



# The Rose

THE SAINT THERESE NEWSLETTER



## MOVING FORWARD

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SUMMER 2021



**Dear Friends,**

I hope this issue of *The Rose* finds you enjoying summer with your family and friends. Never again will we take the blessing of spending time with our loved ones for granted!



Like you, our residents have jumped back into regular activities both here at Saint Therese and with their own families. From chapel services, to live music performances, to food truck and pet therapy visits, our residents are finally returning to some level of normalcy.

At the same time, the Saint Therese Board of Directors and leadership team have been using this time to plan for the future. Over the past several months, it has become clear that a reinvention of our flagship New Hope campus and the establishment of an entirely new community in Corcoran are our most pressing and immediate opportunities.

The completion of these two projects will allow us to execute on our mission “to do ordinary things with extraordinary love” for seniors and their families for years to come.

As part of this planning process, we have also been exploring funding opportunities to ensure that the projects are a success while ensuring sound fiscal stewardship. At the end of June, we submitted a request to the state of Minnesota for a moratorium exception, that if successful, would assist in funding a portion of the projects.

In addition, we retained the services of a nonprofit fundraising firm to help us gather feedback as well as to determine whether there is enough support from the community for a significant fundraising campaign.

This is an exciting time for all of us at Saint Therese, and I look forward to sharing more about how you can help as we finalize our plans for the effort. Thank you for all you do for Saint Therese and the seniors we serve.

With warmest gratitude,

Barbara A. Rode  
President and CEO, LNHA, MS, NCBC



*a lifetime of service*  
**HONORING SISTER  
MARIE FUJAN, OSB**

After more than 50 years of service to Saint Therese, and 14 years as Director of Pastoral Care at Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake, **Sister Marie Fujan, OSB has announced her retirement and return to St. Paul’s Monastery.**

Described as “lighting up a room with her smile and laugh,” by Paul Metzler, Executive Director of Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake, Sister Marie will be remembered for her sincere commitment to the Benedictine values.

“Sister’s influence on pastoral care at Saint Therese was one of a kingdom mentality,” said Daniel Siemens, Pastoral Care Coordinator at Oxbow Lake. “She designed the sign that hangs at our entrance featuring the rule of Saint Benedict that states that all guests are to be welcomed as Christ, and that is the foundation she laid for all who walk through our doors.”

“Sister practiced the ‘ministry of happy,’” Siemens went on to say. “Her sense of

humor and kindness could put people at ease during their darkest times.”

In addition to serving as Director of Pastoral Care, Sister Marie was also a resident of Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake and made herself available 24/7 to residents and staff during times of grief or need. Sister placed special value on families being present during a resident’s passing and would counsel family members on how to say goodbye to their loved ones, encouraging them to share something they will miss or a special memory.

Ruth Anderson, resident of Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake, reflected on the comfort Sister gave her on the loss of her husband and son. “Sister was there for me when my husband was diagnosed with Parkinson’s and had to move into long-term care. She was there for me when my son was diagnosed with cancer just days after my husband’s death. And she was there for me when my son passed. I will miss her camaraderie very much.”

Anderson went on to say, “Sister makes religion a part of our daily lives, it’s not just something that’s way out there, it’s with us all the time and that is a great comfort. As Sister says, ‘we are on the porch of heaven.’”

Saint Therese celebrated Sister Marie’s retirement in mid-August.





# a legacy of PASTORAL CARE AT SAINT THERESE

In 1968, a group of six Benedictine Sisters journeyed from Winsted, Minnesota and moved into the convent at Saint Therese Home. They cleaned windows, made beds and scrubbed the walls of Saint Therese Home to welcome our very first resident, Mary Zepp. Throughout the early years, the Sisters worked full-time to staff Saint Therese and provide comfort, companionship and spiritual counseling to those who resided there. However, our commitment to pastoral care does not start there, it has an even longer history.



The first Sisters in residence at Saint Therese Home

In the spring of 1964, our founders had a vision for a nursing home that focused on whole person wellness with an emphasis on residents' spiritual needs.

"When Father [Gordon] Mycue and I and the other board members talked about what we had in mind, we spoke not only of dispensing the finest medical care," said Jerry Choromanski, one of the original founders of Saint Therese, "but



Mary Zepp, first resident of Saint Therese Home

also a program of spiritual care, and that necessitated a full-time chaplain and Sisters."

With this vision our long history of providing pastoral care to our residents began. Today, our on-site Pastoral Care staff are available at each of our larger campuses to celebrate triumph and joy or be present through grief and suffering. Pastoral Care staff are called upon to pray following a change in condition, to help with grief, to offer support while making a difficult decision or to simply enjoy a friendly conversation over a cup of coffee.

Barb Rode, current President and CEO, said, "Pastoral Care is at the top of our hierarchy. We lead with pastoral care at the top with Benedictine values ingrained in our culture." **No matter what the need is, our Pastoral Care team takes the time to genuinely know, understand and value every individual— forming close, personal meaningful bonds.**

"Saint Therese remains staunchly committed to our tradition of helping our residents on an enriching, purposeful faith journey, no matter their religious affiliation. Pastoral care is at the heart of what we do," said Rode.

## PASTORAL CARE SERVICES ON-SITE AT SAINT THERESE:

- Catholic Mass
- Ecumenical services
- Liturgy on Feast Days
- Sacrament of Reconciliation or other reconciliation services
- Anointing of the Sick
- Communion upon request
- Rosary recitation
- Stations of the Cross
- Support for family and friends
- Support groups
- Guidance and spiritual counsel
- Partners in prayer and meditation
- Compassionate, faith-based presence throughout hospice and palliative care

## an enduring commitment

### PASTORAL CARE TEAM DURING COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Pastoral Care staff have been a great source of comfort for our residents as government-issued protocols impacted the ability to have in-person family visits and our seniors faced increased social isolation.

The Pastoral Care team developed creative solutions to provide much needed comfort and compassion. They used phone calls, Zoom and FaceTime to interact with residents and help them stay connected with family and friends. When residents were grieving or at end-of-life, the Pastoral Care staff provided a listening ear and spiritual respite.

As our campuses start to reopen, the Pastoral Care team continues to provide opportunities for residents to express and practice their faith in ways that ensure their comfort and safety.

Weekly Catholic and nondenominational services are broadcast via the campus in-house channels. When feasible, socially

distanced services are held with limited residents in attendance. They also bring Holy Eucharist to apartments and rooms, televise praying the rosary and provide for individual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

One resident said it best when describing Sister Dianne Perry, Pastoral Care Director for Saint Therese of Woodbury, "Her commitment knows no bounds as exemplified by the way she directs the community in new situations such as the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, when she instituted safe environmental practices of the Chapel services. In the midst of suffering and death she brings comfort, consolation and hope to the families of loved ones."

No matter the obstacles faced, our Pastoral Care staff continue to provide the spiritual guidance to our residents and their families. **It is their dedication that truly embodies our mission to do ordinary things with extraordinary love.**





# SAINT THERESE FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC

After a year of holding only virtual events, we were finally able to host our first in-person gathering at the prestigious Medina Golf & Country Club! On June 21, 2021, we were joined by 102 golfers for a day filled with camaraderie, exciting contests and lots of memorable drives and putts.

Our 18th Golf Classic might have looked a little different with protocols in place, but one thing remained the same, our sponsors, families, staff and friends all showed up to support Saint Therese and the seniors we serve.

Together, we raised over \$44,000 for essential programs and services at Saint Therese making this one of our most successful tournaments to date!



Congratulations to the winning team: Haglund-Anderson Team

### Thank you to our year-long sponsors:



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Saint Therese

# volunteers WELCOME BACK OUR DEAR FRIENDS!

Volunteers have been a staple at Saint Therese since the very beginning. This rich tradition of volunteerism continued and could be seen daily at Saint Therese with volunteers sharing their time, talents and kindness with the residents and staff.

Then COVID-19 hit.

Our volunteers were no longer able to help within our walls but they came together in creative ways to provide rays of hope and love to our residents and staff.

Saint Therese also got creative by sharing news with our volunteers through the *Volunteer Connections* newsletter. Susan Connolly, Director of Volunteer Services, says “It became a way for our volunteers to feel connected and a way for us to share ongoing needs that volunteers could help out with — like sewing masks.”

This past June, we were thrilled to welcome back volunteers. Their return has brought brightness back into our communities for residents, staff and the volunteers themselves.

One volunteer shared

that “getting the call to come back to help at Saint Therese at Oxbow made my day!”

Jamie Schlough, Volunteer Services Coordinator for Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake said, “It was so fun to see the residents and volunteers reconnect like long-time friends. It was obvious from the sound of everyone’s voices that they missed each other and were happy to be in each other’s company!”

Today, volunteers are helping in the gift shops and with activities like calling Bingo, playing the piano at our Saint Therese of New Hope residence and doing one-on-one visits. They are even assisting with cleaning, weeding, watering and painting projects.

These are just a few examples of how our volunteers are making an impact and every day extraordinary for our residents.

What may seem like a small contribution, makes an immeasurable difference in so many lives. **We are so grateful for our volunteers!**



**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?**  
Visit [sainttherese.org/volunteer](http://sainttherese.org/volunteer)  
or contact Susan Connolly  
at 612.418.1954 or  
[volunteers@sainttherese.org](mailto:volunteers@sainttherese.org).

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•2021•

## SAINT THERESE FOUNDATION GALA

JOIN US VIRTUALLY  
**OCTOBER 1**



Saint Therese  
FOUNDATION

Throughout these unprecedented times, our front-line staff faced every challenge with unyielding commitment to serve the seniors in our care. They worked extra shifts, learned new tasks and, in some cases, became the only in-person connection our residents had.

This year, during the Virtual Gala you will hear inspiring stories and have an opportunity to honor our dedicated staff by making a donation to the White Rose Scholarship Fund. **This fund provides scholarships that enable any staff member to either commence or continue their education in a nursing-related certification or degree program.**

Through this scholarship program, our staff gain valuable new skills that help to advance their careers while also ensuring that we continue to improve the quality of care at Saint Therese.