



ST. LOUIS SPIRIT

WINTER
2010



HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY ST. LOUIS CENTER

It's hard to believe, but the 50th Anniversary is finally here. When you look at how St. Louis Center began in 1960 under the guidance of the Servants of Charity Congregation and the Archdiocese of Detroit, (and today the Lansing Diocese), it's amazing that we have endured so long in caring for Blessed Guanella's, "good children." Those of us who believe in this mission understand that through all of the trials and tribulations during the last fifty years, St. Louis Center has endured through the grace of

Divine Providence. In Fr. Guanella's words, "Those who receive with two hands from Divine Providence must give with four hands to the poor of Divine Providence...Just let them get in the door, and Divine Providence will take care of them."

St. Louis Center is part of God's Holy Mission on earth, and we thank our Heavenly Father for His Divine Protection. Fifty years of service to persons with developmental disabilities in Michigan, have provided us fifty years of blessings

and joys, laughter and tears. Please join us in wishing the Servants of Charity a Happy 50th Anniversary this year, and let us thank God for their presence in our community.



Founding priests inspect new sign in front of St. Louis School.

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of St. Louis Center is more than a family celebration; it is a celebration of community. We are not only grateful to the people of Chelsea, but also to the people of Southeastern Michigan who have made our stay here a success. Our confreres in Rome have also been very supportive of our mission here, and have demonstrated the universality of the Catholic Church through their spiritual and financial contributions.

Our ministry in the United States is not just about providing residential care, but it is also about giving a voice to



the voiceless. Many people with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) are overlooked in society, and at times victimized through their inability to speak for themselves. According to Barbara Lampe, Executive Director of the National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry, "The US Dept. of Justice [recently] released the results... of a study of crimes against people with disabilities. The sad and not-surprising finding is that people with disabilities are one and one half times as likely to be victims of crime as people without disabilities."

So what's in store for the next 50 years? Two of the most pressing challenges before us are an aging population and economics. We realize that our IDD population is growing older, and will continue to present medical and social challenges to St. Louis Center staff and to their aging parents. We

must have a plan in place to deal with geriatric issues as time goes on.

We must also be careful with the resources that you have given us to care for our residents. As agencies face funding cuts from state and local governments, their budget issues become ours, and our needs become more significant.

Finally, as we enter our next 50 years, "We look to the Founder, [Fr. Guanella], as the model of a shepherd and an educator. We perceive his presence in our midst as a father and teacher, continually encouraging and educating us toward a faithful and generous accomplishment of the pastoral and educational mission entrusted to us by Providence," (p.44 Basic Document).

Fr. Euro Ashlari

22ND ANNUAL FALL AUCTION ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY

For the past twenty-two years, Chelsea Community Hospital has partnered with the local community to present the St. Louis Center Dinner Auction. This year's event was held on Saturday November 7, 2009, and since the first dinner auction in 1987, Chelsea Community Hospital has provided the facility, food, and staff to support this event.

The auction was another sell-out, as over 150 people were in attendance, and Chair Kathi Neuman stated, "I was very touched by everyone's generosity. In these economic times, it's heart warming to see so many people open their hearts and their wallets." Attendees paid extra to send our residents to St. Francis Camp for a week, to community outings, and for a spaghetti dinner to be hosted by the priests on February 11, 2010. Next year's dinner-auction is scheduled for November 6, 2010.



State Secretary Thomas Marcetti presents Fr. Enzo Addari with a check for \$20,000 from the Michigan Knights of Columbus. Also present were (L to R) State Program Director Ed Strach, State Warden Ken Unterbrink, and State Membership Director Joe Yekulis.

CAUSE FOR SAINTHOOD MOVES FORWARD



William Glisson (left) with Fr. Peter di Tullio, SdC.

Alleluia! We all jumped for joy when the news from Rome reached our communities around the world. It was November 12, 2009: Our Lady of Providence smiled on us on her feast day, bringing the good tidings that the healing of the young American William Glisson should be considered an extra-ordinary, miraculous event, operated by the Lord through the intercession of our Blessed Founder.

As we wait for the next steps, leading soon to the official proclamation of the Canonization of Don Guanella,

let us carry in our daily life the reminder of the Holy Father: "Servants of Charity, become saints yourselves"! On January 30, 2010, the Vatican Theological committee will meet to review the medical findings.

CAC HOLDS RETREAT AT ST. MARY PARISH

For modern organizations to remain viable, they must take the time to regularly assess where they've been, where they're at, and where they hope to be in the future. This process is called Strategic Planning, and members of the Community Advisory Council and



Consultant Robin Grinnell reviews the work of Chair Larry Doll as he enters information into his laptop.

Administrative Staff spent a day with Fr. Enzo Addari on October 27th running through strategic planning exercises. The program was facilitated by consultant Robin Grinnell of missionFIRST in St. John's, MI, and covered topics such as goals, objectives, and our strategic vision. Special thanks to the Chelsea Community Foundation for supporting the costs of this event.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Our online donor system is now active. St. Louis Center is a qualified 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

[DONATE ONLINE](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The 50th Anniversary Committee met on November 19th, and is developing plans for a major event on Sunday September 19, 2010. This will be the formal recognition of the 50th Anniversary of St. Louis Center, and will be held in the parish hall of St. Mary Parish in Chelsea. A 50th Anniversary DVD is also in production.



ST. LOUIS CENTER PROVES CHRIST IS CHRISTMAS



"Robbie" hugs Santa as Jack Tocco, Jr. (r) looks on.



Musicians entertain the residents of St. Louis Center

TOCCO FAMILY BRINGS SANTA AND GIFTS - The residents of St. Louis Center have many great friends, and some of their closest friends live in an area known as the "Eastside" of Detroit, MI. That's where the Jack Tocco family resides, and once again on December 6, 2009, Jack, Antoinette and their family and friends followed Santa Claus and his friends to St. Louis Center to pass out Christmas gifts to every one of the "good children," as Fr. Guanella called them. Each resident received a personalized gift from Santa Claus, and the spirit of Christmas giving filled the room.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL #8500 PRESENTS MI DRIVE CHECK - On December 9, 2009, members of Highland Council #8500, (one of many), visited St. Louis Center to deliver a check for \$3332 from their Fall MI Drive, along with a dozen new winter coats and three sweatshirts as Christmas gifts for the residents. The Servants of Charity are grateful to all of the Michigan Knights for their generous contributions to St. Louis Center in Chelsea, MI.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - On Sunday, December 13th, the Saint Louis Center held its annual Christmas pageant. The performance opened with the story of the birth of Jesus. Next, was "The Great Christmas Guest," a story about Jesus visiting a shoe maker who was waiting for a special guest but found three strangers appear at his door step looking for help instead. Two skits, "The Angel Gabriel Visiting Mary" and the "Miracle of Jesus Being Born." Christmas Carols were also performed by the residents. The grand finale was the reading of "The Story behind the Candy Cane". At the end of the performance, the residents gave candy canes to all members of the audience. Members of the Parents Association were on hand to distribute gifts to the staff. They also made sure that there were enough cookies and punch to go around.

SPECIAL THANKS - The residents of St. Louis Center would like to send out a special thanks to all of the groups and individuals who made special contributions and visited during the Christmas season; especially K of C Council #9301 at St. Mary Star of the Sea in Jackson, the Marine Reserves and their Toys for Tots Program, Myra Conti and her special Clowns, Korean United Methodist Church, Christian Athletes, and all of the parishes and organizations that held Christmas Gift Drives.



Toni & Jack Tocco with Santa Claus (front), pose with Fr. Dave, Fr. Enzo, and Fr. Satheesh.



From Fr. John Howard Council #8500, Highland, MI - Front Row Kneeling: Mike Woodgate & Bob Szymanski, Back Row Standing: Rick Naruszewicz, Angelo Lamia (PGK), Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC., Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC., Tom O'Dea (PGK), and Gordon Buttrey.



Resident Lanard tells the story of the candy cane.



Sr. Margaret Mary congratulates residents after another successful Christmas performance.



50TH ANNIVERSARY 1960-2010

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IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIENDS

Richard Bertoni
Tony Cavaleri
Doris Clark
David Cercone
May Czubko
Bonnie Eisenbeiser
Margaret Fay
Ann Foster
Janet Fulks
Wayne Harvey
Norman Hinderer
Catherine Hitchcock
Bessie Virginia Hollister
Wanda Kosinski
Phil McGibney
Joseph Mignano
Linda O'Leary
Virginia Parin
Pete Phelps
Maryellen Starkey
Pierce Yardley

REMEMBERING DORIS CLARK

Doris Clark was a warm, compassionate woman, and the love of Past State Deputy Tom Clark's life. Doris was Tom's high school sweetheart, and they were married for 58 years. Together they were blessed with eight children. Doris was a registered nurse and worked at the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor for 30 years. She was a caring friend to all, and loved St. Louis Center and the Michigan Knights of Columbus. She will be greatly missed.



Doris and Tom Clark introduced in 2009 following the Major Degree held in Tom's honor at SLC.

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
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(MI State Deputy, KofC)