

Catholic Charities Joyfully Launches 75th Annual Celebration of Giving



Families line up to deliver presents to children awaiting adoption in the early years of the Celebration of Giving. This year marks the program 75th year, which has spread to serve families throughout Lake and Cook counties.

A very happy tradition started in Chicago in 1947. World War II left a great deal of devastation in its wake, yet those who survived were filled with gratitude and hope despite the uncertainty with which they moved forward. Catholic Charities continued to serve the needs of many children who were orphaned and abandoned, with staff members and volunteers always striving to brighten the lives of those in their care.

At Christmastime, a group of parents who had adopted children from Catholic Charities got together and purchased gifts for children who had not yet joined new homes. Word spread about this quiet, very kind gesture and soon more toys and other children's items poured into Catholic Charities' Chicago offices. The first, spontaneous "Catholic Charities Toy Shower" was a resounding success, with every child in our care knowing he or she was loved and celebrated that Christmas.

This wonderful holiday project in Chicago continued to grow through the years. By the 1980's, participating in the "Catholic Charities Toy Shower" was an important part of the season for thousands of Chicagoans each year. An efficient system was set up to sort, package, and distribute the growing number of donated toys, and the program expanded so that families receiving care and services from Catholic Charities could also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Contributors



**The Voice of
Charity** | 3
Lisa Francis



**Words for the
Spirit** | 4
Rev. Charles Rubey



Chicago History | 11
Mary Ellen Kastenholz

Features

**Supporting Asylum Seekers on
Their Journeys** | 2

**Veteran Voices: On Serving
their Country** | 7

Senior Services in Action | 8

Special Dates

November 2022

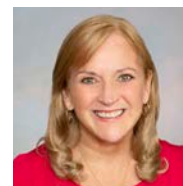
Birthstone: **Topaz**
Flower: **Chrysanthemum**

- 1 All Saints Day
- 2 All Souls Day
- 6 Daylight Savings ends
- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 World Day for the Poor
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 First Sunday in Advent

December 2022

Birthstone: **Turquoise**
Flower: **Holly**

- 8 Immaculate Conception
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve



Greetings from the Editor

Katie McDonnell Bredemann

Happy Holidays, Keenager Readers!

It's the most wonderful time... of the year! Our November/December issue features a variety of stories to lift your spirits and invite you to join in our work throughout the holiday season. Please consider contributing to our end-of-year appeal, using the enclosed envelopes so we can continue to offer Keenager News as a free publication. If you are able to switch to email delivery of

this paper, and/or if we can assist you, call us at (312) 655 7425 or email us at keenager@catholiccharities.net.

See pages 4 and 5 and join us in congratulating Fr. Charles T. Rubey on his 50 years of service at Catholic Charities. Finally, visit catholiccharities.net to read the latest edition of SPIRIT magazine. May the 2022 holiday season be filled with special memories for you, your families and friends to treasure throughout the New Year!

For the Keenager News Team,
Katie McDonnell Bredemann



Your Comments Are Appreciated!

Share them with us at keenager@catholiccharities.net or by calling (312) 655 7425

Keenager News

Editor

Katie McDonnell Bredemann

Editorial Board

Sally Blount
Phil Zepeda
Angela Bailey
Robert Boyd

Graphic Design

Rose Sweeney

Photos

Catholic Charities Communications staff unless noted.



Archdiocese of Chicago

Keenager News is a free publication mailed and emailed six times a year to persons 55 and older by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, a non-profit organization.

Editorial Office

721 North LaSalle Street, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60654-3503
(312) 655 7425

For subscriptions, changes of address, deletions, contributions, questions, or comments, please write or call our editorial office, or e-mail the changes to us. Contents may be printed in their entirety with proper credit given.

Advertising Policy

Advertisements appearing in the Keenager News cannot be construed as being an endorsement by Keenager News or its members. Advertisers and their agencies assume liability for all of the content of advertisements printed and are responsible for any claims that may arise from their advertising. Keenager News reserves the right to reject any advertisements it deems objectionable.

Catholic Charities Mission

Catholic Charities partners with mission-driven people and organizations across Cook and Lake Counties to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need. We are called to serve and accompany anyone, regardless of their faith, gender, race, or ethnicity.

Catholic Charities is an equal opportunity employer.

©2022 by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Coordinating a Catholic Response

Like other Catholic dioceses in the United States, the Archdiocese of Chicago has established a **Coordinated Catholic Response**, with Catholic Charities, parishes and other Catholic human service organizations to provide assistance to asylum seekers who have been arriving by busloads in Chicago in recent weeks.

Most of the asylum seekers arriving in Chicago are coming from Venezuela, having fled a fearful way of life. In tandem with other leading human service organizations and local and state government agencies, the Coordinated Catholic Response invites Catholics in our region to help relieve the suffering of our fellow human beings, in a charitable effort that is similar to those that have been done numerous times since 1843, when the Archdiocese of Chicago was established.

Our faith calls us to welcome strangers and aid anyone in need. We do this every day and have stepped up in previous crises and we will continue to do so now for these new neighbors.

Of particular resonance, the vast majority of Venezuelans are Catholic and have shared how comforting it is to be welcomed by our Catholic Charities staff.

Our team of dedicated of bilingual social workers welcome new arrivals, conduct initial needs assessments, and connect those who are headed to other destinations to family, friends, and shelter. Often, there is just a day's notice or less before our Catholic Charities team must mobilize for action. We are grateful for their commitment and dedication to our mission to help those caught in crisis.

As the Coordinated Catholic Response develops, we continue to work closely with local partners leading on shelter, access to additional services, and legal advice.

If you would like to join in our work to support the asylum seekers, visit catholiccharities.net to donate to a special fund created

for this purpose. We are in the early stages of a crisis that will likely last months. Additional opportunities to assist through the cold winter months ahead will be forthcoming.

As the weeks progress, Catholic Charities will continue to serve as one of our region's "first responders" to human need. The asylum seekers are immensely grateful for the support being offered, as most arrive only with the clothes they are wearing. Our team recognizes their fragile condition with each introduction, offering a hand to hold as we are just one touchpoint for them on their long journey ahead.

The Voice of Charity

JOIN US!

Tuesday Mornings @ 8:30am

WNDZ 750-AM

Great conversations on the issues that matter to you.

MAKE IT PART OF YOUR WEEK!



The Voice of Charity

Lisa Francis

Post Adoption Specialist

Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt Receives St. Vincent's Inspiration Award

For the past 34 years, I have been fortunate to work in the Catholic Charities Post-Adoption Impact Area. We provide programs and services to those who were adopted at Catholic Charities over the years, including search and reunion services, mediated communications between birth and adoptive families, individual and group support meetings, and annual events celebrating adoption.

One of our favorite days is when we host the Annual St. Vincent's Orphanage Reunion. This year, more than 100 people from all over the country gathered to celebrate the connection they share from being involved with St. Vincent's, which was lovingly run by the Daughters of Charity religious order from 1881 to 1972. At the reunion, adult adoptees, adoptive parents and friends of St. Vincent's joined with Child Care Technicians (CCT's) who were trained long ago by the Daughters to nurture and look after the children while they were in the care of Catholic Charities.

This year, it was my honor to bestow the **St. Vincent's Inspiration Award** on City of Chicago Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt, who was adopted from Catholic Charities in 1964. When Commissioner Nance-Holt joined the Chicago Fire Department 32 years ago, she faced much adversity as one of the first female and African American firefighters in Chicago. While working full-time as a firefighter, Commissioner Nance-Holt earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from Anna Maria College with an

emphasis on Fire and Emergency Management. Through hard work and tremendous dedication, Commissioner Nance-Holt rose through the ranks in the Chicago Fire Department, achieving promotions to lieutenant, captain, Battalion Chief, Deputy District Chief, and First Deputy Commissioner, before being named Fire Commissioner last year. She is the first female, and the first African American to hold this title.

Commissioner Nance-Holt suffered a tragic loss in 2007, when her son and only child, Blair, an honor student at Percy L. Julian High School, was shot and killed while riding a CTA bus home from school. A gang member boarded the bus, and started shooting and Blair died trying to shield a female classmate from the gunfire.

In Blair's honor and memory, Commissioner Nance-Holt co-founded **Purpose Over Pain**, a not-for-profit established with other parents who had lost a child to gun violence. She also started the **Blair Holt Foundation** that provides scholarships to students at Percy L. Julian High School. In addition to her admirable career, Commissioner Nance-Holt's faith in God, her extensive community involvement, and her active role in St. Sabina Parish made her a natural choice to receive this award. It is given to someone who emulates St. Vincent De Paul's compassion, humility, and great generosity.

In receiving the award, Commissioner Nance-Holt said, "I will continue to walk this walk and try to help as many people as I can in my life, and hopefully other people get the message that adoption is the thing to do, for people who are unable to raise their children...There are so many people who love children and want children and can't have them... Thank you so much and God bless you." Commissioner Nance-Holt is a true inspiration to us all.

We continue to hear from adult adoptees who want to know more about the weeks and months they spent at St. Vincent's. We provide non-identifying information about birth families and offer guidance as they search for more information. We also arrange tours of Catholic Charities headquarters at 721 North LaSalle Street building—the same building in which St. Vincent's Orphanage resided.

I am always deeply moved by the powerful emotions that emerge when adult adoptees enter our lobby, walk through our halls, and visit



"I will continue to walk this walk and try to help as many people as I can in my life."

- Chicago Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt

the baptismal font in our chapel where they received their first sacrament. There is a great deal for our adult adoptees to sort out in their hearts and minds as they learn more about their birth history, and we let clients know Catholic Charities is here to support them, as we do in all of our life-affirming programs.

For more information, contact Kathy Herrera, Program Director Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption Support Services, kherrera@catholic-charities.net, (312) 655 7087.

Learn More

- **Catholic Charities Post Adoption Services:** (312) 655 7093
- **Blair Holt Foundation:** (773) 577 3222
- **Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Parenting Services:** (312) 454 1717. Confidential counseling; parenting support; educational programs on prenatal care and delivery; child development and well-being; parenting techniques, self-care, and strengthening family life.
- **Arts of Living—Chicago:** (312) 320 3143
- **West Suburban Parenting Program** Maywood, Hillside, Westchester, Broadview, Melrose Park: (773) 243 7380
- **Roseland Adolescent Parenting Program** Chicago-Roseland/Altgeld: (312) 964 0375
- **Family Case Management & Better Birth Outcomes—Chicago Far Southside:** (773) 474 7223



Words for the Spirit

Reverend Charles T. Rubey

Associate Administrator, Founder and Director, LOSS Program

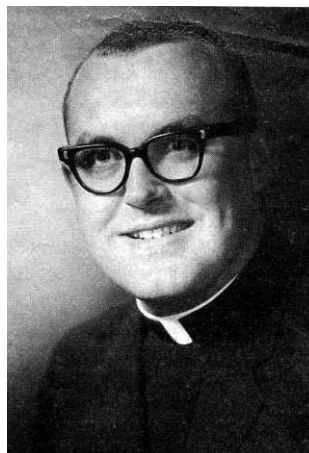
Reflections on 50 Years at Catholic Charities

I have been a priest for 56 years. I was first assigned to a very busy parish on the southside of Chicago. There was a parish high school and my responsibilities included teaching and being part of the student activities. It was a great experience to be with all of the young people. There were ten priests assigned to the parish and I was the youngest priest in the rectory. I had no idea what a priest was supposed to do. Luckily, the other priests guided me. They were great teachers. I worked very hard, as did the other priests in teaching, visiting the hospitals, and seeing people in the evenings in the office.

After five years, the pastor asked me what I wanted to do next. I had no idea what my next move would be. He asked me if I would consider working at Catholic Charities. I said I would try it.

My 50 years at Catholic Charities have been a great experience for me as a priest... I have had the privilege of witnessing people come to grips with losing a loved one to suicide and recreate their lives to experience joy and happiness again.

I began working at Catholic Charities in 1972, working with men on Skid Row. At that time Skid Row began at the Ogilvie train station and went all the way to the Chicago Stadium, with the flop houses and missions and bars in the area. These men on Skid Row wanted to get off the street, and I worked with them as they tried to straighten their lives out. I did this work for about



Pictured: Father Rubey at his ordination and with members of his family: (l to r): Fr. Rubey's sister Mary Ann, his mother Stella, and his aunt (Stella's sister) Ann.

three years and then Catholic Charities encouraged me to consider a degree in social work. I did this, and when I returned, I was asked to develop work in the field of mental health.

I did that work for a number of years and then I was introduced to three couples who had formed an organization called **Compassionate Friends**. They formed a bond because they had all lost a child to suicide. They approached Catholic Charities to see what could be done on a broader level for people experiencing this loss. I met with them and thus the LOSS Program (Loving Outreach for Suicide Survivors) was born.

We began meeting in one of the couple's homes in the northwest suburbs. About a year later, we began meeting on the southside of Chicago. The program continued to grow and we added more sites and programs to acknowledge the different ways survivors process this devastating pain. As I mentioned in my last column, only myself and a secretary were staffing the program until I was given permission to hire someone to answer the phone and speak to callers. Therese Gump filled that role and she was a great addition. She could talk to people and understand their pain because she had lost a son a few years before. Therese was a very creative person and so she developed a newsletter, which we called the Obelisk. The obelisk is a sign of hope and that is what the meetings bring to people –hope. Other survivors who have worked for LOSS include Jill Scott, Bruce Engle, Jessica Mead, and Emily Tegenkamp, who currently is a Coordinator working with our Program Director, Deborah Major.

Over time, we began a fundraising event, starting with a Sunday brunch. In 2019, at the

most recent in-person brunch at Drury Lane in Oakbrook, we had about 950 attendees, the vast majority of whom were survivors of suicide. It was a very supportive event for all. This year, at our online event, one of the speakers was David Axelrod, who delivered a great message of hope. David lost his father to suicide many years ago.

I have learned that grief from suicide is a very lengthy process and talking about the trauma takes a long time. Our individual and group sessions meet survivors where they are and guide them in the process. Because of the pandemic, we suspended in-person meetings and began meeting virtually. One of the positive results of these virtual meetings is that we were able to reach people all over the country who might not have the support in their local communities. Going forward, we will continue virtual meetings, in addition to our in-person meetings.

My 50 years at Catholic Charities have been a great experience for me as a priest. During my 43 years of working with the LOSS program, I have had the privilege of witnessing people come to grips with losing a loved one to suicide and recreate their lives to experience joy and happiness again. People ask me the great question of WHY their loved one took their own life? My response to that question is, that this is all about the mystery of God. The path to resolution is that survivors are challenged to live with Mystery.

Keep on keepin' on,

Charles T. Rubey

Rev. Charles T. Rubey

Fr. Rubey's Half Century of Service to Those in Need

What a blessing it was, in 1972, when Fr. Charles T. Rubey came to work at Catholic Charities!

As Fr. Rubey describes, his first assignment was working with homeless men on Chicago's Skid Row. After earning a Master's in Social Work in 1977, he became Director of Catholic Charities' Mental Health Services while also acting as Manager of the Division of Family and Community Services.

Fr. Rubey showed great courage and skill in establishing the LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) program, which has become one of the longest running counseling programs at Catholic Charities. He is tireless in his priestly ministry to the bereaved, celebrating Mass, blessing locations where loved ones have died, and sharing Christ's hope of eternal life through his work each day. Survivors who practice other faith traditions, or no faith tradition are equally welcomed and supported at LOSS.

Today, LOSS has three staff members, seven part-time therapists, and 40 volunteers. It has been recognized by the United Nations as a model self-help program and hosted trainings for the World Health Organization, the University of Hong Kong, and the Beijing Suicide Research and Prevention Center. Catholic dioceses across the United States have reached out to Fr. Rubey for assistance as they form their own programs similar to LOSS. It is also held in high regard within the American Association of Suicidology (AAS).

At the annual "Blossoms of Hope Brunch," the Fr. Charles T. Rubey Award is given to someone

who exemplifies the meaning of "Loving Outreach," as Fr. Rubey has done for 43 years.

In 2019, on the 40th anniversary of the LOSS program, Rahm Emanuel, then-mayor of the City of Chicago, presented Fr. Rubey with a resolution recognizing his contributions to Catholic Charities, the mental health field, and the thousands of people who have participated in LOSS since its inception. That year, LOSS published, "Seasons of Grief," a powerful collection of Fr. Rubey's writings. In addition, it was announced that the Fr. Charles T. Rubey LOSS Endowment Fund would ensure the future of the program for years to come.

Keenager News joins with legions of Fr. Rubey's colleagues, admirers and friends who congratulate him on 50 years of extraordinary service. We are grateful to know and work with you, Fr. Rubey. For this we give thanks.

Learn more

To learn more about LOSS, purchase the "Seasons of Grief" book, or donate to the Rev. Charles T. Rubey LOSS Endowment Fund, call (312) 655-7283 or email loss@catholiccharities.net.

988 is the new three-digit number for the service previously known as the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**. This phone number is staffed 24 hours a day.

This excerpt from "Seasons of Grief" shows Fr. Rubey's remarkable ability to closely identify with what survivors are enduring while offering them positive thoughts to consider.

Finding Reasons to Give Thanks Despite Grief

At the time of our great national feast of Thanksgiving, many grieving people ask the question, "What do I have to be thankful for?" The prospect of gathering with friends and family to give thanks for the blessings in their lives may frustrate survivors. They know too well that life can be blessed one moment and seemingly cursed the next, as a loved one is suddenly gone, forever, with no warning...

Yet the LOSS family knows that thanks can be given, in time. There are friends and family who are supportive and nurturing and understanding. For this, we give thanks.

There are minutes or hours or maybe even a day or two when the pain is not so piercing or intense. For this we give thanks.

There are survivors who have made the long and lonely and pain-filled journey of grief, who serve as examples for the newly bereaved. For this we give thanks.

Realizing the value of spending time with people we love while they are with us is one of the gifts that grief can give us. For this we give thanks.

✝ ST. JUDE NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us; St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us; St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

NK CMAO NB DKS

The Novena is a nine day devotion. Say the prayer nine times a day. If you would like to acknowledge your gratitude for its influence in your request, contact Keenager News at (312) 655 7425 and we will include your initials in the publication of this Novena.

No payment required.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

participate. Eventually, the Toy Shower became known as “The Celebration of Giving,” or COG, to acknowledge this extraordinary outpouring of generosity that came each December from all over Cook and Lake counties in support of people very much in need.

Melissa Lucas, Interim Director of Volunteer Engagement, says Catholic Charities is delighted to coordinate the 2022 Celebration of Giving in-person after the past two years of the pandemic. “Our Case Managers have worked with clients to list household items they need the most. Often times these include the most basic necessities, including coats, hats, and socks. Children’s names, ages, and favorite toys are listed as well, and then we work with our team of staff members and volunteers to disseminate the lists to those wanting to ensure that our clients have a Merry Christmas.” Last year, more than 14,500 individuals in Cook and Lake

counties had wonderful presents to open Christmas morning, due to the Celebration of Giving program and the generosity of countless caring people. Melissa continues, “Clients are immensely grateful for the kindness extended to them. A number of our volunteers used to be clients, and they tell powerful stories of what it meant to be a COG recipient at a particularly tough time in their lives. We are incredibly grateful for whatever time and gifts people can give.”

Many parishes, businesses, families and neighbors gather each year to “Sponsor a Family,” or gather gifts of all kinds for Catholic Charities clients at their holiday gatherings. There are many ways to participate, including online Wish Lists that make giving as easy as can be. As Melissa adds, “We like to think that those who began this holiday program would be glad to see what has transpired over the years. The need is still very much there, and it is our privilege to carry on the great tradition they started 75 years ago.”



Volunteers are at the heart of the Celebration of Giving. Pictured above, clockwise: Volunteers from Northern Trust, Woodland Academy of the Sacred Heart, and at the Toy Parade in 2006.



Celebration of Giving

**Learn More and Join the
2022 Celebration of Giving**

Web
catholiccharities.net

Email
cog@catholiccharities.net

Call
Cook County: (312) 655 7401
Lake County: (847) 782 4210

Shop online and have your gifts sent directly to our warehouse

We make it easy for you to help Christmas wishes come true. Shop online for gift cards, toys, and household items from our wish lists. Your gift will be shipped directly to our warehouse and distributed to children and families in time for Christmas!

Visit catholiccharities.net for links to our wish lists, or find us on Amazon, Building Blocks Toy Store, Target, and Walmart.

Send gift cards

The most requested gift for youth aged 12-18 are gift cards (especially from Target and Walmart). If

choosing this option, please send or deliver plastic gift cards (not electronic) to:

Catholic Charities
Celebration of Giving
721 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60654

Drop off your unwrapped gifts at one of our sites

Chicago, Downtown
Catholic Charities Offices
721 North LaSalle St.
11/21 through 12/5
M-F, 7am to 7pm
Saturday, 12/3: 10 to 2pm

Chicago, Blue Island
2731 South Wood Street
11/23 through 12/5
M-F, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Cicero
1400 South Austin Blvd
11/23 through 12/5
M-F, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Des Plaines
1717 Rand Road
11/23 through 12/5
M-F, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Crestwood
Incarnation St. Terrence Parish
5707 West 127th Street
12/3 only
Saturday, 9am to 12pm



Veterans Day is November 11

On Veteran's Day, and throughout the year, we are deeply grateful to all veterans for their service to our nation. In honor of Veteran's Day 2022, we asked several of the residents at our St. Leo's Campus to share their feelings about having served in the U.S. Armed Forces. We also asked them what they like best about living at St. Leo's Campus for Veterans. Below are their responses, along with how they would like to be identified for this segment. May God bless all veterans and their families.

Happy Veteran's Day to you!

D. Perkins (United States Navy)

I am very proud to have served in the United States Navy because it taught me how to be a man. Being in the military taught me skills that I could use in a job and that provided a means for me to support my family. My family, including my father and my uncles, have all served in the military. We are all proud military veterans.

I love living at St. Leo's Residence. The building is very clean and well-maintained. All the staff from security, maintenance, property management, and social services take good care of us. I love them all and Mr. Diaz, my Case Manager, he is my man! I have absolutely no problems at St. Leo's, I love it there.

C. Dossie (United States Navy)

I am proud to have been in the military. I joined because I wanted to serve my country and serving in the Navy allowed me that opportunity and it was a great experience.

What I like best about living here is they do a lot of stuff for us here. There is a community atmosphere or feeling at St. Leo's Residence that the staff create. I am very appreciative of this place and the fact that I have a roof over my head every night.

Anonymous Veteran (Army)

I am proud to have served my country.

What I like best about living at St. Leo's is that it was a nice place to get your feet back on the ground like I had to fifteen years ago. Over those fifteen years, the environment has been great for me, and I enjoy living here.

Lawrence LeFleur (Army and Air Force)

I was very proud to serve in the military. I had a dedication to my country, and as an American I believe it was my duty to honor and serve.

I have a roof over my head that is the most important and best thing about living at St. Leo's. After that is the feeling of camaraderie you get living among a group of other veterans who have been through if not the same thing very similar experiences and we can relate to one another. We are brothers and sisters and I feel closer to some of my veterans here at St. Leo's than my biological family. St. Leo's provides that environment.

Charlton Parker (Marines)

I was very proud to serve in the Marines. Before enlisting in the Marines, I didn't have any direction in my life. Being in the military made me a better person.

What I like best about St. Leo's Residence is that it is nice and comfortable. I don't have to worry about anyone going through my stuff, I have my own key to my apartment. I really like the convenience of having a laundry room on site and the other conveniences of the building.

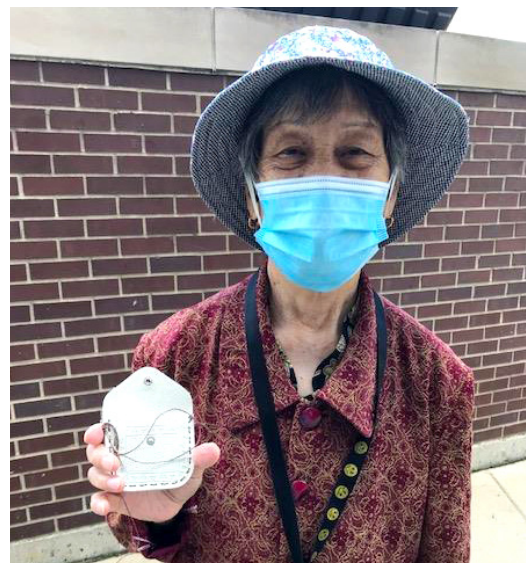
Edna Meadors (Army)

I am very proud to have served in the Army. It was a very positive experience, where I learned discipline, organization, how to be on time, and how to work with people to ultimately become a leader. It gave me the opportunity to serve my country.

I like that St. Leo's is a safe and peaceful place to live. My neighbors and the staff are kind and hospitable. It is very convenient for me. The whole organization is very generous to us, Catholic Charities is a real blessing to veterans.

Catholic Charities Senior Services In Action: Lots to Do in 2022!





Service Data Snapshot: Fiscal Year 2021/22

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, we provided service and accompaniment to more than 342,000 individuals and families throughout Cook and Lake Counties, many of whom were served multiple times and by several programs.

All program statistics are preliminary and subject to change.

Senior Care

- Low-income seniors in need of long-term support received 80,000 visits from case managers to connect them to care, arrange supportive services, and ensure their safety.
- We coordinated social services for 10,986 seniors in 71 affordable housing buildings, helping them age in place.
- 7,209 meals were delivered to seniors through the support of 110 volunteers.

Behavioral Health

- 3,600 children, youth, and adults met with our behavioral health counselors over the course of 33 sessions on average.

Refugee Resettlement

- 146 refugees, including from Afghanistan and Ukraine, are on a path toward becoming self-reliant. Of these, 75% achieved job readiness. We helped secure housing for every family and enrolled every child in school.

Domestic Violence Supports

- 75 mothers and their children who survived domestic violence received holistic services in our

two transitional shelters. 90% of those who left the shelters built up savings and found housing and work. Almost all engage in after care. 286 additional survivors received counseling.

Food Security and Nourishment

- 40,590 people received items from our 11 food pantries 174,622 times.
- More than 29,300 sit down and to-go meals were served in our community supper programs.
- 51,501 mothers and caregivers visited the 16 WIC Food Centers, traveling from 19 counties. 38% of all 173,000 transactions were for special formula provided during the national formula shortage.

Housing Stability

- More than 14,400 people experienced stability from our housing access and support programs.
- 913 individuals and families engaged in rapid and permanent housing, 83% maintained stable income, and 93% of the 55 households that exited the program demonstrated increased self-sufficiency.

Family Strength + Development

- 2,206 new and expectant parents and their children received case management, doula support, and home visits, helping parents emerge as stronger caregivers
- 97% of 352 children enrolled in our early childhood education programs met their development milestones.
- Over 75% of more than 600 youth who were connected with mentors and employment opportunities showed improved self-confidence and sense of agency.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES



Peace of Mind

may be more affordable than you think ...



0% *interest on any pre-need selection**

Cremation options from **\$43** *per month**

Graves with packages from **\$68** *per month**

Visit our website at www.CatholicCemeteriesChicago.org or call 708.236.5490, 708.449.2340 *Español*, 708.236.5446 *Po Polsku*.

**Monthly payments are estimates only based on 72 month interest-free financing. Terms may vary based on cemetery selection location and amount of down payment.*



For more information or to make a pre-plan selection, complete and mail this form to Catholic Cemeteries 1400 S Wolf Rd, Hillside, IL 60162-2197.

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Cemetery of Interest _____

Your information will be kept confidential and used only for responding to inquiries. KA-POM3

Chicago's Sound of Music Since 1891



Mary Ellen Kastenholtz
Staff Writer

A 1904 Christmas gift remains one of Chicago's greatest assets: Orchestra Hall, designed by illustrious architect Daniel Burnham and the permanent home to the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**. The dedicatory concert was performed on Christmas Eve under the direction of Maestro Theodore Thomas, founder and first musical director of the Chicago Orchestra.

The seeds to start an orchestra were planted in 1889 by Chicago businessman Norman Fey when he invited Theodore Thomas, a leading conductor in the United States to inaugurate a symphony orchestra in the city. A gifted violinist, Maestro Thomas began a traveling ensemble in 1864—Theodore Thomas Orchestra—with their debut concert at New York's Irving Hall. He became music director of both the Brooklyn Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic. Fey allegedly asked him if he "would come to Chicago if we gave you a permanent orchestra?" and legend has it that Thomas replied, "I would go to hell if they gave me a permanent orchestra!" In December of 1890, the Orchestral Association incorporation meeting occurred and by October 1891, the first concert of the Chicago Orchestra was held in the Auditorium Theatre.

The Chicago Orchestra toured extensively, including a visit to Canada in 1892 and a first trip to Carnegie Hall in March 1893.



Maestro Thomas led the Orchestra in several concerts while he was the music director of the World's Columbian Exposition.

From Daniel Burnham's vision, building of the permanent home for the orchestra began in May of 1904 and was completed for the first concert on December 14, 1904. The building was named "Theodore Thomas Orchestra Hall" which is inscribed in the façade. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Wagner are inscribed along the ballroom windows. Three weeks after the dedication, Thomas died from influenza complications. He served as music director for 13 years.

In 1905, Frederick Stock became the second music director. He was hired by Thomas for the viola section in 1895 and became the assistant conductor in 1899. Known for his innovative and dynamic personality, he was instrumental in the renaming of the orchestra to Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1913. The Orchestra began playing at the Ravinia Festival in Highland

Park in the summer of 1905. Orchestra Hall was used as a movie theater during the summers of the 1910s. Lectures and special programs were added in the 1920s and 1930s with appearances by Harry Houdini and Amelia Earhart, among other notables.

Stock's tenure lasted 37 years, the longest of the 10 music directors. He is also credited with the founding of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the first training orchestra to partner with a major orchestra in

the U.S. He also began youth auditions and concerts for children.

Subsequent directors were Désiré DeFauw (1943–1948), Artur Rodzinski (1947–1948) and Rafael Kubler. Fritz Reiner directed for 10 years creating the Chicago Symphony Choir led by Margaret Mills in 1957. Jean Martinon followed (1963–1968).

Sir Georg Solti (1969–1991) promoted great musical partnerships and started European tours in 1971. As a music director laureate, he returned to conduct for several weeks a season until his death in 1997.

Daniel Barenboim (1991–2006) both pianist and conductor, opened the Symphony Center in 1997 and arranged 21 international tours. Riccardo Muti (2010–) is the current music director.

Earning 62 Grammy Awards from recordings since 1916, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra formed its own recording label, CSO Resound, in 2007. Music for Fantasia (2000) conducted by James Levine and Lincoln (2012) conducted by John William brought CSO to the big screen.

Vehicle Lifts

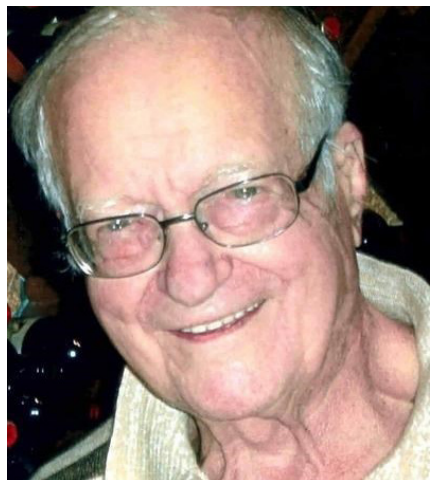
"Affordable Alternative to Full Conversion"

- Options for EVERY make and model
- Freedom to go where you want!
- Reliable and Easy to use!
- Visit us: www.rampnow.com



Call Today!
630-892-7267

Reader's Corner



Mr. August "Augie" Barberi, 1912-2022.
Courtesy of: Chicago Sun-Times.

Reader August "Augie" Barberi Dies at 109

Mr. August J. "Augie" Barberi, who passed away on August 27, is being remembered for many reasons, including the fact that he lived to be one month shy of his 110th birthday. He was the sixth oldest known living man in the United States.

Augie was born September 25, 1912, one of five children born to Italian immigrants August Sr. and Anna. A lifelong resident of South Chicago Heights, Augie worked for steel mills and factories in the south suburbs of Chicago, and then for General Electric until his retirement in 1975.

In 1915, Augie's family moved into a home that his father built and, in 1952, he built his own home on the adjoining lot for his own family, which included his wife, Ida and their two children. During his years at GE, Augie made a refrigerator on the line that he brought to this home, and that refrigerator lasted 60 years without a single repair.

Augie was very active in church activities and he volunteered for a number of community organizations in Chicago Heights, South Chicago Heights, and Bloom Township. Kind-hearted and civic-minded, Augie also was a big sports fan, especially for the White Sox and Notre Dame football. His favorite U.S. president was Harry Truman. He enjoyed

working in his vegetable garden, and was still canning tomatoes grown in his garden, and making pasta sauce after he turned 100.

The Village of South Chicago Heights asked Augie to be Grand Marshall for their centennial celebration in 2007. In 2013, they honored him by renaming the street he lived on "Honorary August Barberi Way," in recognition of the fact that he had lived on this same street for almost 100 years.

In an interview with WFLD-TV when he was 101, Augie was asked what the secret was to his long life. he replied, "I have no idea, other than perhaps a glass of red wine every day, and I never really stressed much."

Ida Barberi passed away in 1995. She and Augie are survived by their sons Ray and Bob, their wives, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Keenager News extends sincerest sympathies to the Barberi family.

Sources: wgntv.com; legacy.suntimes.com; the100club.com; panozzobros.com

Reader Thomas McDonnell Awarded by Veteran's Commission

U.S. Navy veteran Thomas McDonnell is being honored by the Park Forest Veteran's Commission November 10 at Freedom Hall in Park Forest. On the occasion of his 90th birthday, Tom is being recognized as the oldest veteran living in this Chicago suburb.

The celebration will include a ceremonial flight for Tom around Park Forest in a helicopter, a ROTC Honor Guard from Bloom Trail High School, a Color Guard ceremony, a performance by the 144th Army Band, and a display of military



Tom McDonnell early in his Navy career.

vehicles for residents to enjoy as Tom's flight lands in the town's Central Park.

Tom served as a radioman on the USS Des Moines, the USS Newport News, and the USS Salem from 1952-1956, in all

Mediterranean ports of call and at naval communications facilities in Port Lyautey, French Morocco, and Bremerhaven, Germany. He was awarded the National Defense Service and Navy Occupation medals before receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1960.

Tom and his wife Betty have been married for 65 years. They moved to Park Forest in 1961, raised their three children there, and have been active members in St. Irenaeus parish and in the Park Forest community for many years. Tom and Betty have five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Keenager News congratulates Tom on this award and thanks him for his dedicated service to our nation.



Winter Needs Drive



Catholic Charities is accepting donations of coats, hats, gloves, personal care items and non-perishable food at the St. Vincent Center, 721 North LaSalle Street in Chicago. Call (312) 655 7700 for more information.

Thank you for helping our neighbors in need. For more Catholic Charities volunteer opportunities, visit ccofchicagovolunteer.com or call (312) 655 7053.

Call your Regional Office to learn about the greatest needs near you:

Lake County
(847) 782 4000

North/Northwest Cook
(847) 376 2100

Chicago Southwest
(773) 349 8835

St. Sabina (Chicago)
(773) 846 3018

West Cook County
(708) 222 1491

South Cook County
(708) 333 8379

Southwest Cook County
(708) 430 0428

from The Recipe Box

Make-Ahead Turkey Tetrazini

from a Keenager Reader

For your leftover turkey! Makes 8 servings

Ingredients

8 oz. uncooked spaghetti	1/8 t. nutmeg
5 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced (2 c.)	Dash of pepper
¼ c. margarine or butter	3 c. cubed, cooked turkey
3 T. flour	½ c. grated Parmesan cheese
2 c. chicken broth	¼ chopped fresh parsley, if desired
¾ c. half & half	Extra chopped parsley for garnish
1-3 T. dry sherry, if desired	
1 t. salt	

Preparation

Cook spaghetti and drain in hot water. In large saucepan, saute mushrooms in margarine/butter until tender. Stir in flour. Add chicken broth and blend well. Cook, stirring constantly until sauce is thickened. Remove from heat. Stir in half & half, sherry, ¼ cup parsley, salt, nutmeg and pepper. Add cooked spaghetti and turkey, stirring gently. Spoon mixture into ungreased 13x9x2 inch baking dish. Cover and refrigerate overnight. When ready to cook, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove cover, sprinkle Parmesan on top of casserole and bake for 45-55 minutes until thoroughly heated. Garnish with more parsley.

Quick and Easy Chocolate Mousse

from a Keenager Reader

Makes 4 to 6 servings

Ingredients

2 c. (12 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips	2 egg whites
1½ t. vanilla	1½ c. whipping cream, heated to boiling point
Pinch of salt	Whipped cream for garnish
6 egg yolks	

Preparation

Combine chocolate, vanilla and salt in blender or food processor and mix for 30 seconds. Add boiling cream and continue mixing until chocolate is melted, about 30 seconds. Add yolks and mix for 5 seconds. Transfer to bowl and cool. Beat egg whites in separate bowl until stiff peaks form. Gently fold into chocolate mixture. Place in serving bowls, cover with plastic wrap and chill. Serve with whipped cream.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES



Give
Thanks
to the
Lord
for
He is good.
Psalm 106:1

As we gather at Thanksgiving, let us remember and pray for all those who have shared their faith and enriched our lives.

The Catholic Cemeteries are open for visitation 365 days a year. Visit your deceased loved ones during the holidays.

Fall and Winter Hours:

Gates 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Indoor Mausoleums 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

www.CatholicCemeteriesChicago.org

708.236.5490 • 708.449.2340 Español • 708.236.5446 Po Polsku



Rose's WORD SEARCH

Answers are found **forward**, **backward**, **up**, **down**, and **diagonal**

G R S D B W D Q O Q Q J P L K D Y Y Z G
 Z F A J H I N W C R M I I W I D H T I N
 N O I S S A P M O C H S V C N U T I J I
 T V K T W I L C G S T I A X D N A L S D
 E N I L K C W W D E R R Z Q N C P A U N
 S M E G K S T N N A E E Y N E H M U P A
 E S M M B J E I A S Y Q Y L S I E T P T
 I T E K E I N O N T B L W A S V Y C O S
 S I O N R G H O I X E H W R R G G N R R
 A J Y F L T A L W D E K F Q J P E U T E
 X K S X M U I R S I N C E R I T Y P H D
 B P M R O B F W U S B Y B Z J M N Y D N
 B T A E A P R T U O M U F U H I U L N U
 I W H I U S H Y H V C I Z D P B Y M Q U
 X V L Z J B X Y B G H N L X S B X D P P
 G E Q K H Z V I C H U M E E W L E P S H
 R U C C F U P V V U S O C U S T R Z E U
 U Y R P B F M L G S I O H G M V N S Q J
 H O N E S T Y O X F D B H T H T M T L F
 F Q I W Q A N B R E C N E I T A P V V W



Gifts from the Heart

- CARE
- COMPASSION
- EMPATHY
- ENCOURAGEMENT
- FRIENDSHIP
- HONESTY
- HUMOR
- KINDNESS
- LISTENING
- PATIENCE
- PRAYER
- PUNCTUALITY
- RELIABILITY
- SINCERITY
- SMILES
- SUPPORT
- THOUGHTFULNESS
- TIME
- UNDERSTANDING
- WARMTH

Having Trouble Accessing parts of your home due to stairs?

Our Stair Lifts can HELP!

We have affordable options:

NEW, CERTIFIED USED, RENTAL, and RENT-TO-OWN



Call us today! We can Help! 630-892-7267

LAW OFFICE OF JOHN STRZYNSKI

- Wills • Living Trusts • Powers of Attorney
- Guardianships • Probate Administration

180 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 3700
 Chicago, Illinois 60601

(312) 223-0540

john@js-law.net

Call for Office or Home Appointment



Rose's WORD SEARCH

Answers are found **forward**, **backward**, **up**, **down**, and **diagonal**

F M D U C G K X S L T S E D S I J H E R
 L O V D O O W K G X F A R E W E L L T D
 F K R I J L E G E F N M N G I R V W D H
 T O N T A L G N Q G V D U R S J M T Q G
 W G V A H P Y N V I O R D F P G B O F W
 W G U E W C P J I F D Z A F G S A U T W
 U C B R R G O R F V K N M U N K K I X U
 R I O Q I C Q M O F A Z I T I H G T V B
 G N I M O C P U I A E E R U T F N Z P F
 A C T M K J J G H N C C L R I D I Y J C
 R P I H E T G V Q O G H N E X N M V W Y
 F N E S Z Z V O K N T E I A E T O C H T
 G N A N T N E N I M M I X N R J O E R C
 N L R C D P A R T I N G P J G T L P E G
 P Q R C O I I G N I T R A P E D N O T R
 J S I R U P N F D F X I Y J B N L E R X
 G L V J X T T G Z R P D W S I V E A E N
 G X A E A D G D G F W T H C C Y P D A Z
 I E L J K C S H T W A F D T C R C F T G
 Y D K W M D M E G Y D E Z T T X V M G F



Welcome, 2023 and Farewell, 2022

- APPROACHING
- ARRIVAL
- COMING
- DEPARTING
- ENTRANCE
- EXITING
- EXPIRING
- FAREWELL
- FORTHCOMING
- FUTURE
- GOING
- IMMINENT
- LEAVING
- LOOMING
- NEXT
- PARTING
- PENDING
- RETREAT
- SENDOFF
- UPCOMING



**Are you 55
or older?**

Have Keenager emailed
or delivered to your
door for FREE!

FOR EMAIL DELIVERY VISIT
KEENAGERNEWS.ORG

Keenager News

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Subscribe Today!

This inspirational Catholic Charities publication is informational and fun. Keenager is published 6 times a year and can be emailed to you or delivered to your door for FREE.

Fill out an email this coupon to start your subscription:

Keenager News
Catholic Charities
721 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654





Humor & Nostalgia

"Oh, Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind."

-Kris Kringle, Miracle on 34th Street

Enjoy this trip down Memory Lane with some of the most popular Christmas toys from the last 100 years

1910's: Erector Sets; Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls; Tinker Toys; Lincoln Logs; Card Games; Tinker Toys; Teddy Bears; Crayons; Marbles; Landlord's Game/Monopoly

1920's: Musical Merry Go Rounds; Flossi Flirt Doll; Rocking Horse; Olympic Flyer Wagon; Gyroscope; Humpty Dumpty Circus; Pop Guns; Yoyo's; Bird Whistlers

1930's: Balsa Wood Kits; Wind Up Train Set; Fire Trucks; Stick Horse; Shirley Temple Doll; Snow Sleds; Bottletot Baby Dolls; Madame Alexander Dolls; Fisher Price Toys; Playskool Toys

1940's: Little Golden Books; Slinky; Magic 8 Ball; Legos; Silly Putty; Electric Trains; Erector Sets; Scrabble; Bubble Blowing Sets; Clue; Paper Dolls; Hula Hoops

1950's: Color Forms; Corn Popper; Gumby; Hula Hoop; Mr. Potato Head; Play Dough; Silly Putty; Paint By Numbers; Matchbox Cars; Frisbee; Farm Equipment; Miniature Piano; Pogo Stick

1960's: Etch-A Sketch; Slip N. Slide; Easy Bake Oven; GI Joe; Operation; Twister; Battleship; Hot Wheels; Barbie; Viewmaster; Wiffle Ball; Suzy Homemaker; Radio Flyer Wagon; Etch a Sketch

1970's: Nerf Ball; Big Wheel; Baby Alive; Little Tykes; Pet Rocks; Mattel Football; Star Wars Figures; Strawberry Shortcake; Lite Bright; Brio Train Sets; Smurfs; Silly String; Skateboards

1980's: Rubik's Cube; Glo-Worm; Cabbage Patch Kids; Care Bears; Koosh Ball; Super Mario Brothers; Pound Puppies; Polly Pocket; Little People Family House; Spirograph; Transformers

1990's: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles; Super Nintendo; Beanie Babies; Power Rangers; Tickle Me Elmo; Tamagotchi; Pokemon; My Little Pony; Spice Girls Dolls; Crazy Bones

2000's: Razor Scooter; Bratz; Beyblade; Nintendo DS; Xbox 360; Nintendo Wii; Zuzu Pets; Mindflex; Beanie Babies; Hello Kitty; Magnetix; Silly Bandz; Harry Potter Figurines; IDog

2010's: Ipad; Hot Wheels Remote Control; Mama Modern Playhouse; Micro Mini Scooter; Playmobile; Furbies; Paw Patrol; Guitar Hero/Rockband; Figit Friends; Imaginext Toys

Sources: Rd.com; Parade.com; toytales.ca; prezi.com; the peoplehistory.com; toysinhistory.weebly.com; moviequotes.com



Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Chicago
721 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654
keenagernews.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, IL
Permit No. 1513

Keenager News

Bringing News to Seniors Since 1969

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022 VOL. 54, NO. 06

November/December Celebrations

Birthdays

Happy Hundreds

Rosalie Deeds 104 on 11/11
Rose Hennen 100 on 12/2
Eleanor Janicki.....102 on 12/8

Nifty Nineties

Loretta Much 90 on 11/5
Alphonse R. McCown....90 on 11/10
Rosalie Turner..... 90 on 11/17
Carl Lambrecht 90 on 12/22

Extraordinary Eighties

Virginia Hawkinson 80 on 11/15
Charles Ryband80 on 11/14
George Smunt.....80 on 11/14
Martha Schaffrath80 on 11/28
Renee Wyrobek 80 on 12/7
Michael Fitzgerald..... 80 on 12/13
Marianne Geiser 80 on 12/29

Belated Birthdays

Richard Czerwinski80 on 9/21
Dee Dahlgren..... 80 on 7/8

Anniversaries

Donald & Bernadette
Rucinski: 50 on 11/4

Carl & Margaret Wilke:
63 on 11/7

Carl & Kathie
Baardsen: 66 on 11/10

Raymond & Helen
Lach: 71 on 11/10

Al & Connie Denk:
50 on 11/12

Rich & Sue Czerwinski:
59 on 11/23

Michael & Kathleen
Fitzgerald: 55 on 12/23

**Belated Ordination
Anniversary**
Fr. John Jamnicky:
50 on 5/10

Belated Wedding Anniversaries

Denny & Dee Dahlgren:
53 on 10/11
Hank & Donna
Hoffenkamp: 57 on 10/30

Submissions

Keenager is delighted to help celebrate your special birthday (80, 90, 100 years+) or anniversary (50+). Please mail or phone us your submission eight to 10 weeks in advance. We regret that limited space does not allow us to publish birthdays in between those decades. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all Keenagers celebrating their special days!