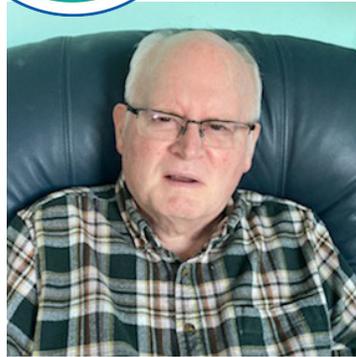




Fr. Fred Meyer



Fr. William Martin



Fr. Robert Valit



Fr. Peter Wang

Celebrating 236 Years of Service

A native of St. Paul, Fr. Fred Meyer was born on October 10, 1930, the eldest of four children. Father's mother was a Resident of our Home several years ago and he joined our family in 2018. The most important event in Father's life was his ordination to the priesthood, which took place on June 2, 1956. Over his nearly sixty-six years of active ministry he has served the Church in various parishes in Minnesota, including St. Paul, Minneapolis, Roseville, Cleveland, and Le-Center. He is a lover of nature and enjoys walking in the garden. His radiant smile brings joy to many people at Holy Family Residence.

Fr. William Martin was born in Portland, Oregon on May 2, 1948 and moved to Duluth, Minnesota as a young boy, along with his seven younger siblings. After graduation from high school, he attended St. John's University in Collegeville, MN where he received a bachelor's degree in music. He taught choral music to high school students and then went back to the University of Minnesota to complete a master's degree in music composition.

Father Martin was the organist at Epiphany Church in Coon Rapids, MN when he met Fr. Bernard Reiser, who encouraged him to consider a vocation to the priesthood. He entered St. Paul Seminary, and was ordained June 3, 1978. Offering daily Mass and being able to minister to the people of the many parishes he served has been

most important in his life. Father came to reside here three years ago, and periodically surprises and delights those living and working at the Home by playing beautiful music on the chapel organ.

Born in Cumberland, Maryland on April 1, 1928, Fr. Robert Valit was then adopted by his parents Robert and Louise Valit of Minnesota. Father Valit was raised in both the Methodist and Congregational Protestant faiths and sang in a Lutheran choir during his teen years. Father attended St. John's University for two years, and then he had a desire to find the fullness of faith, which prompted him to visit with a priest at St. Olaf Church and eventually to convert to Catholicism at age twenty.

Father Valit entered New Mellaray Abbey in Iowa and was ordained a Trappist monk on April 4, 1961. After twelve years as a monk, he sought a change in his ministry to become a diocesan priest for the archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. He began his first of many parish assignments in 1973, and has served in Minneapolis, Golden Valley, St. Paul, Dayton, Forest Lake, and Edina. Father continued to travel to two parishes in Stillwater to assist with Masses after his retirement in 2001. Father Valit still has vivid memories of the exact location in St. Louis Park where he was inspired with the desire to become a Catholic priest. He regards his ordination day as the most significant day of his life.

Fr. Peter Wang, the second youngest of nine children, was born on December 1, 1930 in Liaoning, China. Father attended elementary school in Tihing, and went to high school at the minor seminary in China. Father Wang then attended the major seminary in Penang, Malaysia. He also studied at Louvian University in Belgium. He was ordained there on May 5, 1957. After ordination, Father studied the Old Testament in Rome for several years. He then came to the United States and taught primarily Old Testament courses at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul from 1967 until 1996. Father Wang is fluent in five different languages, including Latin, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, and English, but considers Mandarin his primary language. The most significant experiences in Father's life are his ordination, his studies in Rome, and coming to live in St. Paul.

Fathers Martin, Valit, and Wang concelebrate daily Mass from the pews of our chapel. Their prayers join those offered by Father Meyer for the intentions of all connected to the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Together, these four priests will have a total of 236 years of service and dedication to the priesthood as they mark their ordination anniversary in the coming months. We thank them for all they have done and wish them God's blessings as they commemorate their special days. They are truly a gift and blessing to our Home!

Our Garden Speaks: "Help Needed"

Currently I sleep under the white blanket of winter but in the near future I shall awake and shed the cover of snow. My trees will begin to grow leaves, flowers will bloom, and the river will once again flow freely. I surround Holy Family Residence and I am the view from the dining rooms, lounge areas, bedrooms, and Jeanne Jugan apartments.

My garden grounds here at Holy Family Residence have always been

a place where picnics are held, grandchildren play, and beauty is appreciated. I offer serenity to Residents out for a walk or participating in a procession. Benches and chairs provide a spot to discuss the news, share stories with friends, play cards, read a novel, or sit quietly and take in the beauty of the blossoms or fragrance of the flowers. Shrines including to St. Joseph, the Blessed Mother, and

the Sacred Heart present a tranquil setting for individual prayer and reflection throughout the grounds

These past few years have taken a toll on me because of the COVID restrictions and lockdowns, and I don't quite measure up to the lovely garden my Residents used to know. I need help with restoration so that I will continue to be a safe and serene place for my elderly friends to once again use and enjoy.

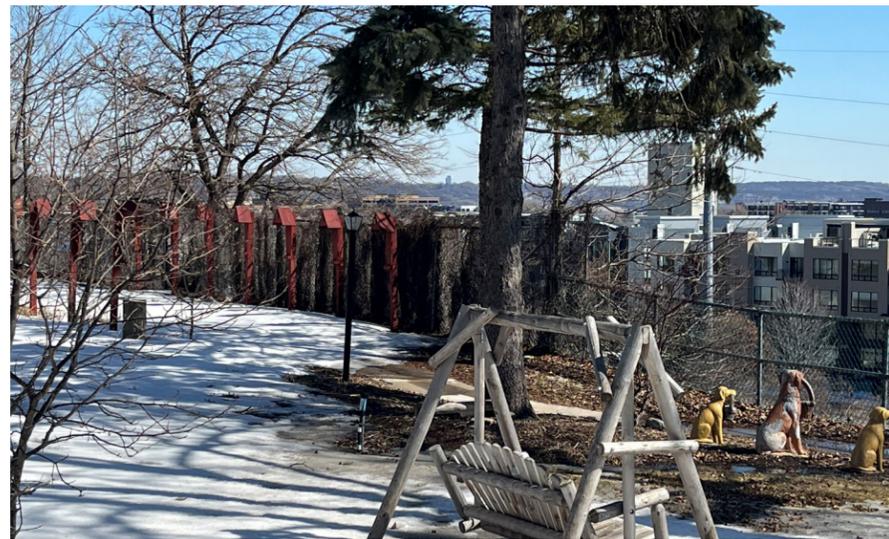
During the sixties, folksinger Pete Seeger sang in the Garden Song, "Inch by inch and row by row," plants grow, bloom and bring joy to the beholder and satisfaction to the tender of the garden. The song continues, "Season them with a prayer and song. Mother earth will keep you strong if you give her love and care." Some tender loving care is exactly what I need right now. My pathways need repairing, bushes

need replanting, and the flowers will need tending. Priority in the past two years was focused on the safety and wellbeing of the Residents who once enjoyed my gardens. The need for a restoration of the gardens becomes more urgent as hopes for a return to "normal" outdoor activities continue to grow.

The plan is to make me once again a place where Residents can walk, enjoy beauty and find peace and

serenity in a safe environment. I hope you will find it in your heart to help bring back the splendor by which I was once known. In the words of one of my favorite songs, "I see trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself what a wonderful world!"

Your support will touch hearts and bring great joy to our Residents as my beauty is restored. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Through the years and seasons our garden has seen a variety of changes. Left and center photos are current while the right photo is from years past.

Our Lenten Journey

Lent is the Church season when we are encouraged to spend time in prayer, sacrifice and in almsgiving. It begins on March 1st and continues until April 14th, with the commemoration of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. These forty days remind us of the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert as well as the forty years the Israelites wandered the desert in exile.

We are living in challenging times and our lives have been, and continue to be, disrupted by the uncertainty of health concerns, natural disasters, severe weather, as well as events in our own personal

lives. The darkness of the winter months and prolonged isolation due to COVID have taken a toll. Sometimes it is hard to have hope, yet Pope Francis tells us that Lent is a season of hope, for "we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated." Our Holy Father encourages us to realize that, "Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to 'make his dwelling' among us."

As we begin this Lenten journey, we have six weeks to make a difference in someone's life, and in our own. We can

begin by saying a prayer, offering a smile, inviting a friend to lunch, or sharing a word of encouragement with a family member, friend, or coworker. We can show appreciation by writing a note of thanks for a mail carrier or waitress, volunteering time, phoning a lonely neighbor, or expressing gratitude for a caregiver. These and other random acts of kindness are all simple steps in the right direction of letting the light of Christ shine through our lives. In the words of Pope Francis, "May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter."



SAVE THE DATE

ST. JEANNE JUGAN GOLF CLASSIC
Monday, August 22
At Indian Hills Golf Course
Stillwater
10 a.m. Shotgun Start



MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As we turn yet another calendar page in this new year we are so grateful for the many Christmas kindnesses extended



to our Home by family, friends, volunteers, and benefactors. Your gifts and donations help us to provide the best possible care to our elderly Residents.

We are also grateful for our loyal staff who have, despite breakthrough cases of COVID, assisted us with the daily care and observance of protocols to ensure for the safety and well-being of all in our Home.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in supporting the renovation of the Jeanne Jugan apartments. Progress is on pace with the anticipated timeline. The project is nearing an end and we look forward to the day when all the finishing touches are completed.

We have entered the season of Lent and look forward to the great feast of Easter in six weeks. Thank you for being a light to others by living a happy life, responding with kindness and understanding, as well as bringing joy to the elderly who are the face of Christ.

May God bless you with a fruitful Lent and a joyful Easter Season.

Mother Theresa



A Year Like No Other

The year 2020 brought the need for masking, social distancing, and hand sanitizing unlike any year we have known in a century. It was a year of fear, isolation and many challenges. Last year brought us the vaccine and booster shots, along with a glimmer of hope that the worst of the pandemic was in the past and that we would once again be able to have a sense of "normalcy" in our lives.

Unlike 2020, even though the Home couldn't welcome outside groups including carolers and entertainers, during last year's Christmas season, Residents still shared in the joy of the season. They delighted in a celebration on each unit and they toasted in the new year with champagne and treats in small groups. They were grateful for being kept safe during this pandemic and for being able to return to some

activities they enjoy, even if on a smaller scale.

Valentine's Day was celebrated as Residents received flowers and candy treats delivered with messages from family and friends. The Valentine-grams were prepared with the help of the staff and activities department and were a source of heart-warming smiles and pleasure.

The cold of the winter months necessitates staying inside right now, but the Residents continue to find new ways to keep their bodies active and their minds engaged. Hidden talents are continually being discovered in the lives of our octogenarians and those even older. This new year brings the promise of a partial return to "normalcy," new opportunities as the snow melts and spring arrives, and the anticipation of a glorious celebration of Easter.