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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ST. LOUIS CENTER HOSTS MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER JOSEPH RINALDO, SdC**

Beloved priest led life of service to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities

CHELSEA, MI — The Servants of Charity Congregation will hold a Memorial Mass for Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC, on Friday, April 17, 2026, 11 a.m., at St. Louis Center, 16195 W. Old US Hwy. 12, Chelsea, MI 48118. The Most Reverend Earl Boyea, bishop of the Diocese of Lansing, will be the celebrant.

A luncheon will follow the Memorial Mass. Guests are encouraged to RSVP by April 10 online at [stlouiscenter.org/event/fr-joe-memorial/](http://stlouiscenter.org/event/fr-joe-memorial/) or call 734-475-8430.

Born in Naro, Italy, Fr. Joe, as he was affectionately called, began his journey to a life of service with his attraction to the charism of St. Louis Guanella, a priest who founded the Servants of Charity Congregation, and its passion for caring for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Ordained in 1967, he spent his life serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). In 1980, Fr. Joe was assigned to St. Louis Center, then a residential home for boys with I/DD. Since 2021, the Center has served adults with I/DD.

“Fr. Joe was known for his creativity and willingness to ask anyone he met for assistance to meet the needs of the Center and its residents,” said St. Louis Center CEO Fr. Satheesh Caniton Alphonse, SdC. “He was known for his genuine care and concern for the well-being of everyone he served.”

After forty-two years of dedicated service, Fr. Joe moved in 2022 to a Servants of Charity retirement community in Bari, Italy. He passed away December 16, 2025 at the age of 85. His death marked a profound loss for the residents, staff, and supporters of the Center. His life of service remains a powerful reminder of how one individual can positively change the world, and his legacy continues to inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

#### **About St. Louis Center**

St. Louis Center is a residential community in Chelsea, Michigan, serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For over 65 years, the Center has provided a faith-based, family-centered environment where residents live with dignity, purpose, and belonging.