

## Moving Forward!

At the time of the 50th anniversary celebration, the St. Louis Center administration and some stakeholders had a meeting regarding the future of SLC. All came to the realization that something new had to be planned for a new chapter of SLC's glorious history.



After meaningful research, we discovered that aging adults with I/DD are the new chapter for SLC history. This became part of the strategic plan. Thus the idea of St. Louis Guanella Village came about.

The community, all those who believed in this idea and had embraced the SLC vision, got together for the planning of SLGV. Many modern buildings were added to provide new ways to offer integrated residential services. Now, with a single family home and duplex complete, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those without can live next to each other.

A major decision had to be made. It was not a painless one; it was emotional, physical and spiritual turmoil. As of June 20, 2021, we closed the programs for minors. This allowed us to refocus on the original vision of the strategic plan and to dedicate SLC services to an aging population, thus carrying out what St. John Paul II called the *After Us* program.

There are many challenges to be faced with this move, especially the financial ones for a good number of residents need benevolent care, but we know that demand for services for the aging population with I/DD is growing.

It is a new chapter; but following the Gospel, we know that people in need are always with us!

I want to thank the Golf & Glory committee members, volunteers and all the participants for a glorious and successful golf day at the UofM golf course on June 21, 2021, as well all the people who joined us for the dinner at Paesano on June 13, 2021. God keeps blessing SLC!

I ask all of you to keep the Center in your prayers and in your hearts while the Center is going through this major change in the delivery of its services of hope.

*Fr. Enzo Ashlari*

## National Webinar Feature

St. Louis Center is a member of a national organization called "Together for Choice," which is committed to supporting residential choice for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. On April 8th, SLC and the new St. Louis Guanella Village were featured in a national zoom conference. Led by COO Deana Fisher and Public Relations Director Joe Yekulis, the seminar began with the 61 year history of SLC, then detailed the evolution of SLGV as an intentional community, providing a continuum of care for children and adults with I/DD. SLGV is becoming a national care model for people with I/DD. The webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2z8sEgKMfY>

## Back in Aktion



*Charlie was among the members who helped with the clean up.*

After more than a year of remaining at home and doing on campus projects, the St. Louis Center Aktion Club, an affiliate of Kiwanis, was able to go out to the community to offer a helping hand. Eight club members from St. Joe Hall went to the Grass Lake Sanctuary to help with spring clean up on April 17th. They assisted Tom Egan by cleaning up sticks and debris from around the pond. They all

really worked hard, but had a fun time. SLC staff took them out for pizza and pop after all the hard work.

## Concert in the Garden

Spectrum, a quartet singing in the barbershop style, performed for residents at Fr. Guanella Hall on May 27th. Spectrum is part of Motor City Blend Chorus of Farmington Hills and consists of Lou Ann Brorovetski (bass), Kelsey Braiden (baritone), Mindy Krueger (lead) and Peggi Starkey (tenor). They were joined by COO Deana Fisher for one song, who also sings with the group. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the music, tapping their feet, dancing and singing along.



*Residents of Fr. Guanella Hall enjoyed the concert in the gazebo behind their home.*

## Keeping the Residents Busy

Laura Rayer, SLC Activities Coordinator, has been busy building relationships with the residents and creating programs to enrich their lives. Laura planned a variety of

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