



St. Louis Spirit

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"Everyone, even the smallest and most frail, must feel useful and appreciated, finding a way of easily expressing his capabilities." Blessed Louis Guanella

Winter 2009

Administrator's Message

Springtime is a time of transition, and many exciting things are happening here at St. Louis Center. The last six months have allowed us to start thinking outside the box to be more pro-active with community outreach, as PR Director Joe Yekulis and I have been visiting local public schools within the Washtenaw Intermediate School District to spend more time with the public school staffs who educate our residents. We've been able to tell our stories directly to the administrators and teachers who spend the most time with our residents, and provide them answers to many of their questions.

We also visited the Monroe County Department of Community Mental Health in January, and were very warmly received by Placement Director Renee Gonzales and the rest of her staff. We are planning a visit to the Wayne Center in Detroit this month, and many other outreach trips are being planned for the future.

Thanks to Tom Nowatzke, we've received another foundation grant in 2009 to upgrade our facilities through the same anonymous donor who assisted us with our new windows in 2008. This year we will remodel the kitchenettes in many of our units. Through the generosity of the Michigan Knights of Columbus, we will also

replace the armoire units in most of the resident's rooms.

The growth of our adult population has also brought about the re-opening of K of C Hall, providing us with more room to grow.

Planning for the future, we must also keep a wary eye on Lansing, where the legislature determines funding levels for several of our State-placed residents. We expect that in the next fiscal year, we will be part of a competitive bid process with other residential care providers for residential placements in Michigan, and we need to place ourselves in a strong position to remain viable.

This makes the success of our re-accreditation process with the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) this month all the more important. Finance Director Steve Daut has been preparing staff for this event during the past year by incorporating structural changes from CARF recommendations and guidelines. Our goal is a better quality of life for all of our residents, visitors, and staff.

Finally, we are almost a year away from celebrating our 50th Anniversary. This will occur on April 18, 2010 at next year's annual Recognition Dinner-Dance.

May the resurrection of the Lord that we celebrate at Easter, bestow upon you all of the blessings you deserve.

Fr. Enzo Addari

26th Annual Recognition Dinner Dance April 19th



Charlie Sims cheers on Grace Tulloch for her Service Award in 2008

Spring is a time of celebration at St. Louis Center, as we look forward to the Annual Recognition Dinner Dance. This year we are celebrating the 26th year of this event.

Honorees will be Most Rev. Bishop Carl Mengeling for the Good Shepherd Award, Tom Nowatzke for the Citizenship Award, and Doug & Mary Nadeau for the Friendship Award.

This is also an opportunity for our Parents Association to recognize our staff members for their accomplishments.

Dinner tickets are \$25 apiece or \$40 per couple, and raffle tickets are \$2 for a chance to win \$1,000. Contact Cindy Lesser for more information at 734-475-8430.

**Servants of Charity Close
“100 Years of Service and
Grace” on March 24th**



**Servants of Charity Congregation
begin their Centennial Year
during services in 2008.**

During the course of the past year, many exciting events were held in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of the Servants of Charity. This year marked the founding of the congregation of priests and brothers by Blessed Louis Guanella in March 1908.

Notable events during the past year included the opening celebration with Most Rev. Bishop Carl Mengeling, the first visit in May by both Most Rev. Bishop Earl Boyea and Most Rev. Alphonse Crippa, (Superior General - SdC), US Provincial Meetings hosted in October, and a full color commemorative publication.

On March 24, 2009, the Servants of Charity will be closing out their Centennial Year with special services at the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake. The program begins with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Mass of Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. Msgr. Steven J. Raica of the Diocese of Lansing will be the principal celebrant, and refreshments will follow.

Please RSVP your attendance to Cindy Lesser at 734-475-8430.

**Popular “Blessing of the Bikes”
Event Returns for Third Year
on April 26th**

As the third year of Blessing of the Bikes unfolds, our fine tuning continues to make this event more exciting, as we doubled our attendance in 2008 and brought in 165 motorcycles from all over Michigan. This year we hope to see two hundred or more motorcycles in attendance.



**Motorcyclists line-up for their
blessing in 2008**

According to event chair Sheila Fitzgibbons, “The sky’s the limit with this event, and it will only continue to grow in the future as we get better at what we do.”

Once again, the gates will open at 11:30 a.m., and the “Blessing” will take place at 1:15 p.m. Admission to the event is \$5 per person, and all proceeds will benefit St. Louis Center.

Christian rock group “Never Grave” from the Soul Zone Riders will return to perform for the day, and food will be available for purchase for those in need of a little nourishment.

Most importantly, 200 bikes and their riders will be taking over grounds on what will hopefully be a beautiful spring day. Don’t miss the sights and sounds of the “Blessing of the Bikes” at SLC.

**2009 Schedule of Events
St. Louis Center**

March

**24 - Closing Ceremonies
Centennial Mass at PUSJ
Grass Lake**

April

**19 - Recognition Dinner
St. Louis Center, Chelsea**

**26 - Blessing of the Bikes
St. Louis Center, Chelsea**

June

**22 - Paesano’s Dinner
Washtenaw Ave. - Ann Arbor**

**23 - Golf & Glory Outing
UofM Golf Course - Ann Arbor**

July

**18 - Memorial Golf
Pierce Lake, Chelsea**

**26 - Joe’s Top Dog Outing
Dearborn Hills, Dearborn**

August

**12 - Dad & Lad Outing
Twin Lakes, Rochester**

November

**7 - Dinner Auction
Chelsea Community Hosp.**

**Visit our web site at
www.stlouiscenter.org for more
details and registration
information.**



Major Degree Held at SLC in Honor of PSD Tom Clark February 1st



PSD Tom Clark receives congratulations from State Deputy Bob Moody during event

For the first time in several years, St. Louis Center hosted a Major Degree for the Michigan Knights of Columbus. Initiated by local District Deputy Wayne Meier of Ann Arbor, the degree honored Past State Deputy Tom Clark of Ann Arbor, who served the MI Knights from 1982-84.

What made this day special, was that 26 men were inducted into the 1st Degree of the Order, and those men became part of a group of 82 men who also completed the 2nd and 3rd Degrees of the Order. For the Knights, these degrees symbolize Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, and are an important part of a new member's development.

At one point, over 200 Knights were present during the event, and many were visiting SLC for the first time. At the conclusion, a dinner honored Tom & Doris Clark with the entire State Council present; including our CAC members Bob Moody, State Deputy, and Ken Unterbrink, State Warden. Gifts were presented to the Clarks from Ann Arbor St. Thomas Council #587.

Italian American Club of Livonia's 14th Annual Dinner a Huge Success

The generosity of the Italian American community in Livonia continues to be unmatched, as another wonderful event was held to support St. Louis Center through the efforts of our gracious hosts. Led by Club President Mary Galasso and a committed group of 21 others, planning for this event began six months ago.



Joe wins mom Kathi Neuman a 14K gold ring

Much of the early efforts are spent in two areas; the patron booklet led by Jerry D'Adamo, and lining up restaurants for the Culinary Extravaganza led by Shirley Broccardo.

The event began with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Enzo Addari, followed by the Culinary Extravaganza. It featured 11 area restaurants and 5 bakeries. After sampling the local cuisine, diners were treated to a meal from the IACL Banquet Center.

Following dinner, members of Verdi Opera Theatre of MI performed arias under the direction of John Zaretti. Finally, a silent auction and dinner raffle were held, along with the opening of a Treasure Chest; with the winner taking home a woman's gold ring. Joe Neuman of Chelsea was the big winner.

St. Louis Center Launches Web Site Upgrade



The photo above captures the beauty of the grounds of St. Louis Center during the fall months, and is used on the home page of our new web site (www.stlouiscenter.org). With the help of local web designer Leslie Surel of Chelsea, the upgraded site contains many new features and enhancements.

Our new site contains information about the history of St. Louis Center during the past 50 years, employment opportunities, types of residential programs available; and for parents, guardians, and agencies - the types of facilities we have to offer. There is a full calendar of events for the year, and we will soon enable a "donate" form that will accept credit cards and registration fees online.

Finally, we have a new photo staff directory, you will be able to read and copy this newsletter in color, and a page has been added to honor the advertisers who patronize the Dinner Dance at Italian American Club of Livonia in January with links to their web sites.

2008 Annual Report

We continue to improve on our ability to disseminate information, and have released our first Annual Report since 1985. This beautiful new 2008 Edition is available in hard copy and online. Please order your free copies by contacting Cindy Lesser at 734-475-8430.



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Rita Neuman
Emma Della Peruta
Helen Santorum
Jan Sweet
Brad VanPelt
Jerry Ziegler



Joyful residents prepare to cheer on the Pistons in February thanks to a generous donor.



Fr. Enzo accepts an MI Drive check from members of South Lyon K of C Council #7586

Christmas Friends

Special thanks to our generous friends who planned special events during the Christmas Season. *The Tocco Family, Marine Reserve Toys for Tots, and Jackson Council #9301-St. Mary Star of the Sea.*

St. Louis Center Community Advisory Council

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