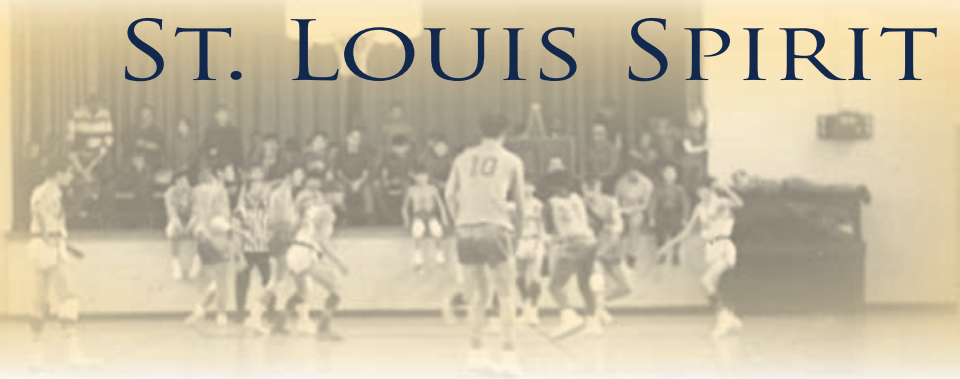




# ST. LOUIS SPIRIT

SPRING  
2010



## COMMEMORATIVES AND EVENTS PREPARED FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

As we enter the second quarter of our 50th year, many of our long-term projects have come to fruition. A full color 2009 Annual Report focusing on the 50th Anniversary, has been completed, and is now available to our benefactors. Along with this special publication, we have created a special edition decal that will be given out at the Blessing of the Bikes on April 25th, and a 50th Anniversary

commemorative pin that will also be available that day. This lapel pin will be made available throughout the year at all of our events.

The 50th Anniversary Committee is completing plans for a major celebration that will take place on **Sunday, September 19, 2010**. This event will take place at St. Mary Parish in Chelsea with a Mass, followed

by a dinner in the parish hall that will be catered by Paesano's of Ann Arbor. Stay tuned, as we will be running special events all year long in celebration of this very special place.

## "WITNESSING GOD'S WORK" BY JOE WILLIAMS

Recently, we accepted a young man into our Children's program that was limited by speech and mental impairments. From day one, our staff and fellow residents struggled to understand his needs. It became very frustrating for everyone, as we worked diligently to understand him. Eventually, we all came together and decided that he might be better off with "higher functioning" residents.

What I saw was truly "awesome." Immediately, a resident from his new unit began interacting with him; playing Uno, board games, puzzles, drawing, and playing basketball in the gym. His new one-on-one staff member taught him how to cook simple foods and desserts, while the other residents encouraged him to participate in group activities, such as Wii bowling.



*Joe Williams with Joe Neuman at the Blessing of the Bikes event in 2007.*

Now he is helping others; a little bit at a time, as he assists other struggling residents with getting on the bus. Seeing him go from a very limited resident when he arrived, to a resident helping staff and other residents today; is truly witnessing God's work.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

In our 50th year, many important issues continue to bubble to the surface. Some of these issues are long-term, while others require us to remain vigilant. **Michigan Department of Human Services:** According to a report from, "Public Catalyst Group," the federally mandated overhaul of the state's child welfare system in 2006 remains challenged for solutions. These challenges include,



"children and older youth who continue to wait for stable, permanent homes; youth aging out of foster care who continue to face dismal outcomes; and caseloads that remain dangerously high." Michigan's ongoing budget problems threaten these reforms at every level, including our partnerships with other organizations. **Finances:** Last fall, State cuts to one of our partner agencies impacted our budget negatively by \$250,000. We have struggled

mightily to survive in this era of cut-back government, and continue to keep our eyes on Lansing for more cut-backs that may impact our bottom line. **Geriatrics:** As our population ages, a handful of our residents have entered the first stages of Alzheimer's disease. We are researching treatment modalities with medical professionals, and with physical, speech, and occupational therapists to do the best we can for these residents.

*Joe Ewso Ashlari*

## “AN OUTSIDER’S PERSPECTIVE” BY KATHY TRUDELL

Growing up in Chelsea I remember when St. Louis Center was built down the road from my great grandparents’ farm. Years after, when I was married and living in a Detroit suburb, a neighbor’s brother was a resident. Later a close friend was a devoted volunteer. I knew St. Louis Center, but I didn’t know it was a family. Eighteen months ago my husband became the Human Resources Director there, and we became a part of the St. Louis family.

When I think of “family” I think of unconditional love. The dictionary

will tell you that “family” means ... being related, parents and children living together in a household, extended family treated with a special loyalty... Although the members of the St. Louis “family” may not be related by blood or marriage, they live in a household where each member is treated with a special loyalty, dignity and unconditional love. In this extended family there is a connection created in compassion and respect. I have witnessed the patience and gentle kindness in the caregivers as they provide support and guidance. You see joy and

peace in the faces of the residents as they share meals and experiences. In every family each member contributes to the dynamics with their unique talents and gifts and the annual Christmas program is always a memorable example. Behind the scenes the faithfulness of the priests and administrators and the gracious generosity of donors help this family continue to thrive. At St. Louis Center there is unconditional love and the fruits of the Spirit, where “family” can truly be found.

## IACL HOLDS 15TH ANNUAL CULINARY EXTRAVAGANZA



*Dr. and Mrs. Persiani cherish the Blessed Louis Guanella Humanitarian award.*

The Italian American Club of Livonia held their 15th Annual “Culinary Extravaganza” fundraiser in support of St. Louis Center in Chelsea, MI on Sunday January 24, 2010. This year’s event was attended by 300 people.

Fr. Enzo Addari presided over the Mass, and the Culinary Extravaganza that followed featured a multi-cultural feast provided by ten restaurants and four bakeries from Western Wayne County.

The event featured a “World Premier” movie honoring the 50th Anniversary of St. Louis Center, and also featured a performance from Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan. The Blessed Louis Guanella Humanitarian Award was presented to Dr. Richard J. Persiani, DDS, for his work throughout the world in assisting poor children needing reconstructive facial surgery.

Finally, additional money was raised from a Silent Auction and a Treasure Chest. The Servants of Charity are grateful to the Italian American Club of Livonia for their kindness and generosity.

## PASTA AND THE PRIESTS

As a follow-up to the November 2009 Dinner Auction at Chelsea Community Hospital, a special dinner was held at St. Louis Center on February 11, 2010 for patrons who purchased the privilege



*Fr. David enjoys dinner with ‘Josh.’*

of having “pasta with the priests.” A wonderful Italian style pasta dinner was served to an estimated 50 people in attendance for \$25 each, and a good time was had by all. The dinner was prepared and served by members of the Dinner Auction Committee, and our St. Louis Center kitchen staff.

### SALINE EPIPHANY CONCERT

St. Louis Center thanks the parishioners of St. Andrew Parish in Saline for their generosity in hosting a benefit concert for our residents on the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2010. Using a full orchestra, parishioners presented the mini-drama titled, “The Three Kings: Who Were Those Guys Anyway?” Fr. Enzo and several residents from the Center were in attendance, and a sizeable donation was made as a result of this wonderful event.

## SLC WELCOMES NEW STAFF



*Rick Visel*



*Peggy Cole*



*Mark Filice*

**RICK VISEL – PROGRAM DIRECTOR** - Rick Visel was hired on 11/9/09, and knows a lot about managing people after spending 26 years with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. He retired as a Lieutenant in the Corrections Division, and "Enjoys working with people and problem solving." Rick grew up in Ann Arbor and now lives in Saline with his wife Mary, and his son John and daughter Molly. He has a B.S. from Northern Michigan University, and likes to hunt and ride motorcycles.

**PEGGY COLE – DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR** - Peggy Cole was hired on 2/1/10, and is, "Driven by her desire to give a voice to the voiceless." She grew up in Maumee, Ohio, and has a passion for adult literacy with a B.A. from Bowling Green and an M.A. from the University of Chicago in Latin American Studies. Peggy has 23 years of experience working with non-profit programs and fund development. She lives in Sylvan Twp. with her husband John and children Paul, Cynthia, and David. She loves good music and gardening.

**MARK FILICE – SUPERVISOR** - Mark Filice was hired as a Direct Care Supervisor on 2/15/10, and also worked in law enforcement for Sheriff Department's in Ingham and Jackson Counties. He feels that his, "Family is the most important thing in his life." He is married to Angie, a teacher in Stockbridge, and his children are Libby and Page. He has a B.S. from the University of Michigan, and enjoys camping and biking. Mark and his family live in Leslie.



*Ryan takes a resident sledding on a late winter afternoon.*



*Rev. Msgr. Steven Raica and Joann Davis of the Lansing Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, discuss issues with Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler and Fr. Enzo Addari during the month of March.*



*Julian enjoys the Italian American Club Culinary Extravaganza with Fr. Satheesh Caniton, SdC.*

## JCC STUDENT NURSES TRAIN AT SLC



*Julie Ballow, RN.*

On Friday February 12, 2010, St. Louis Center became a training ground for the student nurses of Jackson Community College. Facilitated by CAC member Julie Ballow, (herself a Registered Nurse), approximately 25 students visited St. Louis Center to learn about the behaviors of persons with

intellectual developmental disabilities to better understand how to treat them when they enter the hospital setting. Our own nurse, Rena McLynn gave a tour of our Health Center, while P.R. Director Joe Yekulis provided a tour of the entire facility.

### NEW AND GENTLY USED BICYCLES NEEDED!

St. Louis Center's bicycle collection needs upgrading! We are in need of the following:

Children's Bikes	Teens/Adults Bikes
1-12" child's bike	5 mountain bikes, 15-17"
2-16" child's bikes	5 mountain bikes, 17-19"
2-18" child's bikes	
1-20" child's bike	

Please contact Development Director Peggy Cole, if you can help us. Thank you!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Golf & Glory Outing**  
June 22, 2010

**Memorial Golf Outing**  
July 17, 2010

**Joe's Top Dog Outing**  
July 25, 2010

**Lad and Dad Golf Outing**  
August 11, 2010

For more information,  
please visit our website.

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## IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIENDS

Hazel Cassibo  
Angelo D'Orazio  
Matilda DeMarco  
Joseph Dobrowolski  
Caroline Eisenbeiser  
Phillip Farrand  
Ron Gentner  
Margaret Gondek  
Dorothy Koengeter  
Charles F. Krausse, M.D.  
Barbara Merkel-Fuoss  
Nancy Merkel  
Sergio Nascimbeni  
Blanche Ottoman  
Dorothy Pancercz  
C. James Rex  
Mary Schwartzenberger  
Felix Selwa  
Charles Smith  
Michael Smith  
Bernard Turchin  
Marie Wegener

### REMEMBERING ITALIAN AMERICANS

Two very important friends passed into eternal life during the 1st quarter of the year. Angelo D'Orazio and Sergio Nascimbeni were both very helpful to St. Louis Center, and helped to expand our mission throughout Michigan. Angelo was a Member of the Italian American Club of Livonia, and was a founding member of the IACL "Guardian Angel" Committee, while Sergio was instrumental in developing friendships for our priests throughout the Metro-Detroit area. They will both be greatly missed.



*Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC celebrates mass at the Italian American Club of Livonia.*

### 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  
Willard Johnson  
George Mallison  
Kathi Neuman  
Norm Neuman  
Tom Nowatzke  
Timothy Patton  
Kenneth Unterbrink  
John R. 'Bob' Moody,  
(MI State Deputy, KofC)