



SAINT THERESE

The ROSE

Fall 2016

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The legacy of Jerry and Ursula Choromanski



This summer marked the one year anniversary of the death of Saint Therese Founder Jerome J. "Jerry" Choromanski and his beloved wife Ursula.

In the mid 1960s, Jerry sought support for a Catholic senior care community. Together with Fr. Gordon Mycue, Sister Marceline Jung and Elizabeth "Betty" Hidding, he developed plans for St. Therese Home, Inc. and opened the doors to a 200-bed care center on January 9, 1968.

Jerry continued his commitment to Saint Therese as an active member of the board of directors and was instrumental with further expansion of the organization. Ursula became a charter member of the Saint Therese Auxiliary and was a dedicated gift shop volunteer. She served in many capacities in the Auxiliary including a term as Auxiliary President.

For over 45 years both Jerry and Ursula's dedication shaped this organization and even after their passing they continue to make an impact.

Jerry and Ursula's generosity continues to benefit Saint Therese through a gift that they included in their will as Heritage Society members. Heritage Society members are people who leave a legacy that transcends their lives through an ongoing contribution to the growth and transformation of Saint Therese. It is this group of special people who have, in essence, said, "When I am no longer here, I want these values, this work of serving older adults, to continue for many years to come." *continued on page 4*

Thank you to the 2016 Steering Committee
Harry Hurley,
Patrick Tinucci,
Dennis Todora,
Cheryle Young

Thank you to all our sponsors, golfers and volunteers!

Presenting Sponsor



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For more information about this event and how to get involved visit our website at www.sttheresemn.org/golfopen

Inaugural Golf Open a Success

On August 18, 2016, 34 golfers joined us at Oak Marsh Golf Course in Oakdale, MN, for the inaugural Saint Therese Foundation Golf Open. This special event raised over \$13,000 to support Saint Therese care and communities. Thank you to all of those involved in this extraordinary day for Saint Therese.

Letter from the President & CEO

Dear Friends and Family,

It has been a busy summer filled with events and celebrations. In August we hosted the inaugural Golf Open on the east side of the Twin Cities. It was a wonderful way to connect with Saint Therese of Woodbury and Saint Therese at St. Odilia families.



On September 8, we held the grand opening of our newest community, Saint Therese of Woodbury. It was an honor to have Archbishop Bernard Hebda as presider of the blessing service and for so many friends and family to join us for this special day. If you have not had an opportunity, please stop by and see all that the campus has to offer.

Later in September we hosted a 10th anniversary picnic at Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake for tenants and their families. Guests enjoyed food, fun and music. Over the past ten years, a unique community has been built that provides Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake residents and tenants with friendship, laughter and support.

As we settle into the holiday season, each of our campuses will host a Tree of Lights service. Tree of Lights is a way to honor or remember someone special and provide support to those living and being cared for at Saint Therese. Invitations will be mailed in early November.

This is a special issue of The Rose. Beginning on page 6, we recognize all of those individuals that have received a tribute gift in their honor or memory. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors who have made this special type of gift.

Warmly,

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

MISSION

Saint Therese, a Catholic organization serving seniors of all faiths, is dedicated to the well-being of each individual.

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Saint Therese of Woodbury Grand Opening

Saint Therese of Woodbury celebrated its grand opening and ribbon cutting on September 8, 2016. The celebration began with a prayer service presided by Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Following the service, Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce members, Woodbury city representatives and project partners, as well as Saint Therese staff and board members participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony. Tenants, family members, friends of Saint Therese and community members joined in the celebration with self-guided tours, refreshments and music.



Volunteering at Saint Therese

A rewarding experience

Awareness of God. Respect for Persons. Stewardship. Our volunteers embody the Benedictine Values Saint Therese strives to represent. We are fortunate to have 400 volunteers support our residents who create a sense of belonging and community. These selfless individuals understand how important their efforts are in the lives of those we serve.

Rick Cesare volunteered his time and talents at Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake. His daughter, Lauren, inspired his involvement a few months after she began volunteering at Happy Hour events.

“My initial impression was one of WOW,” Rick said. “The facility was, and still is, beautiful. The personnel at Saint Therese were personable, friendly and inviting, which left a wonderful impression on me.”

Rick was asked to spend time with some of the residents in the memory care neighborhoods. He obliged by visiting with them in both a group and individual setting. He read to them, played games and went for walks around the Oxbow Lake campus.

“I attempted to see the same [residents] every time I visited so they would get used to seeing a familiar face every week...this familiarity was a comfort to them as they would smile upon seeing me,” Rick said.

Rick found his volunteering experience to be rewarding. He appreciated having the opportunity to interact with residents and see them enjoy his company just as much as he enjoyed theirs.

“I enjoyed my time at Saint Therese and was always welcomed,” he said. “Saint Therese staff made it a point to thank me for my time and to make sure things were going well during my visits.”

For more information on volunteer opportunities, visit www.sttherese.org/volunteer.

Garden of Hope

A welcome retreat

Palliative care offered by Saint Therese at St. Odilia is holistic and comprehensive: addressing the mind, body and spirit of each resident. With the care provided, residents experience an improved quality of life in a calm, home-like setting.

Alan Higley, one of many valuable volunteers and donors at Saint Therese at St. Odilia, is focused on maintaining the serene atmosphere for our residents through the gift of landscape maintenance and gardening. Higley and his family recently donated and planted trees for our Saint Therese at St. Odilia community.

“[Higley] saw some empty space in our outdoor garden area and wanted to give our residents some options for shade,” said Jolene Baker, Director, Saint Therese at St. Odilia.

Higley started his volunteering efforts in the spring of 2011 with the initial front walkway landscape. He inspired the Saint Therese Foundation to expand on his idea and complete an entire garden beautification project made possible by the contributions of donors like Alan.

As a result of the landscape redesign, residents and families of Saint Therese at St. Odilia are able to enjoy the beautiful outdoor surroundings of the gardens and wooded area. This area provides an opportunity for residents and their loved ones to escape from stress and retreat to a peaceful place.



Alan's efforts continue to ensure Saint Therese at St. Odilia offers a welcoming entrance and a manicured garden to reflect, pray and visit.

“When someone is able to use his God given talents and ability to match up with a greater need, it's just wonderful,” Baker said.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Saint Therese, visit sttherese.org/volunteer.

Giving now and forever

The legacy of Jerry and Ursula Choromanski

continued from page 1

The Jerome and Ursula Choromanski Pastoral Care Endowment Fund became fully funded in April 2016 by a gift from their estate. Each year, investment earnings from this endowment will benefit pastoral care at Saint Therese.

Pastoral care remains an integral part of the holistic approach to care at Saint Therese. Onsite priests, sisters and lay-staff offer a full range of spiritual care and religious services including regular Mass, rosary and weekly ecumenical services. Each neighborhood is supported by a pastoral care associate who offers companionship to residents and their families on a daily basis, as well as participation in support groups and family meetings. Our pastoral care program is truly one of the hallmarks of our organization.

“Spirituality is the deepest dimension of all life,” said Susan Adam, Director of Pastoral Care at Saint Therese of New Hope. “Part of the function of aging is to reflect on one’s life and resolve it. Aging ultimately is a spiritual journey; with pastoral care present to prompt the questions engaging seniors in telling their life story, praying with them through the rough chapters, coming to resolution and peace and leaving a legacy for their loved ones. This is a sacred time in their lives that needs to be handled with dignity.”

Jerry and Ursula knew that pastoral care was essential to aging well and wanted to ensure it would be experienced by others for many years to come.

“Both mom and dad realized the importance of a facility that could provide appropriate religious support for seniors in the metro area,” said Jennifer Shaltz, one of seven Choromanski daughters. “Since the faith element was instrumental in the formation of Saint Therese of New Hope, mom and dad wanted to ensure that pastoral care would not be at risk of being ‘phased out’ due to funding challenges, which is why they established their pastoral care endowment.”

Caroline Partoll, another daughter, agreed saying, “They wanted to make sure this was available to others at Saint Therese as well.”

Saint Therese is grateful for Jerry and Ursula’s support during their lifetime as well as contributions they continue to make through their generous estate gift and endowment.

“Jerry and Ursula always provided guidance in such a way that reminded us to keep pastoral care in mind in all aspects of our work. It is so special that through

their estate gift they will continue to remind us of this important part of our mission,” said Barb Rode, Saint Therese President & CEO.

To learn more about planned giving, endowments and the Heritage Society call 952.283.2217.



*Spirituality is the deepest
dimension of all life*

Golf Classic Recap

On June 13, 2016, 115 golfers participated in the Saint Therese Foundation Golf Classic, raising nearly \$50,000 for Saint Therese care and communities. Thank you to the sponsors, golfers, contributors, event committee and volunteers for a wonderful tournament.

Thank you to the 2016 Steering Committee
 Matt Scherer – Event Chair, Tim Beaupre, Bill Flanary, Brenda Goldenstein, Mary Hartkopf, Harry Hurley, Barb Nadeau, Jeff Nadeau

Thank you sponsors!

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For more information about this event and how to get involved visit our website at www.sttheresemn.org/golfclassic



Tribute Gifts

Saint Therese would like to thank all those who made gifts in honor or memory of loved ones during the last fiscal year. These gifts were given between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The name of the honoree is listed in bold. * Denotes deceased as of June 30, 2016.

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