

NEWS FROM HOME

MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL HOME
6825 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121
314-383-4765
www.mogch.org

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

A FEW WORDS FROM SISTER M. STEPHANIE

Dear Friends,

In these sometimes dark days of February, aptly named the tunnel month, we look forward to the approach of spring. We have attempted to hasten its coming with the spring flowers that we placed all over the Home. Spring holds the promise of new life for which we hope, and now there is more new life coming to us at the Mother of Good Counsel Home.

We have been blessed to have Sister M. Angela as our Superior at the Home for nearly 9 years. Her term is ending, and we thank her so much for all she has done for us Sisters and residents, families and friends. Sister M. Angela will remain with us at the Home so you will still see her around!

Our new superior is an already familiar face to some of you, as she lived here off and on over the last years. Sister Eva-Maria is also well known in our archdiocese after her many years working in the Office for Consecrated Life. Sister will be moving to the Home the beginning of February and we welcome her with joy.

We look forward in hope to the new life that will blossom here as we await the lovely season of spring.

*The road of hope is paved with small steps of hope.
The life of hope is made of brief moments of hope.
As you, Jesus, always did what pleased your Father,
every minute I want to say,
Jesus, I love you,
and my life is always "a new and eternal covenant"
with you.*

- Cardinal Van Thuan

Sincerely,

Sister M. Stephanie, FSGM

From the Chaplain

The other evening I met with a young couple to help them prepare for their fall wedding and for what we hope and pray will be a life-long marriage. To be honest I had met them only once at a Christmas party at her brother's house. When they asked if I would marry them I was more than a little surprised. But I enjoyed our first meeting and appreciated their openness and honesty. After they left I checked my e-mails. The subject of one of them was "How to Dance in the Rain." Assuming that it was frivolous, I was tempted to delete it and go on to more important e-mails. But for some reason I opened it and found this story which is amended for the sake of brevity from the original.

"A gentleman in his 80's arrived at the hospital emergency room early one morning to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry, as he had an appointment in a half-hour. I checked the wound, removed the sutures, and redressed the wound. While I was doing all that, I asked him why he was in such a hurry. He said that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. When I asked how she was, he told me that she had Alzheimer's. I asked if she would be upset if he were late. He said that she hadn't recognized him in five years. I was surprised and asked him, 'And you still go **every morning**, even though she doesn't know who you are?' As he patted my hand, he smiled and said, 'She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is. And I know who I am - the man who vowed on our wedding day to love her for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, until death parts us.' I had to hold back tears as he left. I had goose bumps on my arm and thought: 'That is the kind of love I want in my life.' True love for me is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be. The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have. Life isn't about how to survive the storm but how to dance in the rain."

As soon as I finished reading this story, I thought of the couple that I had just seen. I forwarded the e-mail to them and expressed the hope that God would bless them with such generous and faithful love. The story reminded me of similar stories here at the Home, stories I see in action every day. These are stories of fidelity and graciousness, of trust in God and hope in eternal life.

Lent starts in a few weeks. Maybe this year, instead of giving up candy, smoking, or alcohol for Lent, we might consider giving to others, whether spouse or child, friend or neighbor the patience, understanding, forgiveness, respect, love, even reverence, that we all want in our lives. May God enable us to be channels of these gifts. - *Fr Ron Chochol*

MILESTONES
BIRTHDAYS, NEW RESIDENTS,
AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to New Residents

Mr. George Wichmann

February Birthdays

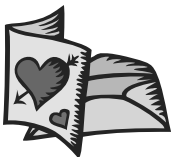
Residents

Mrs. Martha Owens - 17th
Father Ted Burghoff - 26th

Staff

Bettie Ewing - 2nd
Danita Howard - 3rd
May McPherson - 5th
Augustine Lee - 11th
Gloria Stanton - 18th
Latasha Knox - 24th
Kelly Klosowski - 25th

Do You Need a Gift?



There are gifts displayed in the show case on the 1st floor across from the new elevator. The items found in the case are music CD's, cookbooks, home-made greeting cards, and various hand-made craft items. If you would like to purchase anything from the showcase, please see the Receptionist at the front desk.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK ON February 11th

February 11th is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is also the day that Pope John Paul II designated as *World Day of Prayer for the Sick*. As part of our celebration of the feast and our observance of the day of prayer we are going to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at our 9:30 Mass for all the residents who are able to make it to chapel. Those who are not able to come to chapel will be anointed afterwards in their rooms. Families and friends whose schedules permit are cordially invited to join us in prayer with and for their loved ones.

Mass Intentions Offered at Mother of Good Counsel Home

Our chaplain, Father Ron Chochol, is willing to accept Mass intentions to be fulfilled at the morning Masses he offers at the Home. All those connected in any way with our community can speak to Father Ron directly, mail the information to him at our address, or leave an envelope at the front desk with his name on it. Please provide the following information: the intention for which the Mass is to be said (if for a deceased person, please include name), date and time preferred, and the name and address of the donor. The usual stipend is \$5.00.

Fundraising One Search or One Purchase at a Time!

Check out www.goodshop.com for your shopping needs online and www.goodsearch.com to search the internet.

GoodSearch.com donates 50% of its revenue, approximately a penny per search, to the charities designated by its users. Use it exactly as you would any other search engine and the pennies add up quickly – just 500 people searching four times a day will earn around \$7,300 in a year. It doesn't cost the users a thing!

Similarly with **GoodShop.com**, consumers are helping their favorite causes by shopping at hundreds of well known retailers including Amazon, Target, Apple, Macy's, Best Buy, Orbitz, Staples, and others. The shopping experience and the prices are exactly the same as going to the retailer directly, but by going through GoodShop, up to 37% of the purchase price is donated to the user's favorite cause!

Mother of Good Counsel Home recently registered with both sites, giving its supporters a chance to raise money for the Home every time they search the internet or shop online.

While doing a search or shopping online please make sure to indicate Mother of Good Counsel Home as your designated cause.



Nacho Day
 Thursday, February 4th
 10:30 - 3:30
 Activity Kitchen



The Activity Department will be selling Nachos and Chili Dogs throughout the day. All staff members, residents, family and friends are invited to stop by and have lunch or just a snack.

**Fat Tuesday Pot-Luck
 &
 Entertainment**
 Tuesday, February 16th
 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Activity Hall

All MOGCH residents, family and friends are invited to join us for dinner and entertainment. The Home will provide sloppy joes, dessert, and drinks. Family and friends are asked to bring a side dish to share. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the Receptionist or one of the Activity Staff Members, no later than Monday, February 15th.



Sweet Treats
 Friday - February 12th
 Friday - February 26th



Help Us Recycle

☀ **Clothing:** A collection container that looks like a miniature yellow barn is located **next to the garages** just inside the gate leading to the back of the Home. If you have clothing to donate, please drive in, push button to open the gate, and drop off donations.

☀ **Used printer cartridges** (Laser and ink jet).

☀ **Cell phones** (Condition or age doesn't matter): If you have cell phones and/or printer cartridges, please drop them off at the front desk, give them directly to Rhonda Hansen or one of the activity staff members.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Mark Your Calendar

Muny Kids

Saturday, March 6th
 2:00 p.m.

St Patrick's Day Pot-Luck
 Tuesday, March 16th
 5:00 p.m.

Reserving Rooms at the Home

The following rooms are available for the residents and their guests to use: the **Activity Hall**, the **dens on 2nd, and 3rd floors**, and the **private dining rooms on 2nd and 3rd floors**. Reserve early, because there is a limited number of rooms available.

If at any time you would like to **reserve** one of these locations, please call the **1st Floor Receptionist** to reserve the Activity Hall, **2nd Floor Nurse's Station** to reserve 2nd Floor Den or Private Dining Room, and **3rd Floor Nurse's Station** to reserve the 3rd Floor Den or Private Dining Room.

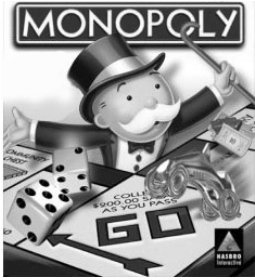
February Coming Events

Rosary - every Wednesday Stations of the Cross - 19th & 26th Nacho Day - 4th Birthday Party - 10th Sing-A-Long - 19th
 Horse Races - 12th Fat Tuesday Pot-Luck - 16th Bowling - 17th Movie - 24th Resident Round Table Meeting - 26th



Take a Chance on Monopoly

Capitalizing on New Modes of Communication



Monopoly, the world's number one board game, has a very curious and interesting past. The very first version of the game was invented by a woman named Elizabeth Magie, and it was called "The Landlords Game." This game was originally designed as a teaching tool – players would buy and

sell properties in order to learn that monopolies were bad for tenants and renters.

Although the game belonged to its inventor, Elizabeth Magie, players taught each other the game, changing the rules and even changing the names of the properties on the board as they saw fit. A woman named Ruth Hoskins, who lived in Atlantic City, New Jersey, is responsible for the property names on the current version of the board game. She changed all the names to Atlantic City street names.

Finally, a man named Charles Darrow learned Ruth Hoskins' version of the game, now called Monopoly, and he became obsessed. He wrote down the rules and began making Hoskins' board by hand. Darrow added the color stripes and cartoons and sold the game to Parker Brothers in 1935. On February 6, 1935, Monopoly as we know it today went on sale for the first time.

Here are some little known facts about the world's most popular board game:

- ✿ General Dwight Eisenhower played the game to relieve stress.
- ✿ The Beatles played it during their 1964 tour of the United States.
- ✿ A special version was created for WWII prisoners of war, with maps, compasses, real money, and other tools to escape hidden inside.
- ✿ Mr. Monopoly's original name was Rich Uncle Pennybags, and his appearance was inspired by the banker J.P. Morgan.



Email is not new, but our attempt to use it more effectively is!

We would like to gather email addresses from families and friends to be able to communicate with you via this mode in the future.

If you have an email at which we could reach you, please send it to Sister M. Beata at sambeata@mogch.org, or call 314-383-4765.

Thank you very much!

A Reminder to Be Kinder



If someone surprises you with a random act of kindness on February 17, don't be surprised. Be inspired, because this is Random Acts of Kindness Day.

Scientific studies have proven that acts of kindness are healthy for you. The rush of happiness, followed by a period of calming lightness after performing a kind act is known as the "helper's high." This releases the body's natural painkillers, endorphins.

Attending a club regularly, volunteering, even entertaining friends or strangers has the happiness equivalent of getting a college degree or doubling your income. Spreading kindness is easy. Bring flowers to a friend, write a thank you note, leave an extra big tip, give a bag of groceries to a homeless person, give up your parking spot to another driver, or just smile more.

December 2009 Quilt Winner

Annie Blum

Congratulations!