

# THE LEO HOUSE

A Catholic Guesthouse for Travelers for *130 Years*



332 WEST 23RD STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011 212.929.1010

*A heart in New York City*

**Spring 2020**

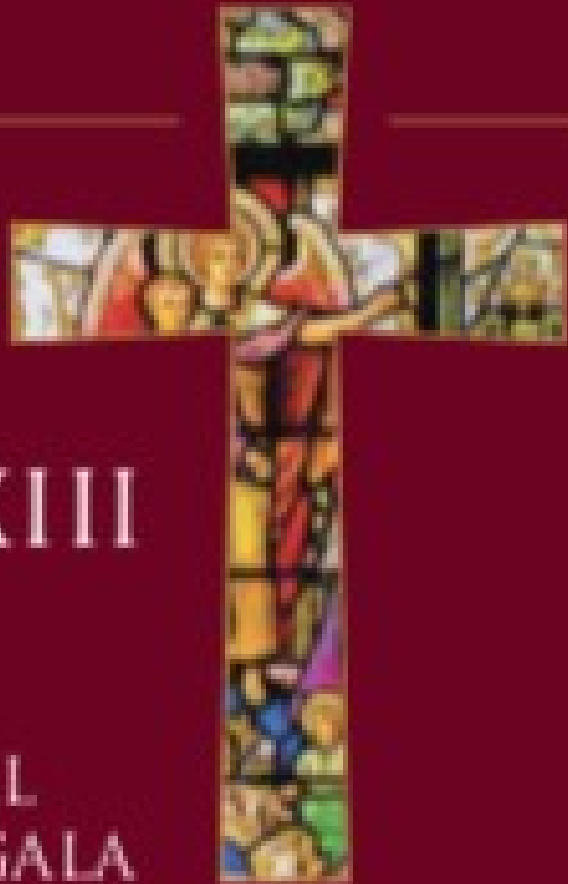
## *A Wonderful Event*

**Gala 2019, The Leo House Third Annual Fundraising Gala,  
held on December 9, 2019 at The Yale Club,  
was a joyous occasion.**

THE LEO HOUSE  
130 YEARS

POPE LEO XIII  
AWARD

THIRD ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISING GALA



## 2019 Gala Honorees

Mother Dolores Hart, O.S.B. was the recipient of the 2019 **Pope Leo XIII Award**. Before entering Regina Laudis Abbey in Bethlehem CT, she was a well-known Hollywood actress. At the height of her career she followed the call of Christ, left all behind and became a member of the Benedictine community. Her amazing journey is documented in the book she wrote, *"Ear of the Heart."* A copy of the book was a gift to each person who attended the Gala.

The **Saint Raphael Award** is awarded each year to a Catholic man or woman who demonstrates adherence to their Catholic faith and who is distinguished in their chosen profession. Chosen to receive the award this year was Mr. John Allen, a well-known journalist, and currently the editor of *CRUX*, an independent Catholic news site. Highly respected for indispensable writing, he is quoted as being possibly the "best source of Vatican information published in the U.S." As a youth Mr. Allen grew up in Hays, Kansas and some of his teachers there in the city had been the Sisters of Saint Agnes, one of whom attended the Gala and met him. That was S. Doris Klein, CSA and he spoke with S. Mary Alice Walters who was unable to attend because of illness via a cell phone call to her home in Milwaukee WI.

✝ We remember Mary Higgins Clark, the 2018 recipient of the **Saint Raphael Award** who died on January 31, 2020 at her home in Naples, FL. She had been a friend of The Leo House and a very generous donor.

We remember also Dengler family members who have watched out for The Leo House since

1932 and have been Leo House Board Members for three generations. A recent significant contribution came through the Dengler family law office from an individual who appreciated and believed in the mission of The Leo House and hoped the contribution would help provide resources needed to continue its endeavors to offer Christian hospitality and care to all travelers for years to come.

The honoree of the 2019 **Mission Partner Award** was Ms. Patricia Scanlon, an employee of *Catholic New York*, the Archdiocesan Catholic newspaper. She has demonstrated an outstanding relationship and support of The Leo House by helping develop marketing plans and meaningful advertising campaigns to advance awareness of this historic Catholic Guesthouse, especially in *Catholic New York*. She has been gratified seeing that many of her ideas have come to fruition. Last year's honoree for the **Mission Partner Award** had been Mr. Will Ouweleen, owner of the O-Neh-Da Vineyard in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Red and white wines from his winery were served at the Gala dinner.

**Main Speaker** at the Gala had been Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, the director of Catholic Charities of New York. His message was inspiring and well-received. We are grateful for his message.

Numerous individuals assisted in making the Gala the success that it was. Table Sponsors purchased Diamond, Gold and Silver Tables for their guests, vendors and Chelsea neighborhood businesses placed advertisements in the event's Program Journal, and various donors reached out and gave generously. The Leo House is grateful to all.



**Mother Dolores Hart, O.S.B.**  
Regina Laudis Abbey



**John Allen, Jr.**  
CRUX Media



**Patricia Scanlon**  
Catholic New York



**Msgr. Kevin Sullivan**  
Catholic Charities NY



## What's Been Happening?

Each year, in early November, a Food Drive begins and finishes at Thanksgiving time. This past November 2019, Staff and Leo House guests were invited to add non-perishable goods to the collection and many chose to do so. A sizable amount of packaged foods were gathered and after Thanksgiving was transported over to a neighborhood parish, Saint John the Baptist, for the food service they provide each day for the hungry and the homeless. The gesture was greatly appreciated by the parish and very meaningful to all those who gave so generously.

Backing up to the month of October 2019, Halloween occurred and Leo House staff turned up as Malificent, various witches, a ghost, a dragon, Little

Red Riding Hood, Robin Hood, Cat Woman, Wonder Woman, Bat Woman, Bat Girl, and a tall, glitzy, walking pumpkin! This page is not large enough to



hold a photo showing everyone on a popular day when 'uniforms were not required'.



The same with December 2019. Yes, there was a gift exchange at the Staff Christmas Party, and a delicious lunch served, but added to the party was the 'Ugliest Christmas Sweater' contest. Very few chose not to participate in this non-uniform, but very creative activity.

Added to the gift exchange, was an individually wrapped gift given to each staff member, from Leo House friend, Mr. Will Ouweleen. The bottle of *Oh-Neh-Da Riesling 2015 Finger Lake*, was spectacular. Thanks again, Will, from all thirty-six of us.

## Student Groups

During 2019 and continuing into 2020, various student groups were guests at The Leo House. *Washington State*, *Ohio*, *De Paul*, and *Villanova* sounds like a basketball line-up, but sports is not the only

major these schools offer. Marketing majors, business majors, and art majors are but a few who were guests at The Leo House. Art students attended the numerous art galleries located here in Chelsea, and the NY's famous art galleries. Fashion Week is popular with fashion majors. The Stock Exchange, law offices on Wall Street, and marketing firms welcome students who have their sights and interests set on those careers. Recently a group of engineering students from Penn State had a private guided tour of the *East River Power Station*. This particular station was hit hard during Hurricane Sandy in 2012; it exploded and caused extensive damage, causing a horrific power outage in lower Manhattan which lasted for several weeks. It had to be completely rebuilt and today is a state of the art power station. "Seeing first hand what we are studying in textbooks was awesome." After graduating these students hope to work in the field of alternative energies.

## On Guard

A recent guest from Switzerland, age 26, has traveled widely, served in two different armies, is studying international business management and hopes to become a member of an Olympic running team.

Military service is a requirement for all young men in Switzerland, and after he served that compulsory term he applied for entry into another, the oldest and smallest army in the world—The Swiss Guard in Vatican City!

He qualified because he is a Swiss citizen and served for 28 months; longer than minimum term of 26 months. After rigorous training, he worked as a Guard doing sentry duty, ceremonial rituals, and working to keep the Vatican properties and the Pope's life safe.

He continues to be a member of the Vatican running club, made up of running enthusiasts currently and previously employed by the Vatican. The team includes women, men, religious, lay, nuns and priests.



(continued on page 4)



The Vatican is the only nation in the world without a team in the Olympics and this Vatican running team is working on changing that dynamic. The current world health crisis puts a strain on that possibility, but we wish the team all the best in their efforts to obtain a spot in the next Olympics. Above he is

pictured in his Swiss Guard ceremonial uniform at the required exit interview with Pope Francis. Below he is on duty and on parade.



## *Invited to Assist*

Yes, I want to contribute to **The Leo House.**

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed payable to: The Leo House

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AM Ex Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Leo House**

Phone: 212-929-1010 ext. 223

Email: [lhreservations@332west23nyc.org](mailto:lhreservations@332west23nyc.org)

Web: [leohousenyc.org](http://leohousenyc.org)

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Along with this newsletter, a contribution envelope is included. You are invited to use it.

The donor described in an article on page two chose to be remembered for aiding, and supporting, an institution serving spiritual and cultural values like those of The Leo House, hoping to provide them with resources needed to continue its mission.

Guests appreciate what The Leo House provides: it offers safety, cleanliness, great breakfasts, and its location, central to so many cultural sites of the city. The current pandemic continues to be a challenge, and occupancy has been low, but that will change when flights and travel are no longer restricted.

If you, too, appreciate and value The Leo House, and choose to see its hospitality and care flourish for years to come, you are invited to send a contribution. Many thanks.

Please take note of or be reminded of *The Leo House Customer Loyalty Program*. For frequent travelers or frequent trips to the city, three separate bookings guarantees a fourth **FREE** booking within that same year.

There are special rates for clergy and religious, veterans, persons with medical needs or undergoing treatment, military personnel, firefighters, and police.