



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
OF MONTEREY BAY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

Service To Children, For Love of The Christ Child



Hello Anne,

“Love in the heart of a child for Christ...was the inspiration which gave birth to Christ Child Society” Mary Virginia Merrick,
Servant of God and Christ Child Society Founder

Exciting news on the literacy front. Of significant note, we are now in the Martin Luther King preschool in Salinas! To open a child’s eyes and help them begin to build their own library is a gift from God--read below to learn more . . . And many **thanks again to all the volunteers** who also helped with the reading and the Craft - O-Rama, to make this possible.

Our **"Miracle Mindset"** event this past month brought us to the beautiful historic Hacienda at Santa Catalina School, where we reconnected and celebrated friendships, made new ones, all while consuming delicious food and wine. We had 62 in attendance, who were inspired by our keynote speaker and Christ Child member, Joan Hill. Thank you, Joan, for helping us to recognize the miracles in our lives and to examine things from a different perspective. Wonderful raffle prizes were also handed out and the proceeds will go to supporting our mission in the community. A big thank you again to our event chair Anne Kelley, Gretchen Mueller Burke, Santa Catalina School and board members and volunteers in making this a successful event.

Moving forward to our next event, Shower of Love is right around the corner on November 4th. We ask that you think of friends and family you can invite, to share in this day of giving. Who might want to donate some diapers, a onesie or a book? Who might want to join in our mission as a member, serving the little children in our community? All help is appreciated, including treats and baked goods on the day of the event. If you would like to help make this year's Shower of Love a success, please **CONTACT US**; there are lots of small tasks that will really make a difference . . .

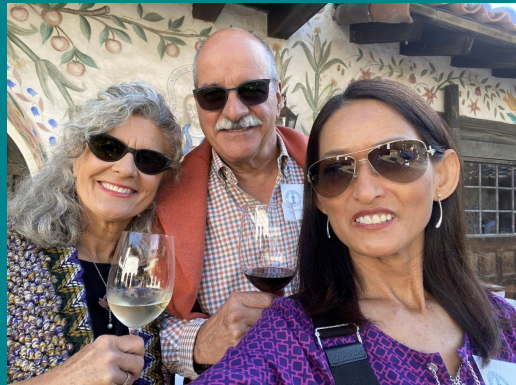
Finally, Anne Kelley and Kathy Gibbs represented our chapter at the **National Christ Child Conference** last weekend in Potomac, MD. Read their report below about what they experienced and learned . . .

With so much going on, and with Shower of Love just a month away, we have much to do and much to celebrate. Thanks again for your work, energy and prayers.

With gratitude,

Sarah Hills, President











SAVE THE DATE



Shower of Love



We hope you'll join us on

Saturday, November 4th
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Carmel Mission | MacMahon Center
3080 Rio Road, Carmel

for a baby shower to benefit local under-resourced infants served by the Christ Child Society of Monterey Bay. Get more info:

www.christchildmontereybay.org/event-details/Shower-of-Love



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Preschool Literacy: Back in the Classroom



It is so great, loaded up with our books and crafts, to get back into the classroom both in Pacific Grove and at the MLK Academy in Salinas, where Kathy Gibbs and I delivered the lesson for the first time to 3 preschool classrooms in Salinas. The teachers had already told the children we were coming to read a book, do a fun art project and give them a book to take home. As soon as we walked in, they wanted to hug us and thank us for coming. One little girl drew a “Welcome” card just for us. The classrooms were mainly bilingual since Spanish is their primary language. There were also special needs children that the teachers and aides lovingly helped. The students enjoyed the *Seals on the Bus* book with all of the animal sounds that accompanied it. The craft project consisted of animals to color and then glue

onto a bus they had decorated. When they saw their own books, they were thrilled! All of the teachers were so appreciative and asked us to come back whenever we could. Both Kathy and I felt that this was what Mary Virginia Merrick was envisioning when she spoke of “Nothing is ever too much to do for a child.”

Anne Huston, Literacy Chair



National Christ Child Society Conference September
28-30, Potomac, MD

It began with
one simple...



Layette



Literacy



Crafts



Camps



Library



Sewing



Pen Pals



Bereavement



Rocking



Hugs



Wings



Scholarships



Empowerment



Treasure



Gifts



Eyeglasses



Clothes



Coats



Uniforms



Shoes



Hygiene



Backpacks



Theater



Bags



1st Communion



Easter



Nutrition



Garden



Tutoring



Beds



Christmas



Crib Club



Store



Blankets



Car Seats



Knitting

This year's NCCS Convention in Potomac, Maryland was themed "**Share the Vision, Shape the Future**". Kathy Gibbs and Anne Kelley attended on our chapter's behalf. As usual, it was a great opportunity to meet with members of other chapters and exchange ideas on how to enhance our impact, develop leadership and raise

funds to support our activities.

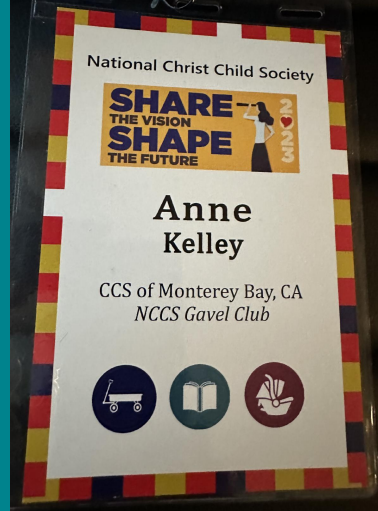
On the first day, a communications expert conducted a workshop on how to tell our stories effectively and how to make sure they are focused on the people we want them to hear. In addition, there was a speed-dating type cycle through which all attendees circulated to hear short presentations on novel and effective chapter fundraising strategies.

On day two, at the Annual Business Meeting, NCCS changed its bylaws and enacted a budget to allow for an annual dues assessment of \$40 per member from every chapter, among other smaller changes. At a panel regarding innovative chapter programs, NCCS' Program Chair made a point of highlighting the many different things our chapters do across the country, based upon local needs, as demonstrated in the above graphic and on each chapter's nametags. In addition, in her new role as Co-Chair of the Mary Virginia Merrick Canonization Advisory Board for Financial Developmental Efforts, Anne provided an update to the attendees of the status of the Cause for Canonization. Finally, Heidi Johnson, a non-profit leadership expert and a member of the Pasadena chapter gave a keynote highlighting that what calls us to action also calls us to leadership, and made the point that leadership can take many forms in many different persons--and that changes in leadership are one of the most important ways to keep focused on the future, based upon each leader's unique vision.

The Conference closed with a lovely Mass said by Monsignor Ronny Jenkins, Dean of Canon Law at Catholic University and Spiritual Advisor to NCCS. Monsignor Jenkins, who was the first Postulator for our founder's Cause for Canonization, connected the gospels to Mary Virginia Merrick's life and spirituality.

"I greatly enjoyed this year's conference! I got so many wonderful ideas and I encourage anyone who has not come to try to attend next year," said Kathy. "I enjoyed being with many other members who want to do great things for children. I enjoyed hearing about new ideas from other chapters. This is my second conference as I attended in 2019 and I look forward to going again in the future."

"I found this to be a very good Conference in terms of the programming, especially the keynote by Heidi Johnson which really reinforced the importance of our recent leadership changes", said Anne. "And it was fun to go through the fundraising "speed dating" with Kathy and connect real-time about which ideas might work for us in the future here in the Monterey Bay."



Y

Volunteering and Social Opportunities

Yarns & Stitches October 4 and 18 10:30-noon

As usual, we meet in St. Angela's Small Hall in Pacific Grove.

Contact Joan with any questions



Pack or Deliver Baby Bundles

We pack and deliver bundles at the end of the month.

To help, contact
Rita



Walking Group

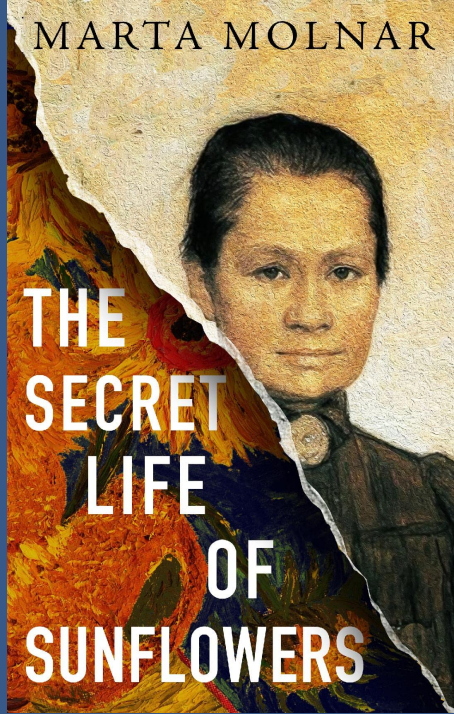
Saturday, October 21
10:00 a.m.

This we'll meet at Nanci Hubby's place at the Carmel Valley Ranch and walk the Ranch. RSVP below to receive parking instructions. Make sure to bring your water . . .



Let Nanci know you're coming

No Book Club Meeting in October,
2 Books to Read for Our November Meeting



Take some time this month to read two interesting books, and **save the date** of **November 15** for a Book Club dinner at our usual time of 6 p.m. at the **Mission Ranch** in Carmel to discuss them both . . .

**RSVP to
Linda**

Anne Kelley



October 7

Mary Cary Coughlan

October 19



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