

NEWS FROM HOME

MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL HOME
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A FEW WORDS FROM SISTER M. STEPHANIE

Dear Friends,

For most of us who were born and raised in the U.S.A., the month of November is equated with Thanksgiving. This holiday for us is a time for family, gratitude for all of the blessings of our lives and, let's not forget, football. How many of the women who now reside at the Mother of Good Counsel Home worked for days to prepare a meal that would feed a veritable army? How many men had the honors of carving the turkey with great solemnity? How many of the children of our residents remember feeling even more stuffed than Tom the Turkey after that meal was over? And is there anyone that doesn't feel a certain tingle inside at the sound of the television broadcast of a college football game? Yes, this is a month of gratitude for all of these gifts and memories that we share.

November is also All Souls' month. In our grateful memories, we call to mind the lives of those who spent their last days here at the Mother of Good Counsel Home. We get such a small glimpse of a life in these days or years, yet it is a very privileged glimpse as we walk with them toward eternity. We pray for all those who have died in the past year and for the continued healing of their family members. Thank you for entrusting them to us.

In our prayers of gratitude we also remember all of those who support the Home, spiritually, financially and in many, many other ways. Please join me and all of the Sisters as we pray for many generous people to join us in making the mission of the Home a reality for many years to come!

Gratefully,

Sister M. Stephanie

From the Chaplain

By the time you receive this issue of NEWS FROM HOME we will all have gone through the extended Halloween that has become our American custom. Just as the Christian feasts of Christmas and Easter have been taken over in our society by commercialism, so also has Halloween. What our culture ignores are the Christian feasts that Halloween (or All Hallows' Eve) draws its meaning from and leads into: *All Saints Day* and *All Souls Day*.

These feasts reflect our belief in the communion of saints (*communio sanctorum*): that all the baptized who live and die in faith are members of the community of God's holy ones drawn together in love. For us the communion of saints includes all the baptized here on earth ("saints" because we have accepted God's unconditional love and because we have shared in the communion of "holy things" in the Eucharist), those who have died and still await (in purgatory) life in the immediate presence of God, and those who enjoy the presence of God in heaven (where we usually think the "saints" are, canonized or not).

In celebrating the Feast of All Souls and dedicating November to them, we recognize another part of the communion of saints: those in purgatory. Although we have fairly clear ideas of purgatory, we need to recognize that our understanding developed over twelve hundred years or more. In the early days of Christianity, church teachers referred to "the purging fires" that Christians experienced in dealing with the tragedies and persecutions of life. These purged their hearts and souls of selfishness and led them to greater trust in God. In their minds the purging fires took place in this life. But then in the 600s and 700s, the Irish monks gave out very long penances for sins (e.g., ten years on bread and water, twenty years of saying certain prayers, and so on). And the person was not absolved until the penance was completed. But what if someone died before the penance was completed? The monks developed an understanding of God's gracious mercy, so that the sinners who had not finished their penances and their families would still have hope that they would enter heaven. The purging fires of this life now became the purgatory of the afterlife, a "place" initially on the periphery of hell and then eventually on the periphery of heaven. And because we were one with them in the communion of saints, we could apply our prayers to help them complete their penances and so eventually enter into the joy of God's presence. In this way we recognize that we are one with them in the gracious and abundant love of God. – *Fr Ron Chochol*

**MILESTONES
BIRTHDAYS, NEW RESIDENTS,
AND DEPARTURES**

Welcome to New Residents

Mrs. Jaclyn Green

With Deepest Sympathy

Mrs. Jacqueline Herhold

November Birthdays

Residents

Mrs. Adele McGhee - 4th

Mrs. Helen Hupp - 6th

Miss Barbara Marentette - 12th

Mrs. Dorothy Dierker - 17th

Mr. Raymond Jezik - 20th

Miss Donna Kline - 22nd

Mr. Gale Marler - 23rd

Staff

Bridgett Milliner - 1st

Ann (Nancy) Belgeri - 5th

Luke Sykes - 6th

Corliss Huddleston - 12th

Vicki Goscinski - 13th

Christina Giles - 15th

Theresa Steinmann - 16th

Doris Schmitt - 19th

Mass Intentions Offered at Mother of Good Counsel Home

Our new chaplain, Father Ron Chochol, has indicated that he 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.

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.

3rd Quilt Winner for 2009



Eunice Rahn
Congratulations!!



Nacho Day
 Thursday, November 12th
 10:30 - 3:30
 Activity Kitchen



Thanksgiving Feast
 Saturday, November 21st
 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Activity Hall

All MOGCH residents, family, and friends are invited to join us for lunch and entertainment. The Home will provide the turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, drinks, and dessert. 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 Thursday, November 19th.

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.

Peanut Butter Treats

Friday - November 6th
 Tuesday - November 13th



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.
- ♦ **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 or give them directly to Rhonda Hansen.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Mark Your Calendars

Santa Party - Saturday, December 5th
 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
 Activity Hall

Angels Visit MOGCH
Sunday, December 20th
 2:00 p.m.

Bell Choir
Monday, December 21st
 2:00 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.

November Coming Events

Rosary - every Wednesday	Benediction - 6th	Birthday Party - 11th	Nacho Day - 12th	Bowling - 18th
Horse Races - 20th	Thanksgiving Pot-Luck - 21st	Resident Round Table Meeting - 25th	Movie - 27th	



Flu Season

Flu season is almost here and we are getting ready to help keep our residents, staff, families, and visitors safe and healthy! The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended the following steps to stay as healthy as possible.

1.) Take time to get a flu vaccine.

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease.

Getting a vaccine is very important for people at high risk for serious flu complications, including young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart or lung disease, and people 65 and older.

People who live with or care for those at high risk should also get a flu vaccine to protect their high-risk contact.

2.) Take everyday preventive actions.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. If you don't have a tissue, use your elbow!

Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

Avoid close contact with sick people.

If you get the flu, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.

3.) Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor recommends them.

If you do get the flu, antiviral drugs are an important treatment option.

Antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and make you feel better faster. They may also prevent serious flu complications. This is especially important for people at high risk.

For treatment, antiviral drugs work best if started soon after getting sick (within 2 days of symptoms).

Flu-like symptoms include fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches.

Capitalizing on New Modes of Communication



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@mqgch.org, or call 314-383-4765.

CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

On Sunday October 11th at our 10:00 a.m. Mass, we celebrated the wedding anniversaries for nine of our resident couples: two couples live here and one of the spouses lives here for each of the other seven. They were joined by family members and we had a full chapel. It was a great celebration and brought joy to all our hearts. After Mass the couples and their families enjoyed some delicious refreshments in the Activity Hall.

Here is the list of the couples in the order of their marriage. Residents are indicated by italics. *Congratulations and Best Wishes! May God bless them with love and fidelity!*

Thomas and *Mildred* Moore
(April 17, 1940)

Joseph and *Dottie* Peters
(May 4, 1946)

Vic and *Theresa* Elbert
(November 6, 1948)

Harold and Pat Gilpin
(June 18, 1949)

Don and *Vicky* Drier
(December 26, 1952)

Roger and *Betty* Schaefer
(October 20, 1953)

Bruce and *Mary Ann* Beckmann
(December 30, 1957)

Frank and *Billie* Grasser
(July 11, 1959)

Gale and Helen Marler
(December 23, 1972)