



St. Louis Spirit

16195 Old US-12, Chelsea, MI 48118
Ph. (734)475-8430 Fax (734)475-0310
Www.stlouiscenter.org



"They can be considered a burden only where love is lacking. In recognizing and promoting their dignity, we recognize and promote our own dignity as persons. In so doing we actualize the love of God present among us." (Basic Document, 30).

Spring 2009

Administrator's Message

As the warm breezes flow in from the south, we know that summer is right around the corner, and there is much for us to do to get ready for our residents when school gets out. We are currently in a hiring mode to ensure that we have enough staff to properly care for our residents, and HR Director Bob Trudell is interviewing daily to ensure that we have qualified people on our staff. Once they're hired, the next step is to ensure that they're properly trained, and our new Training Director Christine Stehlik orients our employees to make sure they have all of the tools they need to work effectively with our residents.

The warm weather also brings out many opportunities to complete inside projects and then move outside for our summer needs. Lussier Construction is nearly complete with the two grant funded projects they've been working on this spring. Specifically, the new residential closets and the refurbishing of the kitchenettes. Grading work will take place at St. Joseph's Hall to reduce ground water infiltration, and the exterior windows will be painted.



There is much for us to do in preparing for the summer transition when school is out. Several residents will be attending



Fr. Enzo Addari addresses delegates at Michigan K of C State Convention.

summer school at High Point in Ann Arbor and Dexter, and some will be visiting the St. Francis Camp run by the Alhambra south of Jackson.

In the next article, you will see that we have been re-accredited by CARF for another three year period. Special thanks to Steve Daut and all involved for leading this successful effort once again. There is much work involved in preparing for this type of survey assessment.

At the end of May I had the opportunity to address the 1200 delegates attending the Michigan Knights of Columbus State Convention on Mackinac Island, and it was a great honor to share our story with those in attendance. Special thanks to State Deputy John R. "Bob" Moody for allowing me the privilege of speaking during the convention, and thanks again to all of the Knights throughout Michigan who support our Guanellian mission.

Finally, we will keep our eyes on Lansing, as the Governor considers cutting \$12.5 million in community health services for the remainder of this fiscal year. May you receive a bounty of blessings from God as you use this summer to restore your mind, body, and spirit.

Fr. Enzo Addari



Steve Daut gives CARF surveyor Margaret O'Brien a tour of St. Louis Center during her visit on March 26th.

2009 CARF Accreditation

It has been three years since the first CARF survey visit, and many improvements have been made since St. Louis Center undertook the process of becoming nationally accredited. St. Louis Center was recently re-accredited for another three year period, and among the highlights of the 2009 Survey Summary were the following comments.

- SLC has conscientious, dedicated, and enthusiastic staff at all levels. There is a clear focus on the needs of individuals served. Of note, are the caliber, commitment, and achievement of the staff members who provide direct care and clinical services. It was most apparent that there are long and positive relationships between staff and persons served that contribute to the development of their self-esteem, independence, and confidence.
- At all levels within the organization, there is a clear dedication to put the person first and at the center of services. The spirit of the organization emphasizes compassion, caring, commitment, and embodies the vision of its founder.

The remainder of this document may be found at www.stlouiscenter.org/CARFAccreditation.html.

Bishop Carl Mengeling Headlines Honorees at Annual Recognition Dinner



Bishop Mengeling with fellow award winner Tom Nowatzke & wife Kristen

Comparing those in attendance with the earliest Christians described in the Acts of the Apostles as, "The whole group of believers...united heart and soul" (Acts 4:32) the Most Rev. Bishop Carl F. Mengeling delivered a heartfelt homily to the faithful who gathered together for Mass before St. Louis Center's 26th Annual Recognition Dinner on Sunday April 19, 2009. Bishop Mengeling, along with several other dignitaries, was one of the award recipients of the day, as St. Louis Center used this event to honor special members of the community, along with several staff members and residents.

Bishop Mengeling, who is now retired as the head of the ten county Diocese of Lansing, went on to describe the 275 residents, staff, family members, religious and friends in the room, as the people who have always been counted on to support the developmentally disabled at St. Louis Center. He described the Servants of Charity Congregation as being a "gift" to the Diocese of Lansing, and felt that it was a special honor to receive the "Good Shepherd Award" from such good friends.

Former NFL great Tom Nowatzke of Saline was another person who was honored for his work by receiving the "Citizenship Award" from St. Louis Center. Nowatzke, who played for the Detroit Lions, and later the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl V, has been a member of the Community Advisory Council and the Golf & Glory Outing Committee for several years. Along with

recruiting retired members of the Detroit Lions Alumni Association for the annual June golf outing, Nowatzke has also been instrumental in assisting St. Louis Center by obtaining financial support from a foundation in Florida that has taken St. Louis Center under its wing; securing two large grants in the last two years.

Local Chelsea residents Doug and Mary Nadeau have been long time supporters of St. Louis Center, and have served on the Chelsea Hospital Dinner Auction Committee for many years. Preferring to work behind the scenes, the Nadeau's have made their mark at St. Louis Center through the years, and received the "Friendship Award" for their years of service.

This year, service to the Shrine of St. Joseph in Grass Lake was integrated into the annual Recognition Dinner, and Jacqueline and Matthew McGinn were recipients of the first annual "Spirit of St. Joseph Award" for their dedicated service to the Servants of Charity's shrine mission. They were each praised for their "thirteen years of faithful service to the Pious Union of St. Joseph."

Following the Community Service Awards, James and Bernadine Hoomaian of the Italian American Club of Livonia were on hand to present a special check to Fr. Enzo Addari from their fundraising event for the Center in January 09. The annual Dinner Dance and Culinary Extravaganza raised \$32,000 for the transportation needs of the residents, to the surprise and delight of everyone present.

Two Direct Care employees were recognized for their outstanding work with the residents of St. Louis Center, as Corrie Farler received the "Employee of the Year Award" and Kathy Robles was given the "Parents Association Appreciation Award". Lee Booth was recognized as the "Resident of the Year", as he has "grown into a fine young man...and is always willing to share the gifts God has granted him." Finally, Service Awards were given to Heather Bartlette for 20 years of service, and Ginny Wheaton for 30 years of service.



Fr. Joseph Rinaldo extends God's blessing to the 135 bikers in attendance.

"Blessing of the Bikes" Enjoys Third Year Success

There are few things more exciting than the roar of 135 motorcycle engines starting up at once, but that was the thrill that several residents of St. Louis Center experienced on Sunday April 26, 2009. The 3rd Annual "Blessing of the Bikes" ended on a high note after the riders received their "blessing" from Fr. Joseph Rinaldo. More than 160 people were present to experience high energy Christian Rock music, tasty food, and great camaraderie throughout the day on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.



According to event chair Sheila Fitzgibbons, the purpose of this event is twofold. "By providing a

place for motorcycle enthusiasts to come to on a warm spring day, not only do we generate great exposure for St. Louis Center to a new group of friends, but we also give ourselves another opportunity to raise funds for the Center, which helps to support our residents". Foresters Financial Partners, Inc. of Livonia was a first time corporate sponsor for this event.

Nearly 30 volunteers were on hand to assist with parking, money collection, food, and entertainment. Fr. Joseph Rinaldo said, "The Biker's Church Band did a great job entertaining the crowd. Our newest addition this year was the group known as, 'Clowns Celebrating Christ', who also entertained our guests. Everyone who came had a great time, and the Lord blessed us abundantly."

Summer Heats Up with Golf & Glory Events

Paesano's Celebrity Dinner

Frankly, we're amazed. How could an event in only its 2nd year become so popular that it would sell out in a week? That's the magic of



Paesano's, and owners Mike & Bridget Roddy. This year's spaghetti dinner will take place on Monday June 22, 2009, and if you're lucky enough to have a reservation, don't forget to bring your checkbook!

Golf & Glory Outing

Through the hard work and determination of a great team of dedicated individuals, the Golf and Glory Outing enters its 15th season of play on June 23, 2009. This year's event will once again take place at the popular U of M Golf Course in Ann Arbor.



George Blaha, Celebrity Chair

The committee reports that 30 teams are expected at the shotgun start, and counting our celebrity players, this could be our biggest year ever. The cost of this outing is \$275 per golfer, and \$1,000 per team entry. Several levels of sponsorship are still available. Please visit our website for more information, or call 734-475-8430 to rsvp for this event.

California Dreamin' Raffle

The competition is on to see who will be the next local winner of the California Dreamin' Raffle, which will be drawn during the Golf & Glory Outing on June 23rd. Last year's winner was Patrick Hohl from St.



Mary - Pinckney, while the two preceding years winners were Tom Larder and Al Letizio from St. Mary - Chelsea. Ticket sales will be ongoing this month in local parishes, and the winner receives a one week stay at Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort, \$2,000 in

travel cash, and a foursome at the Northstar Golf Course. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Joe Yekulis at St. Louis Center, any committee member, or during your local parish weekend sale for \$50 each. All proceeds go to St. Louis Center.

22nd Memorial Golf Outing Remembers Susan Starkey

This year's Memorial Golf Outing is entering its 22nd year, and will be held on Saturday July 18, 2009 in special memory of former CAC member Susan Starkey. The outing begins with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start at Pierce Lake Golf Course in Chelsea. The cost is \$90 per golfer, and team sponsorships are available for \$500, including your foursome, program ad, hole sign, and sponsor gift.



Susan and Stan Starkey

We are only here for a short time to make a difference, and Susan Starkey made the most of her short time on Earth. When we think of Susan what are the things we remember the most? The love of her family, the love of her community, and her zest for life certainly come to mind. What also comes to mind is that when she was taken from us in December 2007, a big part of us was taken as well.

Sue was many things to many people, and because of her beauty, grace, intelligence, and energetic personality; she was loved by everyone she touched. We were blessed to know Susan and to experience her dignity, grace, and love for life. Now she is one of God's angels, watching over all of us until the day we meet her in Heaven.

To register for this outing, please contact Cindy Lesser at St. Louis Center, (734-475-8430), or download the information from "Events" on our website.

Joe's Top Dog Outing Enters 13th Year as Dearborn's Finest



Joe Bojovic with Ken Unterbrink and Mike Malinowski of the Michigan K of C

If you live closer to Detroit and want to support a fun and entertaining golf benefit for St. Louis Center, then you've got to spend the day with Joe and Zoja Bojovic and the gang from Joe's Top Dog Coney Island, located in downtown Dearborn. Described as a day of "fun, golf, and good laughs", this outing includes 18 holes of golf, continental breakfast, Top Dog Coney's at the turn, and dinner after the round.

We guarantee you will experience a truly great day. The date of the outing is Sunday July 26, 2009 with an 11:00 a.m. shotgun start. The cost of the outing is \$100 per golfer, and additional sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit JTDGOLF.COM for registration and contact information.

Dad and Lad Golf Outing Enters 12 Year Partnership with St. Louis Center

Thanks to our special friends Michael Chirco, Salvatore Cottone, Joe Maniaci, Dominic Mocerri, and Onorio Moscone, the Dad and Lad Golf Outing continues to flourish at Twin

Lakes Golf Course in Rochester Hills. These original organizers began this



outing to teach the meaning of "charity" to their sons. This outing takes place on Wednesday August 12, 2009 with a 12:00 p.m. shotgun start. For more information, contact Barb Gates at 586-263-1203 ext. 400 to golf or sponsor the outing.



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In Memory of Our Friends

- Dorothy Betke
- Valerie Betterly
- Dan Bobicz
- Hildegard Conlin
- Michael Conlin
- Emma DellaPeruta
- Wayne DeNeff
- Dorothy Frank
- Judy Galaida
- Carmino E. Guerriero
- Marianne Lamping
- Dorothy Paul
- Helen Planeta
- Fr. Roger Prokop
- Harry "Don" Scheel
- Keith Schenher
- Robert Timberlake
- Peter Paul Tocco



Preparing for the 50th!

Are we ready to start the party yet? Believe it or not, St. Louis Center is preparing to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, and we want you to be a part of the celebration. A committee has



been formed to plan and prepare for this major milestone, and several meetings have already taken place. Plans are being made for a year's worth of events, starting with next year's annual Recognition Dinner which will be held at St. Mary Parish in Chelsea to accommodate the large number of guests that are expected to attend. The date will be April 18, 2010, so mark your calendars today.



The committee consists of the following members: Co-Chairs: Al & Pat Zangara, Fr. Enzo Addari, Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, Fr. William Turner, Julie Ballow, Rick Biggs, Ron Hingst, Larry Grant, Frank and Sharon Pignanelli, Pat Valaer, and Joe Yekulis. Anyone else interested in assisting with this event may contact St. Louis Center at 734-475-8430.

St. Louis Center Community Advisory Council

- Larry Doll, Chair
- Frank Grohnert, Vice Chair
- Marlene Cunningham, Treasurer
- Paul Frisinger, Secretary
- Jerry D'Adamo
- Julie Ballow
- Tom Forbes
- Robert Gorse
- Willard Johnson
- Brian Kennedy
- George Mallison
- Kathi Neuman
- Norm Neuman
- Tom Nowatzke
- Timothy Patton
- Kenneth Unterbrink
- John R. "Bob" Moody, K of C State Deputy
- MI Knights of Columbus