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KEENAGER

'Young At Heart' NEWS

September and October 2023

Volume No. 55 Issue No. 05

A Publication of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

"Welcome the Stranger" Expands as "Part of What We Do"

With faith, abundant generosity and teamwork, the "Welcome the Stranger" initiative started last fall by Catholic Charities, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Chicago has made remarkable progress assisting the 12,000 asylum seekers newly arrived in Chicago, while all other Catholic Charities programs and services continue.

As Rose Marie Lesniak Mendez, Mission Engagement Director for the North/Northwest Cook region explains, "Catholic Charities started assisting the asylum seekers in a formalized way in September, 2022, when my colleague Marie Jochum established the Family Reunification Program which has provided plane and bus tickets to more than 1,200 individuals so they can reconnect with family and friends in other parts of the country."

Rose Marie continues, "We also have a team, led by Marie that is working with the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, other human service organizations, and landlords throughout the city to help families who have been in the shelters and police stations get into case management and permanent housing. Since December, 2022, 1.305 households have been established."

She adds, "Catholic Charities also is working with the Archdiocese to encourage parishes to support families through the Parish Family Sponsorship Program (PFSP).

More than 40 families have now been matched with parishes throughout the six Vicariates.

Parishioners have been so generous."

Parishes can participate in the PFSP in a variety of ways. They can "accompany" one or more families for six months, directly

assisting them as they integrate within communities. Currently, twenty-one parishes are doing this. Other parishes are "funding sponsors" for families and still other parishes



Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish Associate Pastor, Fr. Louis Mboe, (back row, third from right), joins with parishioners in attending Mass with the Alvarez-Moreno family that is receiving support from them through the Parish Family Sponsorship Program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 →

Greetings from the Editor

KATIE MCDONNELL BREDEMANN



We've got a lot of helpful news and information in this issue of Keenager, including a special Voice of Charity column on Page 3 by Sally Blount, Catholic Charities President and CEO. May Sally's words inspire you to think of ways that you can show "Courageous Compassion" to help people in your life! Remember that you can always connect with us by calling (312) 655-7425 or emailing keenager@catholiccharities.net. We care about you.

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CONTRIBUTORS

p3 The Voice of Charity Sally Blount

September and October 2023



Words for the Spirit
Fr. Charles T. Rubey



p7 Chicago History
Mary Ellen Kastenholz



SPECIAL FEATURES

- p5 The Scavi Tour: Praying at the Tomb of St. Peter
- p6 Partner Profile: "You Have to Wake Up Every Day with a Purpose"
- p11 Counseling Can Help Ease Concerns, Improve Health

SPECIAL DATES

September 2023Birthstone: **Sapphire**Flower: **Aster**

9/4 Labor Day

9/8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9/23 Autumn Begins

9/27 Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

October 2023
Birthstone: Opal
Flower: Calendula

10/7 Our Lady of the Rosary

10/9 Columbus Day10/31 Halloween

For more news and information about events, visit catholiccharities.net.



St. Vincent's Annual Homecoming Mass and Reception

Sunday, September 24 at Noon, 721 North LaSalle Street, Chicago

Anyone who spent time as an infant or child in the care of St. Vincent's Orphanage in Chicago is welcome. Former St. Vincent's staff and Child Care Technicians also are invited. This event is free, but registration is required. For details, and to learn about volunteer opportunities at this special event, contact Lisa Francis at (312) 655-7093 or Ifrancis@catholiccharities.net.

Junior Board Welcomes New Members

The Junior Board met to welcome new members and package diapers and baby supplies for the Cook County Diaper Depot at 721 North LaSalle Street. To learn more about this great group of young professionals, email juniorboard@catholiccharities.net





Tremendous Thanks to Leo Catholic High School in Chicago

Administrators and students donated 1000 new backpacks to assist low-income families as they prepare for a new school year! Each backpack contains essential toiletries, notebook and writing utensils. They will be distributed at Back-to-School events in the South/Southwest and West Cook regions, and with other parish partners. To volunteer at an event on August 12, call **(708) 333-8379**.

Waukegan Community Day Celebrates Unity

Catholic Charities took part in the Waukegan Community Day organized by Most Blessed Trinity Parish. According to Lisa Roti, Lake County Regional Director, "As one of many agencies involved in this community, we know not one agency can do all the work alone. We know together we get more accomplished!" Read the story in the Chicago Tribune:

https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/ct-Ins-community-day-st-0701-20230630-sbs2oeypjnbnrmoio6277a43rm-story.html



Learn More about Catholic Charities through our Monthly Eblast

Send an email to **partners@catholiccharities.net** to receive our monthly eblast that includes news and details about upcoming events.

KEENAGER NEWS

Courageous
Compassion:
Why it's important
to embrace the
stories that don't
have tidy outcomes

The Voice of Charity

SALLY BLOUNT

President & CEO, Catholic Charities



At Catholic Charities, we love sharing stories of our success...the young single mother who secures safe housing for herself and her three small children; the lonely senior who finds not just a new apartment, but new friends and a supportive community; the mourning family, with no savings and a lot of debt, who is able to bury their beloved grandmother with dignity. These stories of good news fuel us all because they are wonderful testaments to what can happen when we join in witness to our faith.

It is equally important to remember, though, that we also see countless stories every day that are not so easily told: the woman experiencing domestic violence who isn't ready to leave; the veteran who stops by our employment services booth but never answers our follow-up calls; the migrant family members who continue their journey, not yet trustful of their safety.

Just as much as we celebrate the happy stories, it's also important that we recognize and tell the stories that are not so tidy. Because it is in these stories that we truly witness the courage and perseverance that the calling of compassion requires.

Courageous compassion demands that we welcome and serve all with open hearts and empathetic ears, with the understanding that even after our hard work (and your donations), we may not make a tangible difference.

People's circumstances may not be improved.

Dorothy Day wrote, "The Gospel takes away our right forever to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor." It also takes away our right to demand the results from serving that we want for them.

This is not to say that our services are delivered without the highest quality care, nor without the fact-based expertise and faithfueled hope that we will have an impact. Quite the opposite: daily, we minister to people with the care of our best counselors and therapists, we fill grocery carts with healthy food, we make sure new mothers have the parenting support they need. And still, despite our

compassion in answering His call means we serve without the expectation of a praiseworthy result or a feel-good story. We serve simply to witness—to witness our love for Christ and our neighbor.

At the Mother House for the Missionaries of Charity, there is a poster that says: Remember that it is Christ who works through us—we are merely instruments for service. It is not how much we do, but how much love we put into the doing.

As we serve and accompany those in need, it is important to remember: it is not about how much we do, nor how many good stories we get to tell because of our good works. It is about having the courage to show up each day, ready and willing to love and to serve, even when things don't go our way; even when we're tired and disappointed, and the stories aren't tidy.



This past May we celebrated the courageous compassion of 216 staff members who marked service anniversaries with Catholic Charities, including those in this photo who have served for 25 years or more.

prayers, our hard-won experience and wisdom, and the dozens of hours and hundreds of dollars spent, there are no promises that we will get the outcome that we want, or that you want, for each of the people we serve.

In serving others, we must have the humility to remember that the ultimate outcomes are in Christ's hands, not ours. Courageous That is courageous compassion and that is our calling at Catholic Charities. We are the arm of the Church that opens our doors each morning with only one agenda: to accompany and serve the vulnerable, the hungry, and the lonely.

We welcome you to join us—we welcome you into the messiness of service and love.

The Holy Mystery of God Can Reassure Us

Words for the Spirit

REVEREND CHARLES T. RUBEY





This year we are reading the Gospel of Matthew in the Church's liturgical calendar. One of the recent gospels was the parable about the weeds, and how some grow and some die. When we work through the "weeds" in our lives, or the challenging times, some people feel as if they are being punished by God. I don't believe in that. Instead, I think that the struggles we experience are all about the Holy Mystery of God, a concept discussed by Karl Rahner, who was probably the greatest theologian of the twentieth century. God is beyond comprehension for us humans, but our faith reassures us that we can and should believe in all that Jesus said about his father's kingdom in heaven.

Our world is very polarized and often things happen that we don't understand. When we see hatred and a rush to judge people, some wonder where God is in all of this. I believe he is here, and we have to have faith in that. My own faith has grown as I age, in large part by families I have worked with in the LOSS program. I remember working with a couple who lost a son to suicide. A few years later, John, the husband was diagnosed with leukemia and his condition unfortunately worsened. I saw John frequently, and he said several times, "When I die, and see (his son) Jimmy, the first thing that I am going to ask him is why did he do this to his mother and me." I was getting ready to say Mass one Sunday morning when Mildred called me to say that John died during the night. The first thing that occurred to me was that John was now so overwhelmed with the joy of heaven, and being reunited with his son, that the why did not matter anymore.

On another occasion, at one of our LOSS meetings, a man asked me, "Where was God when my son needed him most?" I had worked with the couple after their son had taken his life. They were very religious and said the Rosary every night with their children. My response to him was, "This is all about the Holy Mystery of God, and prayer can draw us closer to that mystery."

My faith is strong, and my wonder is not a sign of weak faith. Instead, I have learned to live with the Holy Mystery of God, and I encourage others to do the same. Because of this, during the Catholic liturgy, whenever the word mystery comes up it resonates with me.

As we age, it is only natural to think about death and what it will be like when we are engulfed by the Holy Mystery of God. I would like to share a positive way to think about this. I heard it from a bishop a number of years ago, in a talk he gave to a group of priests. He shared an experience that helped shape his views about heaven. He loved to swim, and he grew up swimming in the Detroit river. It was often very dirty, and he could not see much in front of him. Once he was ordained, he had an opportunity to go on vacation to the Caribbean. As he swam there, he was overwhelmed by the coral and clear water. He said, "WOW! WOW! WOW! This is what eternity is all about!" As we work through challenges in our lives, let us keep the faith and hope in eternal life that Jesus taught us. All will be beautiful and clear one day with God.

If you or anyone you know is struggling, text 9-8-8 at the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. If you would like to speak with someone in Catholic Charities counseling programs, call (312) 655-7725 or email counselingintake@catholiccharities.net. Please do not suffer alone. Help is available, and we care about you.

Charles T. Ruby

Keep on Keepin' On,

† 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.

RJ GP DCP CDS

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.

The Scavi Tour: Praying at the Tomb of St. Peter

Vatican City, in Rome and its focal point, St. Peter's Basilica offer countless opportunities for spiritual growth, through books, online resources, and in-person visits, when possible so that the religious history, architecture and artwork of the past two thousand years can come alive, for Christians and people of all faiths. One powerful resource only became available within the last decade, as **The Scavi Tour** began allowing pilgrims to walk along the archeological excavations beneath the grottoes in St. Peter's Basilica and see the exact place where St. Peter was buried, directly underneath the basilica's main altar.

First and second century Christians went to great lengths to mark where St. Peter was buried, after he was crucified in 64 A.D. He was declared a criminal because he preached about Jesus and a religion that was not legitimate in the Roman Empire. Early church historian Eusebius of Caesarea and others describe that, when St. Peter was told what kind of death he would suffer, he told his executioners that he was not worthy of dying in the same manner as Jesus. They granted St. Peter's wish and, instead, crucified him upside down.

It is presumed that the original grave of St. Peter was a very simple one. Christians continued to secretly visit and honor this grave as the area became a popular burial place for wealthy Romans. In the second century, a red wall was built on one side of St. Peter's grave to protect it as larger tombs were constructed nearby. Around 160 A.D., a modest structure called the Trophy Monument was constructed around St. Peter's grave, and the red wall became a supporting wall within it.

After Constantine legitimized Christianity in Rome in the fourth century, he built the first St. Peter's Basilica over the Trophy Monument. To preserve the other burial structures around the



Underneath the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome is a fascinating tour of archeological excavations that leads to the burial site of the apostle chosen by Jesus to become the first leader of His church.

Trophy Monument, Constantine had the ceilings on the other mausoleums removed and then filled with soil and earth from the Vatican Hills.

In the sixteenth century, Pope Julius II approved designs for a new basilica, with a dome designed by Michelangelo to replace the original, faltering structure. It became the largest basilica in the world. Pope Julius II laid the first stone in 1506 with St. Peter's grave continuing to be the center for worship, underneath an altar and canopy designed by Gianlorenzo Bernini. There were a total of five altars to build over:

- 1) The original tomb 64 A.D.
- 2) The Trophy Monument 160 A.D.
- 3) The St. Constantine memorial box Fourth Century
- 4) An altar built by Pope Gregory the Great– Sixth Century
- 5) An altar built by Pope Calixtus II 12th Century

On December 23, 1950, Pope Pius XII announced to the world, in his pre-Christmas radio message that the original tomb of St.

Peter, including bones believed to be his relics had been found by archeologists beneath St. Peter's altar in the basilica. The discovery of the entire necropolis came accidentally in 1939 as excavation began to create a tomb for Pope Pius XI. Workers discovered the ancient burial ground and, ultimately the red wall that the earliest Christians built to identify St. Peter's tomb. The work had to be done in secret during World War II for fear that the Axis powers would find out and claim the discovery.

Today, the Vatican Excavations Office conducts ninety-minute tours of the necropolis that lead to St. Peter's burial site. To learn more, visit: http://www.scavi.va/content/scavi/en/ufficioscavi.html

Several tourist sites also have Scavi Tour videos at **youtube.com**. St. Peter, pray for us.

Source: "The Development of the Cult of Saint Peter in the Vatican," by Taras B. Dzyubansky, 2010.

"You Have to Wake Up Every Day with a Purpose"

We may have lost many members of The Greatest Generation, but we can continue to learn a great deal from those who are still with us. Among them is Mr. Samuel Grimes, a Catholic Charities volunteer, then employee who retired in January 2020 at the age of 95 after 25 years delivering noontime meals to homebound seniors.

Mr. Grimes was part of a team of drivers that delivers approximately 200 noontime meals a day through Catholic Charities North/Northwest Region Senior Nutrition Program.

Mr. Grimes says, "I loved it, because people seemed to appreciate it, and I was out doing something positive with my time. You have to wake up every day with a purpose, and delivering the meals fit my schedule."

Originally from Centerville, Tennessee, Mr. Grimes served in the United States Merchant Marines during World War II and continued his service after the war for a total of twenty years. He then worked as a Food Service Administrator in several hospitals on the East Coast before retiring and moving to Chicago. With the encouragement of his wife, Cathy, Mr. Grimes started volunteering for the Maine Township Meals on Wheels program.

According to Donna Schultz, recently retired Director of Senior Nutrition Program Operations in Cook County, "Mr. Grimes cares deeply about people. When he was a driver, he would take the time to also do a Wellness Check on every senior he delivered meals to."

KEENAGER NEWS



Mr. Samuel Grimes, center enjoys a visit with Catholic Charities staff who supervise the Senior Congregate and Home-Delivered Meal Programs.

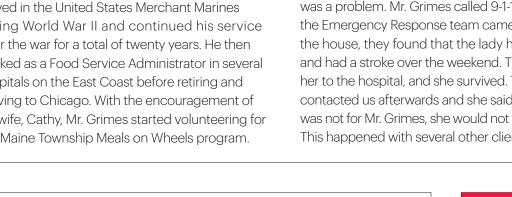
Donna continues, "One Monday, Mr. Grimes went to a home that he went to every weekday, and the woman he was delivering a meal to did not respond when he rang the doorbell. He knew there was a problem. Mr. Grimes called 9-1-1 and when the Emergency Response team came and got into the house, they found that the lady had fallen and had a stroke over the weekend. They rushed her to the hospital, and she survived. That woman contacted us afterwards and she said that if it was not for Mr. Grimes, she would not be here today. This happened with several other clients, too."

Sharon Tillmon, Senior Director, Community Food and Essentials had the opportunity to meet Mr. Grimes recently at the Arlington Heights Senior Center. She said, "It is amazing that this gentleman still had the desire to give back to others into his nineties. I could not miss this. I had to meet Mr. Grimes and shake his hand." In 2014, Mr. Grimes participated in an Honor Flight trip in which he joined other U.S. veterans in a Day of Honor in Washington D.C. Catholic Charities Arlington Heights staff members were part of the Welcome Squad cheering Mr. Grimes and his fellow honorees as they arrived back at Midway Airport at 11:00pm that night. They also threw a birthday party for Mr. Grimes as he turned 98 in March.

Mr. Grimes' wife, Cathy, a professor, passed away earlier this year. Reflecting on his years of service to Catholic Charities, and looking to the future, Mr. Grimes says, "My faith has helped me endure through the chapters of my life, and it continues to help me now. I love life, and I take things one day at a time."

Donna sees the impact Mr. Grimes continues to have on everyone he's associated with. She says, "Mr. Grimes has so many friends and admirers here. He is a giving man and he had never done less than give his all in his work at Catholic Charities."

To learn more about volunteering with the Home-Delivered Meals program, call (847) 797-5353 in Cook County, **(847) 546-5733** in Lake County, and (815) 385-8260 in McHenry County.





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125 Years of Creativity in the Fine Arts Building

Chicago History MARY ELLEN KASTENHOLZ

Volunteer Writer



Before it was known as the Fine Arts Building, the Studebaker Building at 410 S. Michigan Avenue across from Grant Park was built by Solon Spencer Beman during 1884-1885. It is one of the first steel framed skyscrapers in Chicago and is extolled as one of Chicago's "architectural jewels." Two granite columns at the main entrance were the largest polished monolithic shafts in the United States. The building was designed for the Studebaker Carriage Company for carriage sales on the first floor while the upper floors were used for assembly and service. By 1898 Studebaker had outgrown the space and the building was transformed into the Fine Arts Building with extensive renovations from the plans of Charles C. Curtis.

A bold idea to remove the top 8th floor and add three additional floors brought the building to the current height of 10 floors. The carriage

showrooms were converted into two theatre spaces known as Curtis Hall, the larger known as the Studebaker Theatre and the smaller, a music hall. The upper floors were made into offices, craft studios and 65 music studios equipped with special sound proofing. The Fine Arts Building officially opened in October of 1898 and in the early 20th century flourished, becoming known as the first art colony in Chicago with an interior fashioned in Art Nouveau motifs. The Kalo Shop and Wilro Shop specialized in Arts and Crafts items and were owned by women who had studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. There was also a bookstore on the main floor from 1907-1912 that was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright whose office was on the 10th floor.

For those who enjoy live performances at smaller venues, The Fine Arts Building is credited with starting the Little Theatre Movement in the United States. Though lasting only five years from 1912-1917 the Chicago Little Theatre was created from a storage area on the fourth floor. Co- producers Maurice Browne and Ellen Van Volkenburg created a 99-seat theatre especially designed for training actors for contemporary play productions such as Shaw, Strindberg, Ibsen, Wilde and Yeats. Though short lived, it has had a lasting influence as more than 200 smaller theatres exist today in the Chicagoland area.

The Studebaker Theatre, also known as Studebaker Hall was dedicated in 1898 and went under its first renovation in 1917 through architect Andrew Rebori. The original ceiling remained untouched during the renovation. The songs written by Carrie Jacobs-Bond, the first female to launch a music publishing firm in the U.S. were featured by David Bispham in 1901. She wrote 175 songs from the 1890's to the 1940's. Her biggest hit "I Love You Truly" sold over a million copies, a first for a woman. This was also the site of the first public performance of the Grand Canyon Suite in 1931 by Paul Whiteman and his orchestra. The spot also hosted some of the earliest television shows including Cavalcade of Stars. During the 1970's the theatre was made into multiple movie theatres. Renovations to return space to live theatre were begun in 2015 and the theatre was reopened to accommodate 740 seats in 2016. The latest multimillion-dollar renovation began in 2021, updating most of the technical capabilities. After the renovation the Studebaker Theatre became home to NPR's Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me, a weekly news quiz show. A smaller theatre, Carriage Hall is scheduled to open in 2024.

The Fine Arts Building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 11, 1975 and designated a Chicago Landmark on June 7, 1978.

Source: Photos courtesy of fineartsbuilding.com







Manufacturing Co.,

203-4-5-6 MICHIGAN AVENUE,

Chicago's Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Avenue, in its current form, left, and in the 19th century, right, when the building was used for carriage manufacturing and sales.



Senior Resource Guide

Keenager News is pleased to share our annual review of programs and services for seniors on the local, state, and national levels.

Catholic Charities Senior Services

Older adults are very important to us at Catholic Charities. We provide comprehensive services to help seniors stay active, live independently, and remain in their homes and communities. To learn more, call (312) 655-7668, visit catholiccharities. net or contact the office, below nearest you.

SENIOR CARE SERVICES

Assessments and referrals to additional support to promote health aging.

City of Chicago

Chicago North Senior Care Coordination

3125 North Knox Ave. Chicago, IL 60641 (773) 583-9224 Central access point for seniors living on the northside of Chicago.

Chicago South Senior Care Coordination

2601 W. Marquette Rd. Chicago, IL 60629 (773) 349-8092 Central access point for seniors living on the southwest side of Chicago.

Lake County Senior Care Coordination

101 N. Cedar Lake Rd. Round Lake, IL 60073 (847) 546-5733 Central access point for seniors living in Lake County.

Northwest Suburban Senior Care Coordination

1801 West Central Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
(847) 253-5500
Central access point for seniors who live in the townships of Barrington, Hanover, Palatine, and Wheeling.

South Suburban Senior Care Coordination

15300 S. Lexington Harvey, IL 60426 (708) 596-2222 Central access point for seniors who live in the townships of Bremen, Bloom, Calumet, Thornton, and Rich.

OTHER CATHOLIC CHARITIES SENIOR PROGRAMS

Drop-In Senior Centers

Recreational, educational, social, and health/nutrition programs on a drop-in basis. Eight sites in Chicago and one in Calumet City. Visit catholiccharities.net to find the center nearest you.

Service Coordination in HUD-Subsidized Residential Communities

Catholic Charities offers housing options for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities to maintain their well-being and independence within safe, caring residential communities. To learn more, call (312) 655-7440.

Government-Funded Employment and Training for Low-Income Individuals

Seniors work part-time in social service agencies and

government organizations while obtaining skills for unsubsidized employment. Call (312) 655-7668 for more information.

Senior Meals and Nutrition

We offer emergency food, meals served in community gathering places, and home-delivered meals. Some of our programs also incorporate nutritional education and cooking demonstrations.

To learn more, visit catholiccharities. net, call (312) 655-7700, or email SeniorMealsandNutrition@ catholiccharities.net. Also, see below for details about the congregate and home-delivered meals.

Senior Congregate Meals

Hot, nutritious lunches in locations across Cook, Lake, and McHenry counties. Guests enjoy their meal, socialize and learn more about Catholic Charities programs and services and those of our community partners. Call the phone numbers below for the location nearest you.

Cook County: (847) 797-5353

Lake County: (847) 782-4267

McHenry County: (815) 385-8260

Home-Delivered Meals/ Meals on Wheels

Midday meals delivered on weekdays to homebound seniors who are unable to cook for themselves. These personal visits also serve as a Wellness Check so seniors can safely age in place. For more information, call these phone numbers:

Cook County: (847) 797-5353

Lake County: (847) 546-5733

McHenry County: (815) 385-8260

Food and Nutrition Program (SFNP)

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supplemental food and nutrition program administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for low-income Chicago residents who are 60 years and older, providing monthly food packages as well as nutrition education. Visit catholiccharities. net for the list of SFNP distribution sites. Also, contact Greater Chicago Food Depository at (773) 247-3663 or visit chicagofoodbank. org for more information.

Farmer's Market Program (SFMNP)

Summer program providing coupons to low-income seniors that can be exchanged for eligible food items at farmer's markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agricultural programs. Visit catholiccharities.net for more information.

OTHER CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVICES

Legal Assistance

Legal consultation for low-income individuals who otherwise could not afford an attorney. Included are referrals, clinics, and/or pro bono (free) attorney services. Call (312) 948-6821 for details.

Veterans Services

Catholic Charities offers a range of services for veterans, including food, housing, counseling, and employment assistance. Call (312) 948-6014 for more information.

Federal, State and Local Resources for Seniors

To learn more about benefits to which you may be entitled, reach out to the websites, phone numbers, and email addresses provided. Friends and family can often be great sources of information, too. As mentioned, call Catholic Charities Senior Care Services at (312) 655-7668 if we can assist, as well.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Social Security

Social Security is a monthly payment ("benefit") available to retired, and disabled workers and their dependents and survivors. If you start receiving benefits at age 62 (the earliest possible age), your benefits will be lower than if you work until your Full Retirement Age (FRA), as determined by the Social Security Administration.

If you choose to keep working beyond your full retirement age, you can increase your future

KEENAGER NEWS

Social Security benefits in two ways: 1) Each extra year you work adds another year of earnings to your Social Security records, and higher lifetime earnings can mean higher benefits when you retire; and 2) Your benefits will increase a certain percentage from the time you reach your FRA until you start receiving benefits, or until you reach the age of 70.

No matter the age you retire, contact Social Security in advance to learn your choices. Sometimes, your choice of a retirement month could mean higher benefit payments for you and your family. Social Security benefits are also available to Widows and Widowers, Spouses, Dependent Children, and Divorced Spouses. Contact Social Security Administration for details on each of these separate benefit categories.

Visit ssa.gov or call (800) 772-1213; If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call (800) 325-0778.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

Medicare

Medicare is health insurance for persons 65 or older and for younger people with certain disabilities or permanent kidney failure. Note: You should sign up for Medicare three months before your 65th birthday, even if you have not retired yet. In some circumstances, medical insurance costs more if you delay applying for Medicare. You can apply for Medicare-only without claiming your retirement benefit. The application can be done online at ssa.gov.

Call (800) MEDICARE (633-4227) or visit medicare.gov. For those who are hard of hearing or speech impaired, call 1-877-486-2048.

Medigap

A Medigap policy is a health insurance policy sold by private insurance companies to fill the "gaps" in the Original Medicare Plan. Medigap policies can help pay some of the health care costs that the Original Medicare Plan doesn't cover. Be sure to compare

Medigap policies because costs can vary.

Visit 1-800-medicap.com.

Other Medicare Options

For help choosing the best Medicare option for you:

- Call Medicare (800-633-4227).
- Contact the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), a FREE statewide insurance counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers provided by the State of Illinois Department of Aging. Call (800) 252-8966 or visit illinois.gov.
- Contact Medicare Interactive by calling (800)-333-4114 or visit medicareinteractive.org.

Illinois Medicaid Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) Medical Benefits

Medicaid/HFS is a governmentfunded program that pays for medically necessary services (including hospital care, nursing facility care, therapies, dental, and eye care), supplies, and medicines for persons with low income and few financial resources. Persons who are disabled, blind, or 65 years of age and older may qualify.

Visit hfs.illinois.gov.

OTHER POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is a federal income supplement program that pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits also are payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits. Benefits can vary depending on the state you live in, your living situation, and other income in your household. If you qualify for SSI, you likely also qualify for Medicaid.

Call (800) 772-1213 or visit ssa.gov/benefits.

Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD)

This program by the Illinois
Department of Human Services
provides income support to
persons who are age 65 or older,
blind, or disabled. You must be
an Illinois resident and meet other
eligibility criteria to receive cash
and medical assistance, including
having low income. If you
receive an AABD payment, you
can also receive Medicaid
(see Medicaid section).

Call (800) 843-6154 or visit dhs. state.il.us.

Senior Citizen Sewer Service Charge Exemption

The City of Chicago Department of Water Management offers seniors a savings on their water bills by exempting the sewer portion of the water bill. To qualify, certain conditions apply. Seniors who reside in their own residence but do not qualify for the Senior Citizen Sewer Exemption may apply for a refund in lieu of exemption. Applications for this refund are made through your Alderman's office.

Call (312) 744-4420 or visit chicago.gov/SeniorSewerExemption.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

This program provides one-time financial assistance with energy bills for persons with low income. Apply early for LIHEAP funds, which tend to run out quickly.

Call 1-833-711-0374, email communityassist@illinois.gov or visit dceo.illinois.gov.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)

This program assists lowincome residents in making their dwellings more energy efficient by helping to pay for repairs, insulation, and maintenance of heating systems. To learn more, contact your local Community Action Agency (CAA) to apply.

Call (217) 785-2533, email communityassist@illinois.gov. or visit dceo.illinois.gov.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Senior Food and Nutrition Programs (SFNP)

See Catholic Charities Services on previous page.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP,
formerly Food Stamps) is
administered by the Illinois
Department of Human Services
(IDHS) and provides cash
assistance (in the form of the Illinois
LINK debit card) to low-income
individuals and families to buy
approved food items.

Call (800) 843-6154 or visit dhs. state.il.us.

TRANSPORTATION

Regional Transit Authority

For information on accessible transportation routes, Call (312) 836-7000. Free or reduced fares for seniors and persons with disabilities are available on CTA and PACE transportation services (excluding Paratransit). You must apply in person or by mail.

Call (312) 913-3110 or to download an application, visit rtachicago.com.

Paratransit

The RTA offers special travel options for persons who cannot ride public transportation due to disabilities. "Paratransit" is provided by specific carriers depending on your geographic area. These carriers can pick up a disabled person at his/her home, bring them to a destination, and make the return trip.

Call (312) 663-4357; for deaf or hard of hearing: TTY (312) 913-3110.

Taxi Access Program

The Taxi Access Program only operates in Chicago (though it is administered by PACE). Riders receive a TAP card and pay only \$3 for one-way taxi rides; worth up to \$20 per ride.

Call (800) 606-1282, choose "4" when prompted, or visit pacebus. com/sub/paratransit/tap.asp.

VETERANS BENEFITS (OUTSIDE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES):

Veterans Rights Bureau

The Veterans Rights Bureau ensures that veterans receive the benefits they have earned. They also publish a free, annual guide to veterans' rights that they will mail to you. Call (800) 382-3000 or visit illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs helps veterans and their families understand federal, state, and local resources and benefits available to them.

In Chicago, call (312) 814-2460; in other parts of Illinois, call (800) 437-9824, or visit veterans.illinois.gov.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR SENIORS:

Illinois Department on Aging: Call (800) 252-8966; TTY: 888-206-1327; or visit ilaging.illinois.gov.

Illinois Department of Public Health:

Visit dph.illinois.gov.

City of Chicago Senior Services:

Visit chicago.gov/seniors.

AgeGuide:

Information, virtual tours and more for residents in northeast Illinois: Visit ageguide.org.

AgeOptions:

Based in Oak Park and offering senior services and programs: Visit ageoptions.org.

← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Welcome the Stranger" Expands as "Part of What We Do"

are combining financial and direct support with those of other parishes. As Rose Marie says, "Both the financial and accompaniment pieces are critically important, and Catholic Charities is here to help parishes in whatever ways they want to participate."

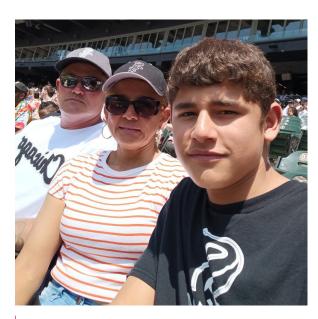
Marilu Gonzalez, Regional Operations Director for the City/Southwest region is another Catholic Charities leader helping asylum seekers. She says, "Through case management, we look at the size of each family, and all of their needs and then we connect the dots, making it all work into a picture frame, to create a beautiful painting of how their life can be here. We could not do this without the generosity of the parishes." Marilu adds, "At the same time, we continue to do everything else we do at Catholic Charities, including food distribution, counseling, senior services and more. Our work with the asylum seekers is in addition to that. It is part of what we do every day."

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Elk Grove Village embraced the call to assist the asylum seekers as soon as the need emerged. As explained by OLBS parishioner Don Kauffold, "When the asylum seekers first started arriving in large numbers last fall, about 115 of them were sent to the LaQuinta Inn in Elk Grove Village. They needed food, clothing, winter coats and more and that's how our parish got involved, as part of an interfaith council in Elk Grove."

Don continues, "When we heard about the Parish Family Sponsorship Program, we talked to our Pastor, Fr. Dan Folwaczny and our Associate Pastor, Fr. Louis Mboe and they encouraged us to learn more. We had lots of discussions with people in the parish and ultimately agreed that, when you get down to it, whatever your political beliefs are, it's really about helping people who are in dire need. These are human beings who are in need of help."

Don describes, "Italo and Juglasy are the young parents. They are devoted to each other and to their daughter, Chloe. They have a strong faith in God and they want to become self-sufficient as soon as possible. They are incredibly grateful for the help they have received."

The parish established a Lenten almsgiving goal of raising \$10,000, and a team of four Spanishspeaking parishioners became the family liaisons, establishing a personal relationship with them. With the funds, and Catholic Charities assistance, the OLBS ministry team helped the family find a place to live, furnish the apartment and get their basic household items.



The Gomez family, matched with St. Barnabas Parish in Beverly, enjoys a Chicago White Sox game, courtesy of a generous parishioner.

The OLBS team has even gone shopping with the family to buy clothes, especially for Italo, who is in the construction business.

Don adds, "Through this program, I've learned a lot about the trials and tribulations of asylum seekers coming to the United States. It's made me appreciate even more the blessings we have as citizens here. We need to be prepared to help people that Catholic Charities helps. We need to reach out to those right in front of us in need."

Griselda Garibay is a parishioner at St. Barnabas Parish, which recently combined with Christ the

King, St. John Fisher, St. Cajetan and St. Christina in the Mount Greenwood-West Beverly area of Chicago. She says, "We are accompanying the Gomez family from Venezuela. It is one of the best things that has happened for our community in recent years. The parents are in the mid-40's and they have three sons. Our pastors (Fr. Jim Donovan, Fr. Larry Sullivan, Fr. Ken Budzikowski, and Fr. Tom Conde) have been our guides in this journey, but we also have a committee of about 12 parishioners who work together to fill the family's ongoing needs."

Griselda continues, "We are rejoicing that this family is stabilized now, and as we continue to help them with simple things like public transportation, and getting into a pharmacy rewards program, they have far greater peace of mind. We are trying to treat the family members in the way we would want to be treated. We ask ourselves, 'The things that we hear in church, and the things that our kids learn at school...how do we demonstrate that to someone who is truly in need?"

Due to the generosity of parishioners, the Gomez family members are enjoying bike rides in the community and looking forward to the fall when the young men will be going to school and all hope to take ESL classes. Griselda adds, "Thanks again so much to Catholic Charities for providing such a program as this. Hopefully this will be the beginning of many other opportunities to collaborate."

Griselda knows well what it feels like to arrive in a foreign country. She says, "When I came to the United States I was 12, the only child of an unwed mother. Almost forty years later, to be here in Beverly, it is proof of all of the potential that each of us has as human beings. Plus, there is responsibility that comes with being a Catholic. We must support organizations such as Catholic Charities, and whether you give \$5 or \$500, it is ultimately rewarding. This program really renews your faith in the world; this is something we can do on a one-to-one basis."

To learn more about the Parish Family Sponsorship Program, send an email to: welcomethestranger@catholiccharities.net or visit catholiccharities.net

Counseling Can Help Ease Concerns, Improve Health

Catholic Charities Behavioral Health Services help clients deal with a wide variety of mental health concerns. Through counseling and case management, children and adults receive assistance from compassionate, experienced professionals who can help identify root causes and offer solutions toward a more positive path forward.

Behavioral Health describes the connection between behaviors and the health and wellbeing of the body, mind, and spirit, including how our behaviors, including nutrition and exercise impact our physical and mental health.

On a recent edition of The Voice of Charity, Ellen Tannenbaum, a Director in Behavioral Health Services, and Laura Caballero, a Clinical Manager in Counseling spoke about the many wavs that Catholic Charities offers Behavioral Health assistance to individuals, couples, and families, through telehealth or in-person visits in Cook and Lake counties.

As Ellen described, "Anyone in need of mental health services is eligible to receive our counseling services." Laura added, "In the last fiscal year, Catholic Charities served more than 1.400 clients and close to 700 of those were youth. Our clients are usually seen weekly for about an hour, except there are some clients who require twice a week therapy because they may have higher needs. Telehealth has provided wonderful access for our families who might struggle with transportation, or child-care issues. Telehealth right now is the most popular way for us to connect with clients."

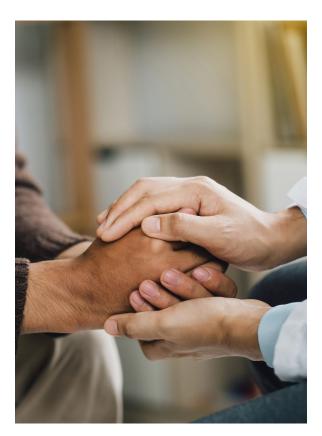
Seniors were identified as a group that has unique needs and concerns. Laura said. "Loneliness is one of the big issues we see with seniors, and it can really intensify other symptoms. We always invite our senior clients to connect with community resources to minimize their isolation, and we encourage them to meet and spend time with other people. Therapy alone is not going to help them feel better."

Ellen added, "We accept Medicare and we will definitely meet with anybody who is interested in getting help because, at any stage in life, when you can decide that you are ready to address something, it is often helpful to talk about it with somebody who is not in your family."

When asked if there are universal good habits that everyone can try to adapt as they strive for positive mental health, Laura said, "I always talk about self-compassion, enough sleep, good hygiene and nutrition and surrounding yourself with more friends. Also, we encourage everyone that we work with to try to avoid focusing on your deficits and what is not working. If we can move away from that

and start thinking in a more positive way, you will see results."

To learn more about the Catholic Charities community Drop-In Senior Center nearest you, visit catholiccharities.net or call (312) 655-7470. To reach Catholic Charities Counseling, call (312) 655-7725 or email counselingintake@ catholiccharities.net. Services are offered in English and in Spanish, Monday through Friday. If you or someone you know is struggling in a significant way, please call 9-1-1 of 9-8-8 for crisis assistance.





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Mother Cabrini, the Patroness of Immigrants

RON POLANIECKI Reader



Photo courtesy of mothercabrini.org

For those of us with years of experience, it's no surprise to discover that the lives of remarkable people - including saints - are often replete with contrasts.

One example of a life story with multiple unexpected events and juxtapositions is that of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917), a beloved saint for many Chicagoans, and of special relevance today, the patroness of immigrants.

KEENAGER NEWS

A notable instance of the unanticipated occurred relatively early in Cabrini's life when she petitioned the Holy Father to approve a new order of missionaries that would bring the Gospel to the Far East. However, Pope Leo XIII had a different vision and counseled Cabrini to go "not to the East, but to the West." Specifically, the Pope exhorted her to go to New York to help the Italian immigrants.

And so she did. Cabrini's initial voyage from her home country of Italy to America in 1889 would be followed by 20 passages across the ocean to North and South America. What makes this amazing is that Cabrini had developed a lifelong fear of water at the age of seven when she fell into a river and almost drowned.

Several years after arriving in New York with her Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cabrini travelled to Chicago. Here, more plan revisions awaited. Cabrini's intent was to establish orphanages and schools for the Italian immigrants. That's no wonder since teaching always came naturally to her. However, when she approached Archbishop James Quigley about building a new orphanage, he asked her to build a hospital instead.

Undaunted, Cabrini oversaw the opening of Columbus Hospital in 1905, followed by the opening of the Columbus Extension Hospital on Chicago's near West Side in 1911 - quite an

accomplishment for a woman without medical training or background.

Even though Cabrini was a world traveler, her strong link to Chicago is confirmed by her inclusion in Richard Ciccone's "...The 100 Most Significant Chicagoans of the Twentieth Century." Also, in 1955, the National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini was established inside Columbus Hospital in the Lake View area. And there's even a street named after her in the Chicago neighborhood where she served immigrants.

From birth, Cabrini was frail and sickly. Yet, she never thought of herself as weak. Her motto came from Philippians, 4:13, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." And although Cabrini was constantly surrounded by people, she asked to be left alone in her last hours.

What was enduring and unshakeable in Cabrini's life? Simply her holiness, devotion to the Sacred Heart, and total commitment to helping others. Cabrini became a U.S. citizen in 1909. She was canonized in 1946 and is the first American citizen saint.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821), a founder of the Catholic school system, is considered to be the first American-born saint.

Consider viewing a new sculpture of Mother Cabrini, unveiled in October 2022, in the courtyard of Holy Name Cathedral, State and Superior Streets, Chicago.

KEENAGER NEWS



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Vegetable Soup – Serves 12

INGREDIENTS

- 1 T. olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large stalk celery, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 3 unpeeled red potatoes, sliced
- 2 yellow squash, chopped
- 2 zucchinis, sliced

- 2c. fresh tomatoes (or a 1 lb. canned stewed tomatoes)
- 2 gt. chicken broth
- 2 T. chopped celery leaves
- 1t. oregano
- 1T. basil
- 1/8 t. cayenne pepper
- Tabasco to taste
- 1 c. dry pasta
- Parmesan Cheese

PREPARATION

Combine all ingredients except pasta in large soup kettle. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, about 50 minutes. Add dry pasta (Orzo or other small pasta works well.) Simmer 10 minutes longer. Serve with Parmesan cheese, if desired.

Potato Soup – Serves 8-10

INGREDIENTS

2 and ½ c. milk 2 lb. potatoes

2 onions Bay leaf, parsley and thyme

1 small carrot Salt and pepper

Cream and chives for garnish ¼ c. butter (or margarine)

5 c. stock

PREPARATION

Peel and slice the potatoes, onions and carrot. Melt butter (or margarine) in a large saucepan/soup pan and cook onions until soft but not brown. Add potatoes and carrot. Stir in the stock and milk. Tie the bay leaf, thyme, and parsley together and wrap in a cheesecloth and add, along with pepper and salt to taste. Simmer together gently for about an hour and then liquify in batches in a food processor. Add swirl of cream and a sprinkle of chives before serving.

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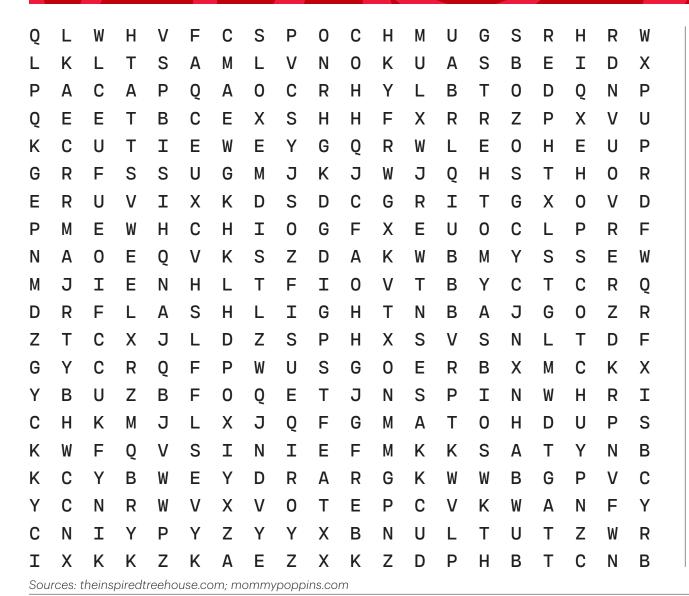
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- O COPS (AND ROBBERS)
- O DODGEBALL
- O DUCK, (DUCK GOOSE!)
- FLAG (FOOTBALL)
- O FLASHLIGHT (TAG)
- O GHOSTS (IN THE GRAVEYARD)
- O HOPSCOTCH
- O HORSE
- O HOT (POTATO)
- KICK (THE CAN)
- MOTHER, (MAY I?)
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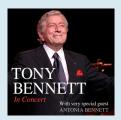
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Humor & Nostalgia

Tony Bennett, Ravinia, and "Singing Under the Stars"



Before Tony Bennett appeared at Highland Park's Ravinia Festival on June 21, 2019 for his 40th appearance there, he did an interview with the Chicago Tribune in which he said, "I love coming back to Ravinia every summer since 1984...Singing under the stars to thousands of people...Their love and enthusiasm is the best."

It was Bennett's masterful interpretation of The Great American Songbook that filled Ravinia, and countless other venues over his career spanning 70 years. In all, he earned 20 Grammy awards and recorded more than 60 albums, with sales of more than 50 million records worldwide. Even Frank Sinatra was a fan, telling Life magazine in 1965, "For my money, Tony Bennett is the best singer in the business...He's the singer who gets across what the composer has in mind, and probably a little more."

Bennett's son Danny is credited with managing his father's career into the 21st century, introducing younger generations to his artistry.

Since Tony Bennett passed away July 21 at the age of 96, tributes have highlighted his skill as a master improviser who always added something fresh to every song he sang. Below is the Set List from that sold-out Ravinia concert in June 2019. Tony Bennett's daughter, Antonia was his special guest on stage that evening. Just as he loved returning to Ravinia, Chicago was immensely fortunate to have Tony Bennett as a favorite performer in town.

Ravinia Festival Set List, June 21, 2019: Tony Bennett's "I Left My Heart in San Francisco Tour"

- 1. Watch What Happens
- 2. They All Laughed
- 3. This Is All I Ask
- 4. I Got Rhythm
- 5. Solitude
- 6. I'm Old-Fashioned
- 7. It Amazes Me
- 8. Steppin' Out With My Baby
- 9. But Beautiful

- 10. Love Is Here To Stay
- 11. The Way You Look Tonight
- 12. Because of You/Cold Cold Heart/Rags to Riches/Who Can I Turn To?
- 13. Just in Time
- 14. Boulevard of Broken Dreams
- 15. The Good Life
- 16. How Do You Keep the Music Playing?

- 17. The Shadow of Your Smile
- 18. One for My Baby (And One More for the Road)
- 19. For Once in My Life
- 20. I Left My Heart in San Francisco
- 21. Who Cares (So Long as You Care for Me)
- 22. Fly Me to the Moon
- (In Other Words)

Sources: Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, concertarchives.com; billboard.com; Ravinia.org

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> For more information, contact: Nancy Haws, Director of Major Gifts (312) 655-7348 or nhaws@catholiccharities.net.

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To protect the personal information of our readers, we list the first names and last initials of all who have submitted birthdays and anniversaries to us. Thank you for your understanding.

Birthdays

HAPPY HUNDREDS

Anne K. 106 on 9/20

NIFTY NINETIES

Rose S. **90** on **9/4** 90 on 9/29 Teresa G. Bob P. 90 on 10/30

BELATED BIRTHDAYS

Robert B. **80** on **5/5**

Anniversaries

ANNIVERSARIES

Armand and Judith S. **66** on **9/2** John and Rosemarie S. 62 on 9/3 Richard and Marianne G. 60 on 9/8 Bob and Babe P. 67 on 9/15 Gregory and Rose Ann S. 72 on 9/17 John and Jean G. 58 on 9/19 Larry and Marilyn C. 63 on 9/26 Don and Annette L. 59 on 9/28 Jim and Marylyn S. 60 on 10/12 Joe and Tina C. 53 on 10/25

BELATED ANNIVERSARIES

Alphonse and Pauline McC. 56 on 8/6