



THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

August 2019

308 South Scott Street, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, In 46624 (574) 288-6028 (e-mail) info@christchildsb.org

Mission Statement

The South Bend Chapter of The Christ Child Society is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the personal service and clothing of all needy children and infants in the love and spirit of the Christ Child.

Calendar

August

7 Clothing Center
Opening Day 8:30 AM
14,21,28 Center Open
for clients 8:30 AM
20 TUESDAY Center Open
for Clients - 5-7 PM
19 Board Meeting
St. Pat's Bethany Room 10:00 AM
25 In Memoriam Mass
Little Flower 9:30 AM
25 SUNDAY Clothing Center
open for clients 1-3 PM

SEPTEMBER

4,11,18,25 Center Open
for Clients 9 AM - Noon
10....Deadline for October newsletter
16 Board Meeting
St. Pat's Bethany Room 10:00 AM
17 TUESDAY Clothing Center
open for clients - 5-7 PM
22 SUNDAY Clothing Center
open for clients 1-3 PM
25 In Memoriam Mass
Little Flower 8:30 AM
27-28 NCCS CONVENTION
WASHINGTON D.C.

SAVE THE DATE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019
SEPTEMBER 27th - 28th

The NCCS Board is excited
to announce the theme:
Energize...Inspire...Advance!

'Read to Me - Inspire Me to Learn'

Each year in October all Christ Child Society chapters across the country join together for "National Day of Service." October 21-27 are the dates chosen for 2019. In previous years our members have purchased books for school libraries and brought them to the Center to be given to a particular school. Last year our donated books were given to Our Lady of Hungary grade school; the previous year it was our SUCCESS school St. Adalbert.

The theme for this year is "Read to Me - Inspire Me to Learn." Our chapter will distribute educational support packets containing workbooks and other educational items for families coming to the Center. Research tells us that early exposure to math and reading skills, academic vocabulary and thinking skills help pave the way for a more successful educational experience and productive life.

We invite you to partner with us as we continue to challenge poverty, one child at a time. Please consider contributing new items from the following list:

- simple workbooks- math, reading, thinking skills, etc grades pre-K to 6.
- flash cards or simple learning games - perhaps something you enjoy with your grandchildren
- box of 24 Crayola brand crayons – Back-to-School sales are upon us!
- #2 pencils
- a simple non-fiction book

Along with the Dolly Parton book program, the learning packets will be an additional way to promote necessary skills in a fun way. Items can be dropped off at the Center labeled "National Day of Service" or we can pick them up. If you have questions or want to help in any way, please contact Judy Kuzmich, 272-5739 or jkuzmich@sbcglobal.net.

And the Derby Day winners are



..... Susan Donahue, Pat Falvey, Mary Beth McGrath, Mary Thallemer, Jane Reed and Marcia Auger (missing - Bonnie Grimslid)

Data Updates

- Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/ChristChildSB
- Follow us on Twitter: @ChristChildSB
- Check us out online: www.christchildsb.org

On the Horizon

**Patricia Falvey
Co-President**

In life the only constant is change. The 2019-2020 Christ Child year will see many changes. We've got new board members – Mary Ann Chandler, Susan Coulter, Ruth Nieboer, Betsie Pendarvis and Susan Wendowski. Mary Ann has already signed on as co-chair of coats. Susan Coulter is a tri-chair of client referral and co-chair of Let Love Shine, Ruth Nieboer is our new Recording Secretary, Betsie Pendarvis is new VP of Clothing and Susan Wendowski is chair of Layettes of Hope and Speaker Coordinator. We also have a new treasurer Elizabeth Van Doren and Assistant Treasurer Linda Botich.

The Strategic Planning Committee will take on several projects. One of the first will be conducting a client survey. What we hope to determine is if we are serving clients as best we can in terms of children's clothing, services and our open hours.

Strategic Planning also recognized our membership is not growing as needed with younger, active members; this limits what we can do and threatens the future of our organization. Involved, well informed and satisfied members strengthen our ability to carry out our mission. A process to ensure that new members are integrated into the life of the organization and mentored through their first year will begin informally now with our newest members. The more formal process of instituting a "Hospitality Team" will follow.

Of major importance is our Center. The lease for our current Center at 308 S. Scott Street expires in June

2020. We need to determine whether we should renew our lease or move. And if we move, where should we move to? Within the past year we've had two leaks in the building. One occurred in the winter when the Center was closed. Fortunately some of our volunteers came to the Center to work on inventory and stocking. By that time, coats and shoes were damaged with moisture and mildew. Insurance covered the replacement costs. In July a pipe in the wall near the new clothing room disintegrated and caused damage to some of the wooden shelves. Also, we've recently seen some leaks coming from the air conditioning units. The age of our facility suggests that these types of issues will persist. And so we need to determine next steps. Shall we renew our lease? Shall we look to move to another location? Shall we lease, purchase build?

Our Center is a major concern. We need to determine our next course of action very soon. It is imperative that we learn about what our options are. And so, this fall we will hold a 'town hall' meeting to hear from real estate, architectural and financial experts on what our next steps might be. In the next few weeks we'll announce dates and times of a general membership meeting which feature presentations and/or panel discussions of our options.

This will be a very ambitious year for the organization. Please be prepared to share your thoughts and feelings on what lies ahead. As always, I appreciate your input and wisdom.

Memories

It seems like it was just yesterday that I entered the Christ Child Center on Thomas Street. I was a little nervous because it was my first day as a volunteer. I had heard about Christ Child through a colleague and was excited about belonging to an organization that devoted their energy towards providing for children in need. I was not disappointed, I met many wonderful women who also had a love and desire to help families who were in need without the means to provide for their children especially with proper clothing.

During the spring of 1989 I was asked to take over as Principal at Saint Joseph Grade School in South Bend. My love for children was embedded in a desire to provide a solid curriculum and foster a desire to guide and support children in their faith. Missing my volunteer time at Christ Child I thought for a long time about how I could bring that joy to all of our students but especially the junior high. As a staff we researched agencies that served the community who could provide opportunities for our students to have a hands-on experience. Thus, around 1994, our junior high students began volunteering

**Suzanne Wiwi
Co-President**

on Wednesday mornings at the Christ Child Center and continue to do so in 2019. I often tell those who ask about the students working at the Center that I remember the very first day a group worked at the Center. They came back with exclamations over what the families at the Center were given and how shocked they were that children had a need for so many things they took for granted. This discussion led to many discussions about how we can enrich our faith in discovering how we can give of our talents to others in prayer, action, and deed.

Fast-forward to the fall of 2018 and the beginning of my third year in retirement. It was time for me to experience once again what I have always loved about Christ Child, the giving of myself in word, action, and treasure to families that need our help in so many ways. Thank you "Christ Child" and all of those I have worked with this year for bringing me home to a place that our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, spent her life promoting "Let not a day pass without having learned something, without having overcome yourself in something, without having performed a kind act, without having accomplished something."

Gifts and Memorials

The beautiful Gold Christ Child Remembrance Card is a convenient way to send donations in any amount to the Christ Child Society, as an In Memoriam or in recognition of a special occasion or accomplishment. A donation can be made in memory of deceased friend or relatives who will also be remembered in a perpetual monthly Mass. The card also makes it possible to celebrate happy occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries in the same way. When requesting a Remembrance Card, members are asked to print legibly since the names will be printed in each newsletter with the donor's name in parentheses. Extra cards are available in the office or from Joan Hardig (277-7787).

In Memoriam

Trudy Austin (Fran Austin)
 Joyce Bailey (James/ Nancy Yohe)
 Richard Berndt (Winifred Vanden Bossche)
 Lois Berry (Ann Korb)
 Sue Bieganski (B.J. O'Brien)
 Janina Bohusz (Beth Barrett, Kathy Seidl, Walter/Kristy Botich, Judy/ Hugh Kuzmich)
 Carl Buersmeyer (Creekwood Villas Assoc., Mary Hood, Johanna Larson, Newcomer Bridge Club of Michiana, Ann Schmiedeler, Sharon/Miles Theeman, Michelle Hood, American Hospital Assoc., Doug/Kathy Reynolds, Greg/Dani Laf-rancois, Steven Michaud/ MHStaff, Beacon Health Leadership, John/Jackie Dalton, Colleen/ William Hilton Christina Fisher, M/M Samuel Collins, Paul/ Cindy Szewczyk, Scott/ Sue Avery, Dorian/ John Jones, Tom/ Linda Avery)
 John Bycraft (Bette O'Malley, Dottie Wallace, Amanda Skwarcan, John/Sue Uhran, Jane Horning, Doojie/Jack Trant, Donna/ Don Kyle, Ginger O'Hara, Betsy/ Jim Cooke, Beth Barrett, Judith/ Jerome Kearns, Jean/ Dick Dennen, Marcia/ Tom Blum, Dee Tepe, Jack/ Nancy Pycik, Margaret Hosinski, Kathy/ John Seidl, Jill Ross, Mary Anne Retseck, Julie Considine, Sharon James, Judy/ Hugh Kuzmich, Betty Ann Gibbons, Kathryn Screes, Teddi Murray, Diane/ Gerry Quinn, Mary/ Joe Woodka, Rosemary Crowe, Edward/Pat Healy, Patricia/ Paul Crowley, Heather, Brad, Liam/ Kiera Short, Greg/ Anna Marie Lane, John/ Mary Lou Derwent, Paul B. Glass, DDS, James P. Crippen, Ann Dean, Mary Kloska, Mike/ Deb Low, Jim/ Bonnie Baxter, Helen Diltz, Tim/ Dierdre McTigue, James/ Holt Barb/ John Phair, Tom/ Janet Hall, Rose/ Jim Lyphout, Marie/ Paul Brady, M/M James Cierznak, Mary Earl, Kay Houser, Linda Rakow, M/M Hugh O'Brien, Barbara Ferguson, Denise

IN MEMORIAM

Members

Susan Deranek
 Elizaeth Goeller
 Kathleen Welch
 Husband
 John O'Connell

Roemer, Barbara Dillon, Paul/ Kathy Schoenle, Mary Jane Stanley, Jackie Stephens, Peter Lombardo, Patsy Bowles, Ann Molenda, Edward O'Malley, Bill/ Joann Hohmann, Jim/ Della Dewald)
 Charlotte Chehart (Winifred Vanden Bossche, JoAnn Axelberg)
 Rosie Ciszczon (Doojie/ Jack Trant)
 Jean Cohen (Judy/ Hugh Kuzmich, Beth/ Dan Barrett, Kathy/ John Seidl, Walter/ Kristy Botich)
 Marge Crnkovich (Bette O'Malley)
 Polly DeCicco (Michael, Lori, Melissa/ Emily DeCicco)
 Marge DeRosa (Frank/ Diane James)
 Leo A. Despres (Marlene/ Otto Martinec)
 Gail Dittrich (Tom/ Mary Wisniewski, Kathryn Screes)
 Nancy Dixon (Peggy Bauer)
 Alger L. Dow (Don/ Carol Nash)
 William Farmer (Keith/ Rita Bill, Karen/ Darrell Barrett, Steve/ Louise Anna, Linda Aichele, Montel Menting, Bruce/ Judy Cassidy, Barbara Dillon, Charmayn Daly, Sharon/ Matt Edmonds, Kay/ Roy Ellgass, J. David Huber, M. Helga Jean, Connie/ Mike Joines, Maureen

Jones, James/ Nancy Yohe, Larry/ Judy Miller, Frank/ Darlene Knapp, Joe/ Gail Mancini, James/ Patricia Taylor, Judith Melevage, Denise Roemer, Al/ Debby Tomchaney, John/ Catherine Hiler, Dave/ Nadine Collier, Jacquelyn Curran, Thomas/ Drema Tellson, Ellen Bruss Design, Jim/ Nancy Summers, M/M Edward Gnott, Chris/ Tracy Taelman, M/M Ray J. Gans/ Gans girls)

Elizabeth Goeller (Patricia Flowers, Mary Frances Burt, Jane Horning, Sharon James, Joe/ Marie Burt, Joe Goeller, Patricia Leslie, Jim/ Sherry Goeller, Kay/ Rick Brink, Candy/ Bob Tressler, Deb/ Ed Koch, Dottie/ Don Staley, Wally/ Macaira Koch, Nancy/ James Yohe, Helen Diltz)

Roger Gurteth (Marilyn Toep, Don/ Barb Zimlich, Peg Claeys, JoAnn Axelberg, Winifred Vanden Bossche, M/M James Cierznak, Marie/ Paul Brady, Greg/ Jean Mee)

John Hanna (Mike/ Deb Low)
 Jonathan Harris (Pat Corcoran)
 J.C. Hoffman (Marcia/ Tom Blum)
 Martha Hosinski (Carol/ Michael Bodnar)

Westley Ryan Kidman (Winifred Vanden Bossche)

William Klem (Julann/ Laurence Bauer, Peg Claeys)
 Mary Kloska (Teresa/ Sam Jermano, Kathleen Seidl, Kathy Schoenle, Mary Anne Retseck, Carol Bauer, Marjorie Bycraft, Mike/ Carolyn Chartier, Julie Considine, Tom/ Ann

Guardian Angels



A special membership category was established in 1998. A one time \$1000 enrollment fee for deceased members, spouses and friends benefiting the Christ Child Society Endowment Fund, will insure the Society's ability to continue the future good works. The Guardian Angels are remembered monthly and each year at our annual Mass.

Current members and spouses may pre-enroll in the program and will be officially enrolled upon their deaths.

Please refer any questions to Norma Villanucci (243-0621)

Newest Guardian Angels: Lois L. Berry, Anne B. Ganser, Elizabeth Goeller, Rosa Hahn, Sonny Tepe

In Memoriam (con't)

Cooper, Jane DeJong, Gregory/
Linda Cress, Antony Wood-co-workers of Ron Kloska, Rob/ Linda Diltz, Anne/ Dick Treckelo, M/M Joseph Petros, Peter/ Denice Kaiser, Steve/ Mary Ellen Elsbernd)
Jack Kozel (Marcia/ Tom Blum)
James Kuras (Marcia/ Tom Blum)
Daniel Lattimer (B.J. O'Brien)
Chuck Lennon (Helen McNeill)
Kathleen Muller-Johnson (M/M George Schilling)
Marie Nordone (Suzette Lentz)
John O'Connell (Ann Korb)
Daniel O'Donohue (Don/ Carol Nash)
Andrew E. Robertson, Jr. (Tom/ Maureen Cahir)
Carolyn Rouch (Sheila Emge, Margaret Hosinski, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Kathy/ John Seidl, Judy Kuzmich, Joan Blitz)
Susan Ruppe (Sheila Emge)
Thomas Russell (Gail Russell, Kathleen/ Joe Simeri)
Margaret Siezek (Esther Cyr)
Anthony "Tony" Suberlak (Don/ Carol Nash)
Lori Anne Sullivan (Jane Dietrich)
Sonny Tepe (Rosemary Crowe, Kathy Roberts, Kay/ Roy Ellgass, Edward/ Pat Healy, Chuck/ Julie Peterson,

Susan Hammes, Martha Redden, Rocco's Restaurant, Rose Gordon, Patricia/ Paul Crowley, The Jordani Family, Terry Rodino, Mary L. Grunawalt, M/M James Cierzniak, Donna Leutzinger, Jim/ Wanda Benjamin, M/M Kevin Kruggel, Erin/ Mark Tepe, Dottie Wallace, Marlene McGinn, M/M Kirk Tepe, Tom/ Barb Carusillo, Brian/ Patty Collins/ Family, Kevin/ Gina Bognar)
Janet Vandervoort (B.J./ Bob O'Brien, M/M Brian Lake)
Richard Waliszewski (Winifred Vanden Bossche)
Joseph Yohe (James/ Nancy Yohe)
Rose Marie Zins (Michael/ Phyllis Largey)
Special Occasion
Fr. Michael Belinsky - Thanksgiving for his priesthood (Esther Cyr, Carol Bauer)
Val Bowman - Get Well (James/ Nancy Yohe)
Dr. James Brogle - Happy Retirement (Julann/ Laurence Bauer)
Fr. Eric Burgener - you (Joe/ Marie Burt)
Marjorie Bycraft (Mary/ Dick Reineke)
Christ Child Society (George/ Paula Heiser)

Sister Judith Diltz, PHJC - Anniv (Carol Bauer)
Winifred Caponigri Farquhar - 95th Birthday (Perry Stow/ Andrea Mather-Stow)
Mary Fennessy - Get well (Jane Horning)
Rev. Dr. Cyril Fernandez, PhD-In celebration of earning his doctorate (Tom/ Maureen Cahir)
Rosemary Herzog - 90th Birthday (Kathryn Screes)
Jean/ Greg Mee - Get well (Bette O'Malley)
Nancy Meyer - Get well (Patti/ Lowell Paschke, Esther Cyr, Peggy Gertsbauer, Kathy/John Seidl)
Judy Phillips - Birthday (Jo Hughes)
Sema Ruskowski (M/M Brian J. Lake)
Msgr. William Schooler - Complete recovery and 45th Anniv. (Marilyn Toepp, Barbara Dillon, Joe/ Marie Burt)
Mr./ Mrs. Scott Schurz (M/M Brian J. Lake)
Kathy Seidl - Happy Birthday (Peggy Gerstbauer, Paul/ Kathryn Schoenle, Susan/ Thomas Creevey)

A Community Partner: Rev. Cyril Fernandez

The success of South Bend Christ Child Society is, of course, due to its dedicated members, but we should also factor in our partners in the community. Among those is Fr. Cyril Fernandez, pastor at St. Patrick/St. Hedwig churches.

In his birthplace of Mangalore, India, Father's family owned a small farm with coconut and arecanut (used in medicine and candy) trees. Their culture assigns the lifelong care of parents and siblings to the oldest son, so, in step as the oldest of six children, Fr. Cyril went to engineering school. Giving it five days, he knew it was not for him. He became a missionary and worked in North India, where a lack of rain contributed to great poverty. This fueled his passion for service and confirmed his path to the Seminary. It was there that he learned English. His mother did not talk to him during those 13 years, but that changed at his Ordination when she recognized his good work.

For 15 years, he worked in India, building four schools, and acting as Principal. After witnessing local poverty in his country, he understood that by educating one child, you can educate the entire family. He started St. Xavier's English School in Jharkhand, India, in 1993 with 24 children. It continues to flourish today with over 3,000 students.

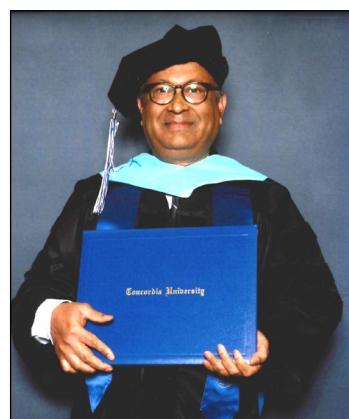
Nineteen years ago, Bishop D'Arcy invited Fr. Cyril to come to Indiana. He is not Incardinated, indicating that although he works for the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese as a "loaned person," he belongs to the diocese of Jam-

shedpur. His Bishop from India visits here, and Father, as a US citizen, travels to India on a regular basis.

In 2008, Bishop D'Arcy recommended that Christ Child move from its falling building to the vacant school at St. Patrick. Thus the start of our partnership.

Fr. Cyril has witnessed poverty himself and sees polite compassion among our volunteers. He credits this great program to Christ Child's leadership who promote collaboration and gentleness. Father sees joy among Christ Child workers and he appreciates each work session beginning with prayer, knowing who is in need of prayer. He is aware too that our "family spirit" adds to our success.

Father Cyril received his PhD in school administration this May from Concordia University in Portland, Oregon.



Past Presidents Still Active, Involved



Top row: Deb Spillman, Joan Hardig, Bette O'Malley, Esther Cyr, Sue Walsh, Dianne Quinn, Beth Barrett, Marcia Auger; First row: Sandy Redden, Marge Hosinski, Jane Horning, Kathy Seidel, Sue Uhran, Norma Villnucci; On the sofa: Pat Falvey, Judy Kuzmich, Sheila Emge.

Fourteen Christ Child Society former presidents gathered for brunch at the home of Judy Kuzmich on June 14th. Joining them were the two co-presidents, Sue Walsh and Pat Falvey, who serve along with the president-elect, Suzanne Wiwi, who will assume duties in July. Most of those attending are still involved with Christ Child Society, some in small ways and others still very active at the Center or with Christ Child events. It was a great chance for the newest presidents to meet those who had served so loyally in past years.

After many stories and reminiscing about past Christ Child events, co-president Pat Falvey gave a month to month report of the past year's events. Upcoming events were also highlighted as well as dates the Center will be open and how new ways are being offered to serve more children in our community.

What a great group of women represent Christ Child Society and the community it serves. Many endearing friendships have been made and continue to grow through Christ Child all while serving the children that need a little support and love in their lives.

Briefs . . . Briefs . . . Briefs

Knit? Crochet?

Do you know someone who loves to knit or crochet but needs a project? An- gel Layette is in need of knit or crocheted 20-24 inches blankets for the Layette.

Christ Child provides a gown, bonnet, blanket and a prayer book to the local hospitals for infants who do not survive after birth. The items are also used for christening babies who are ill at birth. Questions? Call Mary Kubiak 574-272-3120 or email makubi8@gmail.com

Gift Wrapping

Many thanks to all of our faithful volunteers and to the Hammes Notre Dame Book Store for supplying the materials to wrap gifts for the Class of 2019. In four days during commencement weekend, Christ Child members raised \$1135.75 for the children we serve. Chair Cathy Mathews is grateful to all who donated their time to make the fundraising event a success.

Fiddlers' Hearth Discount

Terry Meehan has offered all Christ Child Society members a 10% discount on all food at Fiddler's Hearth! Simply let your server know that you are a Christ Child Society member and request the discount. Terry has a special place in his heart for Christ Child as his grandmother was a member.

Executive Board

Co-Presidents:

Patricia Falvey
Suzanne Wiwi

President Elect:

Vice President (Fundraising):
Kathy Seidl

Vice President (Membership):
Sue Seall

Vice President (Clothing):
Betsie Pendarvis

Recording Secretary:
Ruth Nieboer

Corresponding Secretary:
Nancy Meyer

Treasurer:
Elizabeth Van Doren

BOOK CLUB 2019-2020

Sept. 20 *The Couple Next Door*
Pat Short by Sharie Lapena
232-1204

Oct. 18 *A Piece of the World*
Terry Slamkowski by C.B.Kline
256-2650

Nov. 15 *Orphan #8*
Pat Falvey by Kim vanAlkemade
703-3658

Jan. 17, 2018 *Commonwealth*
Marge Hosinski by Ann Patchett
256-972

Feb. 21 *Britt Marie Was Here*
Pat Healy by Fredrik Backman
272-5640

Mar. 21 *The Lilac Girls*
Judy Kearns by Martin Hall Kelly
273-9850

Apr. 18 *Vesper Time*
Mary Lou Mullen Frank Cunningham
234-2626

May 16 *The Underground Railroad*
Mary Jane Chase Colson Whitehead
233-7977

June 20 *America's First Daughter*
Louise Anella by Dray/Kamoie
234-0676

Derby Day: Hats Hats

Another successful Derby Day Luncheon is in the books. One hundred and seventy-five members and friends, including special guests from the Fort Wayne Chapter of The Christ Child Society, enjoyed a very special afternoon at The Blue Heron.

Guests arrived to social time and Mimosas before lunch; such a nice time to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Raffle tickets were sold for the seven raffle baskets generously donated by Christ Child supporters and each attendee received a free door prize ticket for one of over 50 door prizes!

Bourbon Derby Wellington with Puffed Pastry was the main course at lunch. Guests also enjoyed salad, green beans and dessert. The tables were beautifully decorated with "Christ Child blue" napkins and centerpieces that were very generously donated. One lucky guest at each table had a horse sticker on the inside of his or her program and that guest won the table centerpiece.

Judee's of Granger provided the fashion show this year. Tricia Sloma from WNDU was the emcee. The clothes were gorgeous and Tricia was warm and funny, as always. A special thank you to the members who modeled and to Pat Corcoran who organized the fashion show. They are busy with the show while other guests enjoy lunch!

The afternoon wrapped up with a hat contest, door prizes and raffle baskets. There were also many pictures, hugs and smiles. Many thanks to all who contributed to this special day. We hope to see you next year!



... and More Hats on Derby Day



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1286
South Bend, Indiana 46624

Return Service Requested



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Join us for the Annual
CHRIST CHILD LUNCHEON MEETING

Thursday, October 3, 2019
Morris Park Country Club at 11:30 AM

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of reservations at \$25.00 _____ Total enclosed

(Make checks payable to Christ Child Society)

Your check for \$25 is your payment.

RSVP: Mail your check by September 19 to
Christ Child Society, PO Box 1286, South Bend 46624.

If you have any questions,
contact Pat Chodzinski at 574-339-9337 or Susan Coulter at 574-276-4904.