



January 2015 NEWSLETTER

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

SERVANT OF GOD MARY VIRGINIA MERRICK

Mary Virginia Merrick, was born to a prominent family in DC in 1866. At an early age, Mary thought of others and hoped to become a Sister of Charity and “take care of all the little children who had no one to take care of them.” An accident in her teens changed her plans. She fell from the window seat of her tree house, damaging her spine and confining her to a life of pain and partial paralysis. She spent the next 75 years propped up in bed or in a reclining chair. This severe disability did not stop her from the second part of her plan: taking care of the ‘little ones.’ In 1884, learning of a mother who had no clothing for her expected child, Mary gathered a group of friends who sewed and made some clothing for the newborn. This was the beginning of a program that spread nationwide. In 1887, the group became The Christ Child Society and other programs were established as needs became apparent. A request for a red wagon by a young boy in a letter to the Christ Child was the beginning of a tradition of Christmas gifts to families who otherwise would have nothing. The Merrick Boys Club was established in the Capitol Hill area, with prominent businessmen as directors. A home for sick children and residential care facilities for emotionally disturbed youngsters became part of the Society’s work. Undaunted by her physical disabilities, her motto was “to see a need and fill it” and this she did with courage and persistence. Miss Merrick continued as president of the Society until 1948 when increasingly poor health forced her to retire. She remained involved until her death. She regularly attended Mass at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Mary Virginia Merrick died on January 10, 1955. In 2003, Mary Virginia Merrick was declared a Servant of God.

DEAR CHALLENGE CLUB LEADERS,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you and your families had a wonderful Christmas break. Part of the newsletter focuses on Challenge Summer Camps which may be hard to think about right now in the deep of winter, but many families start to plan their summer vacations around this time. Camp is a life changing experience and a Catholic Camp can be a deep and transforming experience for the girls to grow in their faith while having a fun time. We have 18 camp locations across the US and Canada in Summer 2015. Hopefully some of the girls in your clubs can attend one. Thank you for all you do for the girls in your club!

Nadine McMillan
Challenge National Director

YOU CAT # OF THE MONTH:

#31: WHAT ARE THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity

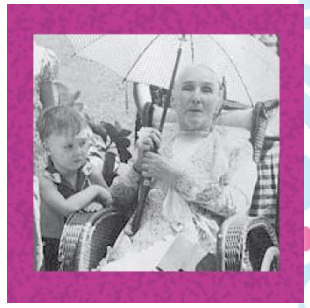
VIRTUE OF THE MONTH:

Kindness

Kindness is being gentle, thoughtful, helpful, and forgiving at times when it would be so easy to be angry. Christians should be kind. Mark Twain wrote : “ Kindness is the virtue that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

“I CANNOT IMAGINE A CHRISTIAN WHO DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO SMILE. MAY WE JOYFULLY WITNESS TO OUR FAITH.”
- Pope Francis

“MISS MARY MERRICK'S LONG LIFE WAS AN INSPIRING EXPRESSION OF THE POWER AND BEAUTY OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY. SHE SAW THE IMAGE OF THE INFANT SAVIOR IN EVERY POOR CHILD.”
- CARDINAL PATRICK A. O'BOYLE



JANUARY FAQs

ANSWERS TO A FEW QUESTIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM CLUB LEADERS THIS MONTH

1- ARE YOU GOING TO BE GETTING A NEW CHALLENGE WEBSITE ANYTIME SOON? Yes, we are working on a new Challenge website which will be hopefully ready in the next few months. Thanks for the generosity of donors we have been able to build a new website which will be easier to use on tablets and phones. If you want to help – please send us stories and pictures from your club projects and activities for the blog. You can send these to info@challengeclubs.com

2- WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU PLANNING ON MAKING TO THE CHALLENGE MATERIALS FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR? We have started working on the new materials for the 2015-16 school year. Our curriculum will be updated and improved as we do each year. The team leader guidebooks will have new content and new service projects. As always our member kits will have a new look and feel with new content in the calendar and prayer book. Our club leader kits will also have some major changes with a new book series as well as new promo items. Feedback is always welcome and we are confident these improvements will help you and your Challenge groups.

3- WILL THERE BE NEW ONLINE TRAINING VIDEOS COMING OUT THIS YEAR? Yes and no. Due to time limitations, we have decided to focus our attention on making sure we have new updated videos available in the summer for the upcoming school year. The existing training series has 10 videos that are relevant and applicable for training. We will be updating these videos and adding new modules to the series.

4- WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT EACH OF THE LOCAL CAMPS? You can visit our Challenge Camp Headquarters on the Challenge website where you can find the latest information about each camp, download their camp flyers and visit their local camp websites. www.challengeclubs.com/girls/events

OF CATHOLIC INTEREST

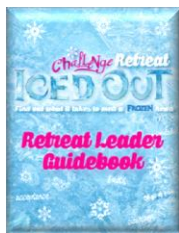
9 DAYS FOR LIFE JAN 17-25TH, 2015



Join thousands of Catholics across the country coming together in prayer for a "culture of life". There are a number of ideas and resources to organize prolific activities locally. There are also apps and social media outlets with daily updates. This is a great way for the girls in the club to really support and pray for life. [Check it out here.](#)

FEATURED RESOURCE: CHALLENGE RETREAT LEADER GUIDES

Our latest Challenge Retreat series is called ICED OUT. It is based off the movie FROZEN and the story of the Snow Queen, helping the girls to learn the valuable lessons of faith, courage, friendship and what it takes to melt a frozen heart! This series includes the 140 page Retreat Leader Guidebook and CD with all of the activities and handouts needed to pull off a great retreat. Check out the retreat store [here.](#)



CLUB LEADER *Monthly* Poll

Each month we will ask one question to all the club leaders and present the results of the poll the following month. It is anonymous and only one question!

DECEMBER POLL RESULTS: WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN SEEING PURE FASHION AS AN ADD ON TO YOUR CHALLENGE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?

90%

SAID **YES** THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE OPTION OF ADDING PURE FASHION PACKAGES & RESOURCES TO THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

JANUARY POLL: WHICH TAGLINE OR MOTTO DO YOU PREFER FOR CHALLENGE?

- 1) CHALLENGE YOURSELF, OTHERS & THE WORLD!
- 2) FRIENDSHIP, FAITH & SERVICE
- 3) FORGED IN VIRTUE, CALLED TO SERVE

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9RXCKP2>



CHALLENGE SUMMER CAMP INSPIRE




**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE
18 Challenge Camps
THIS SUMMER ACROSS THE
US & CANADA!**

The 2015 Challenge Summer Camp theme is INSPIRE. Every day we will try to help the campers find their inspiration and be an inspiration! At camp they will have the opportunity to participate in activities to strengthen their bonds of friendship! They will enjoy prayer and spiritual growth through participation in Mass and Confession. Sports, games, workshops, team dynamics, exciting night activities, swimming and fun in the sun, are typical Challenge camp activities. To find out what activities are offered at specific camps, visit the local camp websites or download the local camp flyer.

visit our Camp Headquarters

To download camp flyers, registration forms and visit specific camp websites.

www.challengeclubs.com/girls/events

18 Camps Across the US & Canada

Michigan
Michigan Challenge Inspire Camp
Queen of Family – Oxford, MI
June 24th - 30th, 2015
Contact: Yvonne Fontaine
yfontaine@regnumchristi.net
www.queenofthefamily.org

North Carolina
He Knows My Name Camp
Hobbs Farm – Milton, NC
Session 1: June 22nd - 28th, 2015
Session 2: July 6th - 12th, 2015
Contact: Dominique Shaban
dshaban@qaloo.ca
*Affiliated camp with specific theme.

Ontario
Camp Camino
Laxar, Ontario, Canada
August 1st - 7th, 2015
Contact: Heidi Krol
michaelkrol@explorac.com
*Affiliated camp with specific theme.

Wisconsin
Chicagoland Challenge Camp
Sky Lodge – Montello, WI
July 5th - 10th, 2015
Contact: Saira Herboth
ecy@chicagoland@gmail.com
www.rccchicago.org

Texas
Challenge Dallas Camp
Briarwood Center, Argyle, TX
June 14th - 20th, 2015
Contact: Veronique Chevrier
vchevrier@missionnetwork.com
www.thechallenge.org

Livingston, TX
Challenge Houston Inspire Camp
Camp Cho Yeh
June 28th - July 4th, 2015
Contact: Carrie Fran
CarrieFran@gmail.com

Washington DC
Pure Fashion Camp DC
Dates TBD
Contact: Elsa Hoffman
ehoffman@purefashion.us
*Affiliated camp with specific theme.

ORDERING MATERIALS & SHIPPING TIMES

At this time of the year, we tend to get low in stock and we have sold out of most t-shirt sizes. If you need to place a large order of an out of stock size, please contact customer service. When you place an order, please expect 48 hour processing time and 3-5 days shipping depending on how far you live from PA. We are now shipping with FedEx and USPS.

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

National Director: Nadine McMillan nmcmillan@missionnetwork.com

Customer Support: Anna Kulway customerservice@missionnetwork.com

 **1-855-556 6872**



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