



Chapter & Verse

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Mission: "To foster a personal love of Christ expressing itself in service for needy children regardless of race, color, or creed."

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Christ Child Members,

It is said that time flies when you are having fun, and that is certainly true of our chapter's past year...our 100th year! The anniversary festivities began in January with the Mass of Celebration at St. Rocco. The year ended with the sparkling Starlight Ball, where we honored Bishop Roger Gries as our Person of the Year and showcased our new video to the almost 470 guests. In between, there were luncheons, a Showcase move, the Merrick House bench dedication, a fantastic Day of Recollection at St. Barnabas, Layettes of Love Day, the Museum of Divine Statues tour and lunch at Pier W (with the best picture of our members with the Cleveland skyline in the background), a look back at our history, and the induction into the 100 Year Club at the Western Reserve Historical Society. Whew! What a year!

On the Monday after the Ball, I was listening to Christmas music while driving back from the Akron airport at 6 in the morning. It was my first chance to reflect on the Ball, as well as the year in whole. I thought about our members and watching them at all the events over the past year, and all I could picture was members smiling and being happy to be a part of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland. Maybe we have renewed enthusiasm for being members after this busy year. We became closer as we gathered at events outside of our projects. As I viewed our new video at the Starlight Ball, and looked at the gorgeous event that **Terri Parker, Jean Canestraro** and their committee put on, I thought how proud I was to be a member. We have grown in so many ways from Mabel Higgins Mattingly's circle of friends all those years ago, but one thing remains abundantly clear – we take our mission to help underserved children very seriously, and we do it with great care and love.

We will officially close our 100th Anniversary celebration with a Mass of Thanksgiving on January 11. Thanks for the vision of our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick. Thanks for Mabel Mattingly bringing that vision to Cleveland. Thanks for 100 years of amazing women who served children in need in and around our great city. Thanks for the faith, hope and love that will guide the next 100 years and beyond. Job well done to all of you who make us what we are. Happy New Year, and happy beginning of our second century!

Janie Nickodem

Reflecting with Father Ralph

The beginning of a new year is always a sign of hope. It is the beginning of a new page or a new chapter in our lives. While we do not know what the year will bring, it is good for us to approach it with anticipation and hope. That is a good reason to approach it with some heartfelt resolutions. My only suggestion is: don't set your sights so high that you can't possibly measure up to them. God knows that we change gradually, and that's a good thing to keep in mind, otherwise we become so discouraged when we don't measure up that we simply give up the effort. Try a simple resolution, like trying to BE a blessing to yourself and to individuals that come into your life as well as situations in which you find yourself during the coming year. Something simple like that can find its expression in many different ways, it can be easy to remember and also easy to return to if you might experience a flop! God doesn't ask us to be perfect, He just begs us to persevere!

Wishing you every blessing throughout this new year,
Fr. Ralph

Centennial Corner



Centennial Year Events



MASS OF THANKSGIVING

We will be celebrating the end of our Centennial Year with a Mass of Thanksgiving, at The Cathedral of St. John, on **Wednesday, January 11, 2017** at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception and light luncheon.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this special liturgy and watch your e-mail, or regular mail for those who do not have e-mail, for additional details.

Please note, the date has been moved ahead one week from the original date of January 18 due to a change in the Bishop's schedule.

Thank you for your support of our Centennial Year and for celebrating with us!

Rose Dziak and Mary Graves

We Are Moving!

Our new address:
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, OH 44102
Phone: 216.939.3859

January 4 will bring part one of the move from Parmadale to our new location. Part two of the move will be the week of January 8. Layette distribution on January 9 will take place as planned at Parmadale.

When visiting our new location, enter the parking lot off Detroit Avenue where you see the sign for St. Augustine Health Campus. The sign will also say St. Augustine Manor, Catholic Charities, Davita and Matt Talbot for Women. As you turn in, you will see the security gate. Tell the guard you are with the Christ Child Society, or if no guard is present, push the button and relay that information to the operator. Enter at the back of the building where it says Davita. When you enter the foyer, the elevator is on your left. Exit the elevator on the third floor and turn left. We hope to have signage in place to make this easier.

Help is needed to get us organized after the move. Please contact **Janie Nickodem** if you would like to be part of the organizing crew!

Winter Business Meeting

Please plan on attending the Winter Business Meeting!
Hear the news, socialize with friends and enjoy refreshments.

Wednesday, February 15 at 12:30
7901 Detroit Ave, Ste 300, Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Provisional Christmas Party

The 2016 provisional class hosted the annual children's Christmas party at Merrick House on December 7. Infants, toddlers and pre-K children enjoyed story time, music, games, face painting, tattoos, and a "decorate your mitten" craft project. We enjoyed the children! Santa (aka Larry Kennedy) and his wife gifted us with a generous donation to the Christ Child Society of Cleveland.

A group selfie was taken by **Lynn McMahon** (shown in the lower right corner) along with fellow provisionals **Mary Jane Miller, Cathie Drumm, Joanne Krysh, Becky McClelland, Rosemarie Mintz, Carol Janas** (Provisional Chair), **Jane Yurichak, Kathy Moehring** and **Anne Mooney**.



Informational Coffee

Members, please invite your interested family and friends to join our Christ Child Chapter. An Informational Coffee is planned for Wednesday, March 15th at 10:30 a.m. Please take time to invite potential members now so that they may join us for the Coffee as well as be ready to experience our Bus Tour on May 1, 2017. Both events help prepare our provisional members for a successful year. Forward the names, street and email addresses of interested parties to **Carol Janas**, Provisional Chair.

Induction into Western Reserve Historical Society

On December 5th, the Christ Child Society of Cleveland was inducted into the 100 Year Club of the Western Reserve Historical Society. Ten members were in attendance as Immediate Past President **Susan Ferraro Smith** and President **Janie Nickodem** accepted the award on behalf of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland. We were one of two non-profits inducted into the Club, the other being the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants-Cleveland. Among inductees was the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences of Case Western Reserve University. Fun fact: our founder, Mabel Higgins Mattingly, was a professor at the School of Applied Social Sciences, so it was a great tie in! The induction was a wonderful cap to an exciting year, and we are thankful for the honor.



Remembrance/Endowment Report

October 11 - December 22, 2016

Memory

Carol Aerni (23)	Ruth Graskemper (32)
James Van Arsdale	Alamieh Hanna (2)
Alice Bolas	Lyn Kelley
Donald Chambers (3)	Bill Malley
Ross DeJohn	Leona Massaro (memorial)
Beth Durkin	Thomas McNamara
Rita Eynon	Margaret Myers (11)
Jeanne Ferreri (2)	Margerete Noeth (9)
Doris Flammang	Joan Pesta (32)
Rudy Geraci	Pert Robins

In Our Thoughts

Angela Antonelli - death of husband (Nick)
 Mary Flammang - death of sister-in-law (Doris)
 Nanette Gerace - death of husband (Rudy)
 Marilyn Hogan - death of husband (Larry)
 Mary Mackert - death of brother (Donald Chambers)
 Adele Malley - death of husband (Bill)
 Kate Myers - death of mother-in-law (Margaret Myers)
 Anne Ryan - death of sister (Lyn Kelley)
 Family of Hermine Cech
 Family of Brenda Garvin
 Family of former member Margaret Myers
 Family of Margarete Noeth
 Family of Evelyn Oswick
 Family of former member Evelyn Ponzi

Honor

Marybeth Baucco - congratulations
 Mark & Mary Mackert - 60th anniversary
 John & Elsa Pavlick - 50th anniversary
 Norm & Iris Pieschalski - 50th anniversary
 Eva Po - thank you
 Ann & Richard Taylor

St. John Cathedral Mass

For Christ Child Members, Living and Deceased and for their families.
 Wednesday, January 25, Noon
 Friday, February 24, Noon
 Friday, March 24, Noon

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

Send Remembrance/Endowment checks to:
 Christ Child Society c/o Parmadale
 6753 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
 Attn: **Abby Sammon**

Donations this report period	\$3,750.00
Previous fiscal year to date	<u>\$8,135.00</u>
Total for fiscal year	\$11,885.00

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

January, February & March 2017

Layette Packing-Parmadale

Jan & Feb. - No Packing, Distribution only

Monday, January 7, 10:00-12:30

Monday, February 5, 10:00-12:30

March at New Location

Monday, March 6, 10:00-12:30

Contact: **Donna Kelly**

Euclid -St. John of the Cross Sewing Group

Note: The day changed to the 3rd Wed.

Wednesday, January 18, 12:30-3:30

Wednesday, February 15, 12:30-3:30

Wednesday, March 15, 12:30-3:30

Contact: **Mary McKown**

Grandmother's Program Merrick House

Note: Volunteers must wear socks.

Contact: **Kathy Yoakum**

Heights-St. Dominic Sewing Group

Tuesday, January 17, 10:00-2:00

Tuesday, February 21, 10:00-2:00

Tuesday, March 21, 10:00-2:00

Contact: **Irene Chalko**

Highland Heights Sewing Group

Note: The day changed to the 1st Thurs.

No sewing January - April.

Will resume in May

Contact: **Patty Welsh**

Independence Sewing Group

January 11 & 12, 10:00-2:00

February 8 & 9, 10:00-2:00

March 8 & 9, 10:00-2:00

Contact: **Laura Cengic**

Merrick House Pre-School Reading Enrichment

Tuesday, January 3, 17, 31, 9:30-11:00

Tuesday, February 7, 21, 9:30-11:00

Tuesday, March 7, 21, 9:30-11:00

Looking for readers on 3/7, 4/4 & 4/18.

Contact: **Kathy Yoakum**

"My Stuff" Packing

January - No Packing

Monday, February 20, 10:00-12:00

Monday, March 20, 10:00-12:00

Contact: **Rose Dziak**

Parmadale Head Start Reading Enrichment

Tuesday, February 4, 9:30-11:00 / 1:30-3:00

Tuesday, February 18, 9:30-11:00 / 1:30-3:00

Contact: **Sue Simon** or **Marlene Suchma**

St. Francis Library

Tues. during the school year 9:30-1:30

Wed. during the school year 9:30-2:30

Contact: **Irene Fitzgerald**

St. Rocco Library

Mondays during the school year 8:45-12:00

Contact: **Paula Conrad**

Showcase

Shifts available on Tuesday-Saturday: 10:00-

2:00 / 10:00-4:00 / 12:00-4:00

Contact: **Joan McAuliffe**

*Contact information can be found in our Chapter roster.

- WE NEED YOU -

Website and Social Media

A great opportunity for members who have computer skills and some experience with Facebook, Google docs/calendar, or basic computer/document editing and updating skills.

- CCS of CLE Facebook Page Manager (Facebook experience)
- CCS of CLE Google Calendar Manager (computer experience)
- CCS of CLE Website Managers (1 -2 members to assist with website management and updates)

Contact **Terri Parker** for details.

When school starts... Libraries open up

St. Francis Library hours are Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please contact **Irene Fitzgerald** for additional information.

St. Rocco Library hours are Mondays from 8:45 a.m. to Noon. We are looking for ladies who would be interested in volunteering one Monday a month. Please contact **Paula Conrad** for additional information.

Parmadale Headstart

Volunteers are needed January-May on the first and third Tuesdays from 9:30-11 and 1:30-3. Please contact Sue Simon with the dates and times you would like to read. Please note as we head into the winter months that the Head Start program follows the snow day closings for the Cleveland schools.

Merrick House - Grandmothers needed

Please consider volunteering in the Grandmother's program and give the little children there your time, care and joy, reflecting Mary Virginia Merrick's example of love for the least of God's little ones. Contact **Kathy Yoakum** to plan your first visit on any day convenient for you and to begin serving as a Grandmother at Merrick House.

The Starlight Ball 2016

The bright and SHINING STARlight Ball was held December 3rd during the Advent season, all COMING together in the name of the CHRIST CHILD in the Hilton's HOPE ballroom, bringing much hope and goodwill to children in need.

The Starlight Ball was fabulous from start to finish; a celebration of a "Century of Service". The new Hilton Cleveland Downtown set the stage for our 65th annual gala event. 467 guests filled the ballroom as we dined and danced the night away. The Silent Auction, the \$5,000 cash raffle and the 100 diamond bracelet raffle donated by Marlen Jewelers escalated the excitement.



We were blessed to be able to honor Bishop Roger Gries as our 2016 Person of the Year. Bishop Roger spoke about the Christ Child Society and the impact on the children in need of our services and his special and longtime relationships with our past and present members.

Betsy Kling was the host and carried us through the night's activities including drawing the much awaited raffle winners' names. The \$5,000 cash winner was **Mary Jane Miller**, a provisional member. Andrew Eilberg of Marlen Jewelers, graciously donated the 100 diamond bracelet in honor of our 100 Years of Service, valued at \$15,000, and presented the bracelet to the elated **Mary Khouri**, also a provisional member.

On behalf of the 2016 Starlight Ball committee we thank you for your support, your help is what made the Starlight Ball a success.

Jean Canestraro and Terri Parker
2016 Starlight Ball Chairs

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







Chapter & Verse

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JANIE NICKODEM President
MARY CAY MCCONNELL President-Elect
STEPHANIE WEST Service VP
LIZ NIEHAUS Organization VP
TERRI PARKER Recording Secretary
LYNNE GERACE Corresponding Secretary
CATHY CARUSO Financial Secretary
ABBY SAMMON Endowment/Remembrance
KATE JOHNS Newsletter Editor
REV. RALPH E. WIATROWSKI Spiritual Advisor

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio 44102

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL:
Please deliver by January 4th

Please direct questions, information & articles to:

Kate Johns,

Christ Child Society c/o Parmadale,
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Christ Child Society of Cleveland is chapter of:
National Christ Child Society, Inc.

6110 Executive Blvd, Suite 504, Rockville, MD 20852
1-301-881-2490 / fax: 301-881-2493
<http://www.nationalchristchildsoc.org>

Fundraising Opportunities

The Christ Child Society has an opportunity to raise additional funding. AmazonSmile can generate a donation from the Amazon Smile Foundation every time you shop!

Amazon Smile

If you shop on Amazon, consider shopping AmazonSmile instead! When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, simply select THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND, and 0.5% of your purchase price will be donated to CCS! For more information, please visit smile.amazon.com. Happy Shopping!

PHOTOS NEEDED...

We will be producing a book of our history culminating with our 2016 year of celebration and we need your help. We are looking for:

- Photos from past Christ Child events or activities. If possible submit the photos in electronic form.
- Photos of our 100th Anniversary events. When you attend any of our 100th Anniversary events, please take photos. Most of us have cameras in our phone. Put them to good use.

Send photos to **Liz Niehaus**. Be sure to include the name and date of the event and the name(s) of anyone in the photos. Photos will be returned.

BYLAWS
THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be Christ Child Society of Cleveland (hereinafter referred to as Society), a constituent chapter of The National Christ Child Society (hereinafter referred to as NCCS).

Article II – Purpose, Policies and Objective

Section 1. Purpose. The Society shall be an organization primarily dedicated to child welfare. Its motive and spirit shall be a love of Christ expressing itself in personal service for children and youth, regardless of race or creed, to honor the childhood of Christ.

Section 2. Policies.

- a) Society shall be a tax-exempt charitable corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and shall be nonprofit, nonsectarian and nonpolitical in all of its policies and activities, and not organized for the private gain of any individual or entity.
- b) Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or by corporation contributions which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).
- c) No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall consist of the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, nor shall Society participate or intervene in any political campaign including publishing or distribution of statements on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.
- d) Society shall conform to all Internal Revenue Service regulations for nonprofit organizations.

Section 3. Objective. The charitable objective of the Society shall be to serve children in need by promoting effective volunteerism through education, service, and leadership development.

- e) Society shall comply with all of the bylaws, policies, procedures, and standards of NCCS.

Article III - Membership

Section 1. Each member of the Society shall also be a member of NCCS.

Section 2. Classification of members.

- a) **Active Members.** Members who pay the designated dues for active membership and perform the required number of hours of volunteer service in work specifically approved by the Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board. They shall have all the privileges of membership, which shall include the right to make motions and to vote; to hold office; and to sponsor provisional members. ~~The status of active membership shall be automatically extended to Past Presidents.~~
- b) **Active Supporting Members.** The ~~active~~ supporting membership category shall be offered after the completion of the provisional year. ~~Active S~~upporting members shall pay annual dues in an amount approximately double that of the annual dues of active members as set by the Society. ~~Active supporting Supporting~~ members shall participate in or financially support one or more of the Society's ~~major fundraisers, ways and means projects.~~ There will be no stated hours requirement. ~~Active s~~upporting members have ~~the right to make motions, vote, and sponsor provisional members voting privileges.~~
- c) **Life Members.** Life membership status is available ~~only to: (1)~~ active life members and sustaining life members who were life members as of June 4, 2008, ~~and: (2) all All~~ past and future Presidents ~~who are granted active~~ life membership status in recognition of their service to the Society. ~~Active life membership status includes all privileges of active membership shall have the right to make motions, vote, hold office, and sponsor provisional members. Sustaining life members shall have the right to make motions, vote, and sponsor provisional members.~~
- d) **Sustaining Members.** Members who have completed five years including their provisional year but are unable to fulfill service requirements for active membership may transfer to sustaining membership. ~~This change shall be made by notifying the membership chairman and by paying the annual dues designated for sustaining members. Such members may subsequently be reinstated as active members by completing the service requirements for the immediately preceding year and by notifying the membership chairman of their intent to resume active membership.~~ Sustaining members shall have ~~the right to make motions, vote, and voice but no vote and may sponsor provisional members.~~
- e) **Silver Sustaining Members.** Members who have completed twenty-five years including the provisional year but are unable to fulfill service requirements for active membership. ~~Silver Sustaining Members shall have the right to make motions, vote, and sponsor provisional members.~~
- f) **Provisional Members.** Candidates for active membership who within their provisional year shall fulfill the requirements established by the Board. They shall have privilege of the floor without the right to make motions or to vote.

Section 3. A member to be considered in good standing shall ~~annually~~ pay the dues ~~and report how they have satisfied the requirements of their assessed to that~~ particular class of membership ~~and report the required number of service hours to the membership chairman.~~

Article IV - Dues and Finance

Section 1. Annual dues shall be paid according to the schedule adopted by the Board and approved by the membership. NCCS dues are ~~paid annually due and payable by January 15.~~

Section 2. The fiscal year shall be from July 1 through June 30.

Article V - Officers

Section 1. In an election year, at the regular winter business meeting, the membership shall elect a President, a President-Elect, a

Service Vice President, an Organization Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Financial Secretary

Section 2. To be eligible for elective office a member must have served on the Board for at least one term, except for the financial secretary, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary who do not need prior Board experience but who must have three years of membership (including the provisional year) and/or the specific qualifications necessary for the job. To be considered for any elective office, a member must be active and in good standing.

Section 3. Elected officers shall assume their duties at the beginning of the fiscal year following the close of the annual meeting and shall serve for a term of two years and/or until their successors are elected.

Section 4. No elected officer shall serve more than one term in the same elected office. A person appointed to fill an unexpired term of more than one year shall be considered to have served a full term. No member shall hold more than one office at a time.

Section 5.

a) A vacancy in any office except that of the President and President-Elect shall be filled by appointment by the President subject to approval of the Board.

b) In the event of a vacancy in the President's office, the President-Elect shall succeed to that office.

1. If the President-Elect fills the President's vacancy for less than one year, she may also be elected President for the subsequent term. (If she chooses not to serve as President for the subsequent term, then the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for all positions, including President.)

2. If the President-Elect fills the President's vacancy for more than one year, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for all positions, including President. The President-Elect who filled the President's vacancy for more than one year shall not be eligible for another term as President.

c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President-Elect, the office shall remain vacant.

d) In the event of a vacancy in the offices of both the President and the President-Elect, the Immediate Past President (or, if she is unable to serve, a Past President elected by the Board) shall serve as interim acting President until the membership elects a new President.

Section 6. Duties of Officers

a) The President shall

1. be chief executive officer;
2. appoint or approve chairmen of committees except the Nominating Committee;
3. appoint a parliamentarian, a historian, and such other appointees as authorized necessary by the Board;
4. sign contracts as required;
5. be an authorized signatory on checks;
6. be president of Showcase;
7. be the statutory agent of the Society;
8. appoint tellers-members to count votes when necessary;
9. if possible, be a delegate to the convention of the NCCS;
10. be, ex officio, a member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee;
11. be the custodian of all records of the Society;
12. provide chairmen with copies of procedures and job descriptions.

b) The President Elect shall

1. preside in the absence or inability of the President to serve;
2. be the elected successor to the office of the President;
3. succeed to the office of the President for the unexpired term in the event of a vacancy in that office;
4. assist the President with major fund-raising efforts, i.e. Red Wagon and Starlight Ball;
5. be an authorized signatory on checks;
6. if possible, be a delegate to the convention of the NCCS;
7. be a member of Showcase and budget committees and be, ex officio, a member of all committees, except Nominating Committee;
8. fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board.

c) The Service Vice President shall

1. preside in the absence or inability of the President-Elect to serve;
2. In conjunction with the President and President-Elect, appoint community service project chairmen; subject to the approval of the President
23. be a member of Showcase and budget committees and, ex officio, a member of all committees serving under the Service Vice President;
34. be an authorized signatory on checks;
45. fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board.

d) The Organization Vice President shall

1. preside in the absence of the Service Vice President or the inability of the Service Vice President to serve;
2. In conjunction with the President and President-Elect, appoint all organization chairmen subject to the approval of the President;
23. be a member of the Showcase and budget committees and, ex officio, a member of all committees serving under the Organization Vice President;
34. be an authorized signatory on checks;
45. fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board.

- e) The Recording Secretary shall
 - 1. ~~be the custodian of all records of the Society;~~
 - 2.1. _____ record the minutes of all meetings of membership and of the Board;
 - 3.2. _____ provide a copy of the minutes for each Board member prior to the next Board meeting;
 - 4. ~~provide chairmen with copies of procedures and job description;~~
 - 5.3. _____ fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board.
- f) The Corresponding Secretary shall
 - 1. conduct the general correspondence of the Society as directed by the President;
 - 2. notify Board members and the spiritual advisor of all meetings not less than ten days before they are to be held;
 - 3. fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board.
- g) The Financial Secretary shall
 - 1. be the custodian or oversee the custodian of all funds, keep the records or oversee the record keeping of all funds, deposit or oversee the deposit of all funds in the name of the Society in an account or accounts authorized by the Board;
 - 2. pay all bills or oversee payment of all bills authorized by the Board;
 - 3. make a financial report at each meeting of the Board and the general business meetings;
 - 4. be chairman of the Budget Committee;
 - 5. be bonded;
 - 6. submit for review/audit all financial records at the end of the fiscal year and at such other times as ordered by the Board to a certified public accountant designated by the Board;
 - 7. fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board.
- h) The Immediate Past President shall
 - 1. ~~serve a two year term on the Board of Trustees for Merrick House~~
 - 2.1. _____ Chair the Nominating Committee;
 - 3.2. _____ fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board.

Article VI - Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations

- a) At the final board meeting of their term, the outgoing Board shall elect a Nominating Committee of five members and one alternate, including the Immediate Past President who will chair the committee.
- b) To be eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee, a member shall have served on the Board or chaired a committee within the preceding three years.
- c) Nominating Committee members shall not be eligible for office.
- d) No member shall serve a consecutive term on the committee.
- e) Names of eligible candidates to serve on the Nominating Committee may be submitted to the Board before the final Board meeting.
- f) Names of the Nominating Committee chairman and members shall be published in *Chapter and Verse*.
- g) ~~Present and former Board m~~Members interested in becoming an officer shall submit a completed application for office nomination form to the Nominating Committee. Information concerning this procedure shall be printed in the *Chapter and Verse*.
- h) The Nominating Committee shall review all completed applications for office, recruit eligible candidates for office positions, nomination forms and conduct interviews as necessary, and present a slate of officers. Their report shall be published in the *Chapter and Verse* in the month prior to the winter business meeting at which officers are to be elected.

Section 2. Elections

- a) The committee shall prepare the ballot for election of officers to be held at the winter meeting of each even-numbered year.
- b) Elections shall be by ballot except that when there is only one candidate for each office election may be by voice.
- c) Eligibility to vote shall be checked by the membership chairman.
- d) A majority shall elect.
- e) In the event of a tie vote, a decision shall be determined by lot.

Article VII - Meetings

Section 1. There shall be a minimum of three business meetings of the general membership each year.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Committee and shall be called upon the written request by fifteen active members to the Recording Secretary. The call for a special meeting must state the business to be transacted, and no business shall be introduced except that for which the special meeting was called.

Section 3. Notice of all meetings, businessregular or special, shall be mailed or electronically transmitted to each member at least ten days before the date set for each meeting.

Section 4. Twenty-five active members of the Society shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The regular meeting in June shall be known as the annual meeting.

Article VIII - Board of Directors

Section 1. The members of the Board shall consist of (a) be seven elected officers, (b) the Immediate Past President, and (c) the appointed directors who shall number no more than twentyeighteen and no fewer than seven.

Section 2. The Board shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Society.

Section 3. The Board shall meet at least six times per year, at a place and time designated by the President.

Section 4. Any meeting of the Board may be conducted by remote communication telephone or other electronic means, by which all

persons participating in the meeting can hear one another, ~~and participation by the Board is necessary for a vote.~~ Participation by any manner shall constitute presence in person at the meeting. Votes can be accepted by electronic means. All Board members should have 24-hour notice.

Section 5. Special meetings may be called by the President or five members of the Board upon 24 hours notice.

Section 6. A majority of the total members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article IX - Executive Committee

Section 1. Members of the Executive Committee shall be the elected officers and the Immediate Past President.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to act between meetings of the Board. Actions of the committee shall be subject to ratification by the Board.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall authorize which standing committee chairmen shall be appointed to serve on the Board.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President.

Article X – Standing Committees

Section 1. The standing committees shall include but not be limited to the following: Membership, The Children’s Closet, Layettes, “My Stuff” Bags, Newsletter, Provisionals, Showcase, Libraries, Reading Enrichment Programs, Development and Public Relations.

Section 2. Standing committees involving administration, fund-raising, and religious activities shall serve under the President.

Section 3. Standing committees involving community service shall serve under the Service Vice President. **Section 4.** Standing committees involving organizations shall serve under the Organization Vice President.

Section 5. Other standing and special committees may be created as authorized by the Board.

Article XI - Showcase

Section 1. The Society shall operate one or more resale shops referred to as Showcase.

Section 2. All business matters relating to Showcase shall be managed by a Steering Committee composed of the President, the President Elect, the two vice presidents, and ~~at~~the Showcase committee.

Section 3. The Steering Committee shall meet no fewer than two times a year.

Section 4. At the end of the fiscal year and at such other times as ordered by the Board, the Showcase account shall be reviewed/audited by a certified public accountant designated by the Board.

Article XII - Delegates

~~In accordance with the bylaws of the NCCS,~~ the Society shall be represented at the biennial convention of the NCCS by the chapter President or an alternate and the President Elect or an alternate. All delegates other than the President and the President Elect shall be elected from the Board by the members of the Board. In the event enough Board members are not available, the delegate(s) shall be elected by the Board from the general membership. Delegates and alternates shall be active members in good standing in the Society.

Article XIII - Spiritual Advisor

The Society shall have a Spiritual Advisor who shall be approved by the Ordinary of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Article XIV – Layette Endowment

Section 1. The Purpose of the Layette Endowment is to maintain an endowment fund to ensure that a Layette Program will be perpetuated by the Society. A Layette Program provides clothing and other items to underprivileged newborns.

Section 2. Donations that are designated for the Layette Endowment will be held specifically for that purpose. All donations received, together with the income, herein referred to as the “Layette Endowment,” shall be held, managed, administered, and used pursuant to this Article XIV.

Section 3. The Society may accept donations for the Layette Endowment which restrict their uses and purposes, provided such restrictions are within the uses and purposes set forth in Section 1. Restricted donations may limit the time, manner, amount, or other terms of distribution, subject to the rights and powers of the Board. Such restricted donations shall be segregated on the books of the Layette Endowment but may be co-mingled with other assets of the Society for investment purposes. Donations shall only be considered restricted if delivered to the Society accompanied by a writing signed by the donor setting forth such restrictions.

Section 4. Consistent with its purpose, the Board shall have discretion with regard to annual distributions; provided, however, that no more than 5% (five percent) of the average of the past three years of the Layette Endowment’s market value as determined on June 30th of each year may be distributed in any year.

Section 5. The Board shall keep accurate and detailed records of its administration of the Layette Endowment.

Section 6. The Board shall prepare an annual report of the activities of the Layette Endowment, which shall be available to members of the Society upon request.

Section 7. The Layette Endowment, as set forth in this Article XIV, may be amended from time to time in accordance with the terms of Article XIX; provided, however, no such amendment shall alter the purpose of the Layette Endowment, specifically, to perpetuate a Layette Program by the Society.

Article XV - Indemnification

Section 1. The Society shall may indemnify any present or former trustee, director, officer, employee, agent/member, or volunteer of the Society from any threatened, pending or completed suit or proceedings to the full extent as permitted under Section 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code and/or under any insurance or similar protection purchased pursuant to Section 2 below.

Section 2. The Society shall may purchase and maintain insurance or furnish similar protection for or on behalf of any present or former trustee, director, officer, employee, agent/member, or volunteer to the full extent as permitted under Section 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3. Persons seeking indemnification hereunder shall follow such prescribed procedures as the Board of the Society may require to the full extent as permitted under Section 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Article XVI - Emblem

Section 1. ~~The Society's emblem is the emblem of NCCS. The emblem of NCCS, which is the image of the Christ Child encircled by the words 'Christ Child Society-LaborareestOrare', shall be required by the Society for use on official documents, stationery, membership cards, promotional material, and other items authorized by NCCS.~~

Section 2. The emblem of NCCS is a registered trademark and shall not be altered for any reason. When used, the NCCS emblem will appear with the registered trademark symbol. The Society will use all trademarks in compliance with the NCCS Operating Manual and Guidelines.

Article XVII - Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, the dissolution shall be conducted in accordance with the statutes of the Ohio Revised Code and Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and, after payment of all liabilities all assets shall be distributed to the NCCS. The Board shall act as trustees for winding up the affairs of the Society. Upon dissolution the charter shall be returned to NCCS.

Article XVIII - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

Article XIX - Amendment

Except as otherwise provided by Article XIV, these bylaws may be amended at any business meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that a quorum is present and provided further that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the Board at least thirty days and to the general membership at least fifteen days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

Revised January 23, 1991	Amended May 24, 2006
Amended January 26, 1994	Amended June 4, 2008
Amended January 29, 1997	Amended August 6, 2008
Amended February 14, 1998	Amended June 8, 2011
Amended May 12, 1999	Amended June 5, 2013
Amended May 24, 2000	<u>Amended</u>
Amended June 9, 2004	

Christ Child Society of Cleveland Standing Rules

1. There shall be a handbook each year that shall include bylaws, membership roster, and other pertinent information.
2. There shall be no fewer than four chapter newsletters annually.
3. There shall be monthly Masses at St. John's Cathedral for living and deceased members of the chapter and their families.
4. There shall be an annual Mass for reception of new members.
5. There shall be an annual Day of Reflection/Recollection.
6. All contributions made to Remembrance shall be transferred to the Layette Endowment unless otherwise specified by the donor.
7. The incoming officers and appointed board members shall be installed at the annual meeting by the Spiritual Advisor or his delegate.
8. The officers and such other persons as authorized by the board shall be bonded.
9. There shall be a Budget Committee composed of the incoming and outgoing President, President Elect, Service Vice President, Organization Vice President, and Financial Secretary; in alternate years, only persons currently holding these offices shall serve on this committee.
10. The Budget Committee shall submit a proposed budget to be voted upon at the first board meeting of the fiscal year.
11. The President and the Showcase chairman shall be responsible for the employment contract of the store manager.
12. There shall be a Starlight Ball Committee and a Red Wagon Luncheon Committee.
13. Each officer and chairman shall submit three copies of a written annual report to the Recording Secretary. An electronic version of an annual report is acceptable.
14. All Christ Child records, five years or older, shall be transferred to the Western Reserve Historical Society by the Historian.
15. Upon completion of their term of office, all officers and committee chairmen shall transfer all of the Society's records and documents in their possession to their respective successor.
16. In lieu of a gift, Presidents who completed their term after 1990 shall have Active Life membership conferred upon them.
17. The procedure for membership: (1) The applicant shall be sponsored by an active or sustaining member. (2) The applicant shall submit a completed application form along with the provisional membership dues.
18. Dues and finances: (1) The annual dues shall be as follows: active members, \$60.00; sustaining members, \$85.00; silver sustaining members, \$60.00; **active**-supporting members, \$120.00; provisional members, as determined annually by the board. Reinstating members shall pay their classification as listed above.
19. Society will maintain a presence at Merrick House.

Amended and Approved: April 17, 2013

RATIONALE BEHIND PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES – December 12, 2016

ARTICLE II

The changes to this Article were made in order to be consistent with and comply with the requirements of National's bylaws.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2 (a): The last sentence is being deleted because it is redundant: active membership status is conveyed to Past Presidents in Section 2(c).

SECTION 2(b):

- Change “ways and means projects” to “major fundraisers.” This change was made for clarity purposes only.
- Section 2(a) says that active members have the following privileges of membership: the right to make a motion, vote, hold office, and sponsor provisional members. The bylaws committee suggests that only active members and active life members be eligible to hold office – but that all members (except provisionals) can make a motion, vote, and sponsor provisional members. Consequently, we are suggesting the changes noted in Section 2 at the end of subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e).
- It is suggested that the word “active” be deleted from Section 2(b) because “active” membership brings with it the right to hold office, a right that supporting members do not have.

SECTION 2(c): There are only two categories of people who have life membership status: those who were life members as of June 4, 2008 (because when this category was limited in 2008, we did not want to deny this status to those who already had it) – and all past presidents - so the changes are ones of clarification. Similarly, “active life membership” is referred to in the first and last sentence – so for consistency, the word “active” was also added to the second sentence.

SECTION 2(d): The second and third sentences (which the bylaws committee suggests be deleted) refer to the procedures for changing membership status. These changes are made when members complete the annual membership form – so they are unnecessary in the bylaws.

SECTION 3: The changes to this section were made to be clear that the dues must be paid annually – and to adjust to the fact that some categories of membership do not have an hours requirement.

ARTICLE IV – DUES AND FINANCE

SECTION 1: In an effort to avoid having to change the bylaws in the event there is a payment due date change, the bylaws committee thought it best to simply require the annual payment of dues to National.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

SECTION 2: Currently, to be an officer, the person must have served at least one term on the Board. The bylaws committee is suggesting that that requirement not be necessary for the offices of Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. It is recommended, however, that the candidate for these positions have been a member for three years (including the provisional year) and/or have the specific qualifications necessary for the job. So, for example, if a member who is an accountant has been a member for less than three years and has had no board experience, she could still be eligible to be the financial secretary because she has the requisite skills.

While it seems to have been implied that an officer must be an active member in good standing, it was not written in the bylaws so the committee suggests that it be added as the last sentence.

SECTION 3: Although the gavel is passed to the new president at the annual meeting/luncheon, all new two-year positions begin at the new fiscal year – July 1st.

“And/or” rather than “or” allows for the possibility of serving until the successor is elected – whether it is more than two years or less than two years. That “and/or” language also mirrors the language of National.

SECTION 5: Regarding a vacancy in office, the current bylaws are contradictory. For example, they say that the president – subject to the approval of the Board – makes an appointment to fill the vacancy, but they also say that some of the offices “move up” to fill the vacancy. The bylaws committee suggests the following:

- No “moving up” occur – first of all, because it causes disruption – and secondly, because in some instances (moving up to President Elect, for example), it would place a member in a job which she did not necessarily agree to take on.
- A vacancy in any office other than the President or President Elect be filled by President’s appointment and Board approval.
- If there is a vacancy in the office of the President, the President Elect steps in. If she fills that vacancy for less than one year, she may also be elected as President for the subsequent term. If she fills the vacancy for more than one year, she is not eligible to be President for the subsequent term.
- If there is a vacancy in the office of President Elect, the office shall remain vacant. (This is the same position we were in prior to creating the office of President Elect.)
- In the unlikely event that the offices of President and President Elect are both vacant, the Immediate Past President (or, if she is unable to serve, a Past President elected by the Board) shall serve until a new President is elected.

SECTION 6(a)8: Several people did not know what the term “teller” meant. The change is meant to clarify.

SECTION 6(a)11 and 12: Since the President signs and holds all contracts, and since the President needs to know where all Society’s documents are, it is suggested that the responsibility of being the custodian of all Society’s records be moved from the Secretary to the President. The same is true for number 12.

SECTIONS 6(c) and (d): If a vacancy in the office of the President-Elect is to remain vacant, and if the President appoints a replacement to fill a vacancy in the positions of Service or Organization Vice President, then the moving up/replacement language is unnecessary. That is the reason for the deletion of number 1 in each of those sections. The change in section 2 results from a desire to have the Vice President, President-Elect, and President all have input as to the appointment of chairmen.

SECTION 6 (e)(1) and (4): As noted above, these responsibilities were given to the President.

SECTION 6(g)2: In subsection 1, for example, we give the financial secretary the responsibility of depositing funds – or overseeing the deposit of funds (because the office manager may actually do it). The proposed change in subsection 2 is an attempt to be consistent; the office manager usually pays the bills.

SECTION 6(h): See the addition to the Standing Rules – and the comment therein.

ARTICLE VI – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1(a): The nominating committee is to consist of five members. The bylaws committee thought it prudent to elect an alternate in the event one is needed.

SECTION 1(g): If some officer positions do not have the requirement of Board experience, then the suggested change is necessary.

SECTION 1(h): The forms to be completed are applications for office rather than nomination forms. Additionally, the nominating committee may recruit members - and it also has the responsibility of reviewing all the application forms and presenting a slate of officers to the membership. The proposed changes reflect these responsibilities.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

SECTION 3: Section 1 refers to business meetings; section 2 refers to special meetings. Nowhere is there a reference to “regular” meetings – so the change in Section 3 is an attempt to be consistent.

SECTION VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: The (a), (b), (c) listing is an attempt to be more clear. Changing 18 to 20 allows the Board to be larger (by two additional people) if it should be beneficial to add two additional seats.

SECTIONS 4 and 5: The words “remote communication” are used in National’s bylaws and are a bit more encompassing than our current language so we thought it best to make the change. Additionally, Section 4 is about electronic presence at meetings – so the committee saw no purpose for the 24 hour requirement in that section. The 24 hour requirement was moved to Section 5 – special meetings. And the language about voting was an attempt to make it more clear that anyone who participates at the meeting through remote communication (when all can hear one another) can vote.

ARTICLE XI – SHOWCASE

SECTION 2: “The” Showcase committee implies one is in place. “A” Showcase committee provides flexibility in putting one in place.

ARTICLE XII – DELEGATES

Our National Convention delegates are not authorized through the National bylaws. Additionally, the committee thought that if no Board members are able to participate as delegates, one or more delegates should be elected from the general membership. It was also thought that delegates should be active members in good standing.

ARTICLE XV – INDEMNIFICATION

We do carry directors and officers insurance – but thought the Society should be required to purchase it - and required to indemnify to the extent permitted by law and to the extent permitted pursuant to the terms of the insurance. Since the word “agent” is not used in our policy, we changed the word to “member” to be consistent with the policy language.

ARTICLE XVI – EMBLEM

Our emblem is the emblem of the National Christ Child Society. If their emblem changes, so does ours. The remaining changes incorporate National’s language.

STANDING RULES

Currently, our bylaws state that the Immediate Past President shall serve a two-year term on the Merrick House Board. Merrick House bylaws provide that our President will serve on the Board (although, certainly, their bylaws cannot bind us). The bylaws committee proposes that the language provide as much flexibility as possible – so the suggestion is that we maintain a presence at Merrick House – and that that fact be placed in the standing rules rather than the bylaws.