



In this newsletter, we celebrate three special people at Holy Family Residence.

NURSE BONNIE RETIRES

'I wanted to give them the best care'

Bonita Rastetter, better known as Nurse Bonnie, retired from Holy Family Residence in April after 28 years.

Her connection to Holy Family Residence started after her prayer group held a meeting here and she immediately felt right at home.

Not long after that, an opening for a nurse's position was available and that was the beginning of a lifetime of service to the elderly at our Home.

The Residents of today and those of the past have a special place in her heart.

Bonnie recalls, "I loved them each as a special person and I just wanted to give them the best care and respect that they so deserved."

Bonnie feels gratitude and love for the staff and Little Sisters and how well "we all work and fit together for the well-being of our Residents."

She is touched by how the nursing team and other staff members treat each Resident with respect as well as show interest in what the Resident might need.

The faith and prayers of the Residents have continuously inspired Bonnie. She has witnessed the strength and resilience of Residents who have lost a loved one, been diagnosed with cancer or some other serious disease, yet have been filled with acceptance through the grace of



“**She crowned the Blessed Mother at the May crowning, the first time an employee was given this honor.”**

God, who gives them the help needed to get beyond the crisis.

Witnessing prayerful moments

of the Residents over many decades, Bonnie says, "I have been blessed to see how many rosaries are being prayed each day!"

Bonnie's life was greatly impacted in 2006 when her three-year-old grandson died after a tragic accident at home. She found strength in her work and the support and love she received from the Sisters, Residents and staff.

Reflecting on her retirement, Bonnie knew that this was the right time.

She joked with the Residents that if she did not retire, she would soon be getting a room here! Some Residents even offered to share their room with her, demonstrating the warm feelings they have for her.

Bonnie is looking forward to retirement, including spending special time with her two granddaughters.

Bonnie came back to join the Residents and Sisters for the annual May Crowning. She was honored to crown the Blessed Mother at the Mass held on May 13. This was the first time an employee was given this honor.

As Bonnie moves on to new horizons, she takes with her best wishes from her family at Holy Family Residence. We wish her good health and much happiness in this next chapter of her life.

She will be remembered fondly for her acts of kindness as a caretaker, friend and mentor to others. Congratulations and may God bless you in retirement!

MEET BROTHER PAUL

'The Lasallian charism at work'

Brother Paul Louis Grass was born and raised on the East Side of St. Paul.

Brother Paul attended Sacred Heart School from Kindergarten through eighth grade and was superbly educated by the Sisters of Notre Dame. He enrolled at Cretin High School in August 1948.

The enjoyment and success he experienced at Cretin, Brother Paul says, "...are primarily because of the individual Christian Brothers who taught me during the four years. Their uniqueness and expertise in every classroom and their unity of purpose and spirit impressed me."

Adding to the inspiration, at the end of his sophomore year, Pope Pius XII declared Saint John Baptist de La Salle as Patron Saint of All Teachers of Youth.

Brother Paul received the religious habit as a Brother of the Christian Schools on Dec. 14, 1952. Perpetual profession took place at Beaver Island, Michigan, on June 26, 1959.

The first two assignments as a Christian Brother were as a teacher and chorus director at secondary schools in Texas and Illinois. Brother Paul held various university administrative positions from July 1967 through June 1988, and earned a PhD in 1970 from Michigan State University. He was the Regional Coordinator of Christian Brothers Conference from 1988-1991 and worked from 1991-1997 as the Secretary General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the Generalate Community in Rome, Italy. He served as executive director of Lasallian Publications in Winona, MN, from 1998 to 2010, focusing on translating all of St. John Baptist de La Salle's original writings into English.

A significant moment in Brother Paul's life as a Christian Brother was the 1973 session of CIL (Centro Internazionale Lasalliano) at the Casa Generalizia in Rome, Italy. He was introduced to "...inspiring experts and scholars who dedicated their lives to researching the origins of the Institute

Saint John Baptist de La Salle (1651-1719). I learned the deeper story of the vocation, the spirit of faith and the inspiration of De La Salle and the early Brothers."

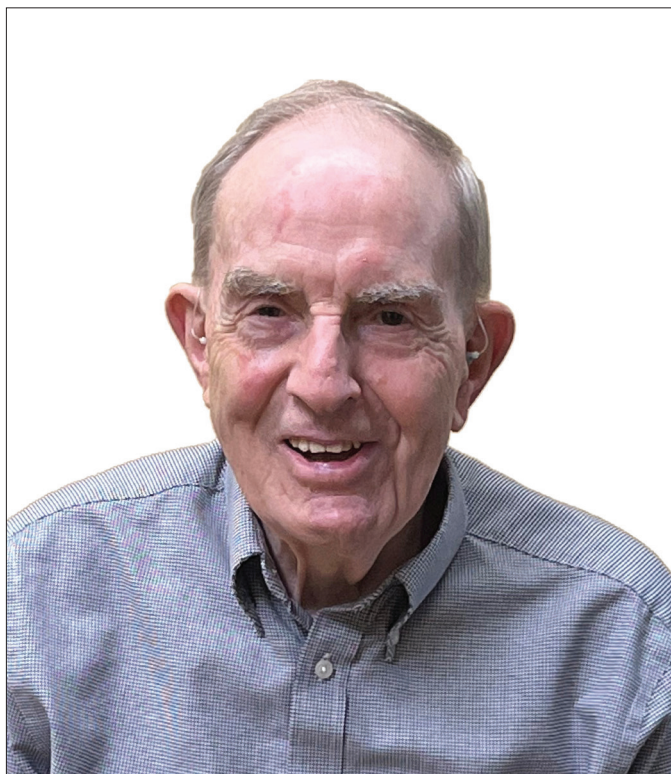
He continued, "The spirit of faith, the presence of God, the needs of poor people, the quality of teaching and the building of the community of believers in Lasallian schools are as important as ever. The expansion over time of the role of all who are baptized in educating the young is evident in the worldwide Lasallian network of schools where only 2% or 3% of the teachers are vowed religious members. The Holy Spirit and the Lasallian charism are at work."

The advice Brother Paul would give someone considering a vocation of service to the Church today is, "The charism of Saint John Baptist de La Salle is producing results. The Brothers with De La Salle looked about them with the eyes of faith, supported by personal and community prayer and the Gospel, saw what young people were

lacking, what they needed and how to help them. The same process can occur today in your individual life."

Brother Paul had cousins who lived in the Homes of the Little Sisters in Chicago and Indianapolis. His mom, Mary (Kohn) Grass, lived at Holy Family Residence from 1994-1996 and he knew of retired Brothers who lived here as well.

Based on the advice of the Brothers, personal experience and a recent medical diagnosis, Brother Paul came to live in our Home this year. He reflected, "This community of caring is God's providential blessing for me."



"The building of the community of believers in Lasallian schools are as important as ever."

of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the life of the Founder,

*MEET BROTHER JAMES***‘Independent living with a chapel for daily Mass’**

Brother James Rosak was born in South St. Paul.

He went to St. Augustine's grade school and then to Cretin High School, taught by the De La Salle Christian Brothers. His mother instilled the value of education as a priority saying, "I don't care if you dig ditches for a living. I want you to be able to carry yourself and express yourself in public whenever the need arises."

Brother James said, "The Brothers who taught us at Cretin expected us to study and to demonstrate self-control, while granting we were boys. I found them to be knowledgeable teachers and a caring lot. Brother Timothy, my senior homeroom moderator and American History teacher, sat me down one day and said he thought I could make a good Brother. I liked the idea of engaging in some work bigger than myself. Brother Timothy's invitation won the day. My mother was pleased but exerted no pressure; my father was dubious, thinking I would not stay the course."

Shortly after graduating from Cretin, Brother James entered the novitiate in Glencoe, Missouri on June 13, 1952. He received the habit August 30, 1952 and took his first vows a year later.

He continued his education earning a B.A. at St. Mary's College

in Winona, MN, and earned state certification to teach English, math and Latin at the high school level, along with philosophy and religion.



“I liked the idea of engaging in some work bigger than myself.”

He also earned credits in high school administration and was a chief administrator or principal three times. He specialized in English curriculum, linguistics, classical

literature and old and middle English. He also taught in Kenya and Mexico.

Advice Brother James would offer someone considering a vocation of service to the Church includes the following: "I would ask what Church means to them. If they say the Church is us, we would talk of the way God is real to us, of what God is asking us to do, and we would be an old seeker sharing with a young seeker."

Many Brothers living in St. Paul have benefitted from the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor over the years. Brother James would visit them and "see the freshness and almost monastic sense of the spaces, not crowded with anxious, bewildered old folk I often saw in elder homes." He appreciated the option of "independent

living in an apartment with ready access to the assisted living facility, and importantly to me, the chapel for daily Mass."

When his younger brother was dying of cancer, Brother James returned to St. Paul from Memphis.

After five years in an independent apartment, Brother James applied and was happy to be accepted at Holy Family Residence. That, in his words, "was the beginning of another period of the rod falling on a pleasing site."

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We have the utmost gratitude for those who understand our mission and partner with us to help us provide the elderly with a loving and nurturing home. Thank you to all who participated and made our Easter Meat Drive a success. It was the kindness of friends, benefactors and family near and far who filled our freezer with sumptuous servings to delight the taste buds.

It is wonderful to announce that as of June 15, we now can welcome family and visitors for Mass in our chapel, and we are open for family visits. Restrictions have eased so that it is no longer necessary to wear face masks, and it is delightful to greet visitors face-to-face once more! We welcome you to come and enjoy the beauty of our gardens while spending time with your loved ones here at Holy Family Residence.

St. Jeanne Jugan, our Mother Foundress, gave thanks each day for God's Providence. It is for this reason that our summertime fundraiser is called "August Blessings." Named in thanksgiving and in honor of the life of St. Jeanne Jugan, a daily raffle ticket will be drawn with winners receiving from \$100 to \$1,000. The top prize will be awarded on her feast day, August 30. When we count our blessings, we include all who help us throughout the year with support, time, and prayers. You are gratefully remembered in the daily prayers and Masses in our Homes throughout the world.

May God bless you,
Mother Theresa



WE ARE COMING BACK!

You are invited to join us for our Christmas Boutique which will return after a four-year hiatus. Our talented crafters are busy preparing items that will be a perfect addition to your home or the ideal gift for someone on your list. Our bakers are reviewing recipes to delight your families. Everyone is excited to bring back this much anticipated event, although on a smaller scale!

Gift baskets, crafts, the winery, baked goods, festive decorations and plenty of holiday cheer will tempt your taste buds and put you in the holiday spirit.

Mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday, November 18-19 and plan to spend an afternoon with us. Get your Christmas shopping list ready. We look forward to seeing you!



WAYS TO GIVE

General Gifts:

Either one time or sign up online for a recurring gift of any amount at the frequency you choose.

Tribute Gift:

In honor of someone for a Birthday, Anniversary or other special occasion.

Memorial Gift:

In memory of a loved one or friend.

Planned Giving:

Bequests have been one of the most meaningful sources of funds for the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Through the generosity of so many, the Little Sisters have been blessed to continue their work for the elderly. Consider making a legacy gift to the Little Sisters of the Poor through a Living Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust, Life Insurance Beneficiary, Retirement Plan Beneficiary or a provision in your Will.

Visit our website www.littlesistersofthepoorstpaul.org