoes: Michele Coudures, Karen Closson

United in Service: Past Presidents

Happenings (Monthly Events Email): Alicia Schmitz

Corresponding Secretary/Circle of Friends/Memorials/Remembrances: Sarah Towne diCicco

Handbook: Sara Nowak

Talent Bank: Becky Sarni

Assistant Treasurer/Auction: Eileen Cameron

Public Relations/Social Media: Angie Miller

Mailing: Denise Clark

Recording Secretary: Sarah Towne Di Cicco

Historian: Margaret Greco

Nominating/ Past President: Elsa Behney

Guests of the Board

Advisor to the President: Elsa Benhey

NCCS President: Sue Seline

NCCS Canonization Advisory Board Chair: Roseann Anderson

National Christ Child Board Member: Jeannette May

Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Marcos J. Gonzalez



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THE CORRESPONDENT

2024-2025 Executive Board

President: Cheryl Newell
VP Fundraising/Events: Debi Lee
VP Programs: Leah McCrary
VP Membership: Valerie McAndrews
VP Finance/Treasurer: Moya Collins
Recording Secretary: Sarah Towne- di Cicco
Past President/Nominating: Elsa Behney

The Correspondent

2024-2025 Highlights Issue Editor: Maria Sarry
Public Relations/Social Media: Angie Miller



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