



Saint Mary's Home of Erie

# The Mirror

A Publication of Saint Mary's Home of Erie

June 2011



## Active



# for Life!



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From the  
Development Office



A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

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## A Continuing Care Retirement Community

### Levels of Care

Independent Living Carriage Homes  
Independent Residential Living/  
Personal Care  
Skilled Nursing  
Alzheimer's/Dementia Care  
Adult Day Services  
Respite Care

### Services

Short and Long-term Rehabilitative  
Therapies  
On-site Nursing Staff including RNs,  
LPNs and NAs  
Catholic and Ecumenical Religious  
Services  
Social Services Program/Pastoral Care  
Support Services  
Nutritional Services  
Recreational Activities  
Beauty and Barber Services

# President's Message

**D**id you notice the gorgeous multi-colored tulips at both campuses recently? We are very proud of the work of our Saint Mary's Landscapers!

As Spring heralds the warmth of Summer, change is once again in the air! For each of us at Saint Mary's and for many of you, change is a constant. Just as our Landscapers turned the remnants of Winter into the brightly colored flowers and trees of Spring, Saint Mary's hopes to "enflower" the lives of the seniors we interact with.

What would an "enflowered senior" look like, you might ask?

- 🌿 *We see seniors bloom on a daily basis.*
- 🌿 *We experience the twinkle in the eye as rehab goals are met and plans for discharge back home are made.*
- 🌿 *We see smiles on the faces of our Residents who we have been able to assist in achieving their highest potential and level of independence.*
- 🌿 *We see employees walk with pride as they witness the transformations in our Residents.*
- 🌿 *We see families who are ever grateful for the comfort provided for their loved one when they are in the final stages of living.*
- 🌿 *We see peace in the faces of our Residents as their physical needs meld into the spiritual realm.*
- 🌿 *We experience excitement as all of us together – the Saint Mary's family move in tandem as one.*
- 🌿 *We are saddened when all of this does not come together as planned.*



Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ  
President/CEO



New changes in healthcare are on the horizon. Government budgets and some regulations are not clear yet, but one thing we know for certain and that is –

*We're Saint Mary's and we're all about you!*

*Sister Phyllis McCracken*

Phyllis McCracken, SSJ  
President/CEO

# Living...And Living Well

As people grow older they quite often find their social networks shrink down to almost nothing. A senior's family members often live out of town or have very busy lives even when they live close. Many seniors fall into the "isolated years" instead of the "golden years." This can lead to a quicker decline in overall health. It is extremely important for people of all ages, especially seniors, to stay active and engaged.

Sure, if you talk with a senior you will find that most are not interested in moving from their home or trying to meet new friends. Family members and loved ones often find themselves at a loss on how they can help. Alternatives that have grown increasingly popular are Continuing Care Retirement Communities. These communities not only offer care and services, but provide many different outlets that keep people engaged, active and healthier.



## Entertainment

Can't get out? We will bring it in! Pictured is The Presque Isle Chorale Group who recently performed at Saint Mary's East. Our very own Music Ministry Volunteer, Sister Lucille DeStefano, SSJ is a member of this chorale group. It is one of many groups who provide entertainment for the Residents at Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

Saint Mary's Home of Erie has been a licensed Continuing Care Retirement Community since 2001. If you talk with many of the Residents who live here, you will find they embrace their lifestyle. Although they may have been hesitant to move at first, they are also quick to mention how much happier they are now that they have a social circle again, as



## Community Outings

Residents at Saint Mary's East take advantage of a beautiful Spring day by enjoying a nice walk at Presque Isle.



## Dinners and Dances

Residents at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge recently celebrated the 7th Annual Senior Prom. Picture above are Edward Kubinski and Jean Penman, this year's king and queen of the prom.

well as, services available if they need them. Saint Mary's East resident Rita Pol explains, "I never thought I would be making new friends at this point in my life. I am happy I made the decision to move to Saint Mary's, although I wish I had made the move sooner." Rita continues, "I have everything I need and I no longer feel like my best years are behind me. I still have my privacy, but now I am active again."

The Residents who live at Saint Mary's are doing exactly that, living! Gone are the days of the stereotypical nursing home, at least at Saint Mary's. Residents find many of the obstacles they found in their home are no longer obstacles at Saint Mary's, leaving them time to, well, enjoy life again. Let's face it, we are all getting older and soon the first of the baby boomer generation will begin their search for active retirement communities. Fortunately, Saint Mary's has kept pace with these changing times and offers the Erie community the care and services that are needed for seniors. More importantly, there are many different outlets to keep the mind sharp and the body moving on a daily basis. Whether it is moving into the Independent Living Carriage Homes, choosing rooms in Residential Living, a Nursing stay, attending Adult Day Services, receiving dementia care, or just a short visit for Rehabilitative Therapies, Saint Mary's Residents are enjoying life, and that is what it is all about.



## Personal Time

Not everything is about socialization. Many find the beautiful surroundings at Saint Mary's offer great places for their personal hobbies and quiet areas to reflect. Pictured above, Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge resident, Leonard Krantz, is taking a photo of beautiful Spring flowers outside of the Asbury Ridge entrance.

# AROUND OUR HOME...



Residents at Saint Mary's were very busy with a wide range of events and activities over the past three months. Take a look at a few highlights and you will see why people are so happy living at Saint Mary's:

- ✿ A visit from Mike Dohanic, Reptile Specialist
- ✿ Presque Isle Chorale Concert
- ✿ Gardening
- ✿ Casino Outing
- ✿ Senior Prom
- ✿ Presque Isle Outing
- ✿ Millcreek Mall Outing
- ✿ Art Classes
- ✿ Lunch at Rum Runners Cove
- ✿ Outdoor Grilling and Picnics
- ✿ Erie Impact Singers Concert
- ✿ Intergenerational Programs

This edition of "Around Our Home" is honoring several Residents at Saint Mary's who recently celebrated milestone birthdays along with a big anniversary. Congratulations to everyone who celebrated these special dates.

## **Margaret "Peggy" Hain's 100th Birthday/ Saint Mary's East**



**Congratulations to Peggy Hain who celebrated her 100th Birthday on March 5th.**

## **Mildred Benson's 100th Birthday/ Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge**



**Congratulations to Mildred Benson who celebrated her 100th Birthday on March 3rd.**

## **Father Maryland's 100th Birthday/ Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge**



**Congratulations to Father Joseph Maryland who celebrated his 100th Birthday on March 20th. Father Maryland was the first priest in the Erie Diocese to celebrate a 100th Birthday.**

## **Francis Elliot's 100th Birthday/ Saint Mary's East**



**Congratulations to Francis Elliot who celebrated her 100th Birthday on April 11th. Pictured, back row, left to right, are Gary Miller, Barb Elliott, and Robert Hubert. Middle row, left to right, are Tillie Miller, Herb Elliott, and Chrissie Hubert. Front row, left to right, are Ronnie Cywinski, Marian Savoie, and Scott Savoie. Seated is Francis Elliot.**

## **Mary Kiehl's 100th Birthday/ Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge**



**Congratulations to Mary Kiehl who celebrated her 100th Birthday on April 18th. Pictured, back row, left to right, are Joan Kiehl, Father Tom Brooks, Barb Morrow, and Carole Suesser. Front row, left to right, are Jim Kiehl, Mary Kiehl, and John Kiehl.**

## **Monsignor Schauerman's 60th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood/Saint Mary's East**



**Congratulations to Monsignor Schauerman who celebrated his 60th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on May 3rd.**

# Saint Mary's 2011 Employee Service Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2011 Saint Mary's Home of Erie Service Awards. Each year we honor those with extended years of service with Saint Mary's. We are blessed to have so many long term employees as they are the cornerstone of Saint Mary's Mission. The Service Awards were held at the Erie Maennerchor Club on May 11, 2011.



35, 30,  
AND 25  
YEARS  
OF  
SERVICE

(Left to Right) Sister Margaret O'Brien, SSJ, 25 years; Sister Elizabeth Ruza, SSJ, 30 years; Monsignor Joseph Wardanski, 35 years; and Elizabeth Christensen, 35 years.  
Not pictured are Carol Madurski, 35 years; and Brenda Gore, 30 years.

With deep sorrow, Saint Mary's Administration, Employees and Residents would like to extend their sympathies to the family, friends and co-workers of Elizabeth "Betty" Christensen who passed away on May 21, 2011.

## 20 AND 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Back row (left to right) Nancy Ray, 15 years; Deborah Swartz, 20 years; and Mary Kay Bednarski, 20 years. Front row (left to right) Jennifer Fisher, 15 years; and Wilma Johnson, 20 years.  
Not pictured are Barbara Kosin, 20 years; Jennifer Shoup, 20 years; Christopher Huck, 15 years; and Carrie Moffatt, 15 years.





## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Back row (left to right) Tina Malpiedi, Sandra Angerer, Diane Thurston, Catherine Beliveau, John Camphire, Rusty Yaple, Constance Violi. Front row (left to right) Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, Marija Buljubasic, Barbara Dengler, Natalie Kujan, Ann Marie McKee, and Julie Eppolito. Not pictured are Victoria Williams, Erna Switzer, Roberta Kennelley, Crystal Czarnecki, Barbara Justka, John Mariella, Yvonne Cole, Jamie Fung, and Olga Burykin.



## 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Back row (left to right) Younis Thiop, Sarita Tolbert, Kathleen Lewis, Christina Ola, James Park. Front row (left to right) Ruth Waidley, Lashawna Hill, Sister Bernadine Gehringer, SSJ, Debora Carr, Amanda Deboe, Anthony Allegretto, and Beverly Caldwell. Not pictured are Suzanne Fletcher, Joseph Truitt, Rhiannon Grabowski, Romaine Hanson, Brian DiCarlo, Father William Fischer, Angela Wynn, Millicent Cosby, Keana Anderson, Dorothy Zielonis, Sharda Harris, Stephen Donahue, and Dashonna Knight.



## Out With The Old... In With The New

This Spring, Saint Mary's Residents were pleasantly surprised to find out Saint Mary's 1996 Turtle Top Terra Transit Van was replaced with a brand new 2011 Turtle Top Terra Van. The new van is slightly larger than the 1996 van and provides greater visibility for the driver and passengers by relocating the wheelchair lift which is now at the rear of the vehicle instead of the middle. The new van accommodates 12 ambulatory passengers or 3 wheelchairs and 4 ambulatory passengers. The 1996 van accommodated 9 ambulatory passengers or 3 wheelchairs and 1 ambulatory passenger.

A portion of the van was sponsored by The John A. and Margaret E. Spaeder Fund of the Erie Community Foundation. Margaret was a resident at Saint Mary's East for nine years. Prior to her death in 2007, she established a permanent fund to care for our Residents for generations to come. We gratefully honor Margaret and value her gift of \$41,000 that helped purchase new transportation for the benefit of our Residents.

Saint Mary's Van is utilized by the East and Asbury Ridge Campuses for a wide variety of activities. You will see the van at the Casino, Presque Isle, the Millcreek Mall, various restaurants and many other venues. It is a wonderful asset that affords many Residents the opportunity to enjoy the Erie community who would not otherwise be able to do so.

*Pictured are Saint Mary's East Residents inside the new 2011 Turtle Top Terra Van. Saint Mary's Residents at both campuses are able to enjoy many of the Erie community's attractions by signing up for the various outings that are provided each month.*



# Thank you!

## The Friends of Saint Mary's Recognition Dinner

In 2010, Saint Mary's Home of Erie had 77 volunteers known as The Friends of Saint Mary's. They donated an amazing 4,672 hours of service. A special Recognition Dinner was held at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge to honor all of these special volunteers. Receiving special recognition for completing 100 volunteer hours this past year were Nancy Somerfield, Jack Shoemaker, Alisabeth Goetsch and Mary Jane Lockard. A big thank you to all of The Friends of Saint Mary's for furthering Saint Mary's Mission and for truly making a big difference in peoples' lives.



Pictured back row, left to right, are Diane Lutz, Activities Director, Saint Mary's East; Audrey Urban, Administrator, Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge; Nancy Somerfield; Jack Shoemaker; and Dionna Durr, Activities Director, Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge. Front row, left to right, are Alisabeth Goetsch; Mary Jane Lockard; and Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ, President and CEO, Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

...truly making a big difference  
in peoples' lives.

# Saint Mary's New Remote Dispensing System

Saint Mary's East and Asbury Ridge have successfully converted to the Talyst® Insite Remote Dispensing System in the Skilled Nursing areas at both campuses. The Talyst



Pictured are Allen Bonace and Cheryl Truett with the new Talyst Insite Remote Dispensing System. Taking a look inside, Cheryl shows what one of the medication canisters look like. The Talyst System holds more than 200 different canisters.

Remote Dispensing System is an on-location medication dispensing system. "Saint Mary's has always prided themselves on being technologically advanced and this new medication dispensing system is another way we are embracing technology in order to improve the quality of care for our Residents," said Anthony Allegretto, Director of Marketing.

This new technology enables nurses to quickly and accurately dispense pharmacist-approved medications. It reduces nursing time spent on medication

order management, time spent on narcotic counts and the paperwork/faxes for reordering medication. The Talyst System gives down-to-the-dose inventory of the medication available and medication that was



Pictured is the new Talyst® Insite Remote Dispensing System that can be found in the Skilled Nursing areas at Saint Mary's East and Asbury Ridge. The Talyst System will also be implemented into the Residential areas of Saint Mary's over the next few months.

administered. This ensures prompt and accurate medication delivery. "One of the big benefits for our Residents is the Talyst System only dispenses what medication is needed. It really helps to eliminate medication waste. Our Residents are billed only for the medication that was used. We no longer have to discard and waste unused medications," explains Cheryl Truett, Director of Nursing for Saint Mary's East.

The Talyst System will also be implemented into the Residential areas of Saint Mary's over the next few months. "Medication administration with the Talyst dispensed pills has already shown to be faster, more accurate and safer for our Residents," reports Allen Bonace, Director of Nursing for Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge.



## Saint Mary's Home of Erie

May 31, 2011

Dear Residents and Family Members,

As the Summer months quickly approach, we would like to remind all family members and friends that visit Saint Mary's Home of Erie to please remember that all picture and video taking should be limited to your family member or loved one only. By law, Saint Mary's is required to protect the privacy of our Residents. Pictures should only be taken if there are no other Residents, staff or visitors in the background.

If you have any questions, please contact Sister Mary Fromknecht at Saint Mary's East or Audrey Urban at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge.

Thank you and enjoy your Summer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Baer".

Debbie Baer  
Corporate Compliance / HIPAA Officer / Risk Manager  
814-480-5827

## Bequest Campaign

When you designate Saint Mary's as a beneficiary of your will, you are making a bequest. Every bequest, no matter the amount, is important. Your bequest ensures that Saint Mary's commitment to fostering an atmosphere of community and our faith-based approach of 'loving to care' endure for generations to come.

[www.stmaryshome.org/charitablegiving](http://www.stmaryshome.org/charitablegiving)

If you are writing your will or living trust, you will need to include specific language that correctly identifies your support of Saint Mary's. Find sample bequest language on our website.

## Online Giving

Through our website, Saint Mary's provides a simple, secure way to donate online. Simply click on 'Donate Now' and complete the online form. Donors are finding that online giving is a convenient way to make memorial donations—especially for out-of-town family and friends.



# Named Giving Program

Saint Mary's Home of Erie is honored to recognize individuals who make significant contributions to maintain our high standard of care and services. Naming Opportunities allow us to thank donors with a tangible tribute. We benefit from the extraordinary generosity of our donors and are pleased to have their names associated with Saint Mary's.

Based on a donor's interests, there a variety of possibilities to which a major gift can be made. Here are two of the Naming Opportunities available to you. If you would like more information regarding Naming Opportunities please contact Kim McCaslin, Director of Development at 814-836-5312 or [kmccaslin@stmaryshome.org](mailto:kmccaslin@stmaryshome.org) . Kim will be pleased to work closely with you and your family to try to identify a fitting and unique Naming Opportunity at Saint Mary's East or Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge.



## Activity Rooms (2)

### Saint Mary's East

The Skilled Care Neighborhood features two Activity Rooms available for naming. These spacious recreation areas enable the activity staff to provide social events, fitness programs and entertainment in a space that is designed for seniors living in our Skilled Care Neighborhoods. The kitchen, lounge area and fireplace all provide a comfortable setting for family and friends to gather while visiting their loved one.



## Alzheimer's Neighborhood Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge

The Alzheimer's Neighborhood provides residential services in an environment that promotes maximum independence for seniors in the early and middle stages of memory loss. Activities are designed to strengthen connections to past interests and experiences so our Residents may enjoy the highest quality of life possible. This area includes 16 furnished private rooms, a living room and a dining room all reflecting a home-like atmosphere.

Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Saint Mary's Home of Erie is non-discriminatory in admissions, services and employment.

*The Mirror* is published quarterly for the residents, families and friends of Saint Mary's Home of Erie. Comments and suggestions for articles are welcome.

Contact Anthony J. Allegretto at 814-836-5316

or [aallegretto@stmaryshome.org](mailto:aallegretto@stmaryshome.org)

Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Anthony J. Allegretto  
*Director of Marketing,  
Editor*

Kimberly McCaslin, CFRE  
*Director of Development*

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## The 2011 Edward C. Doll Community Service Award



Phyllis McCracken, SSJ congratulates Jim and Maggie Stolley on being named the recipients of the 2011 Edward C. Doll Community Service Award for their service and personal philanthropy to the Erie community. This prestigious award was presented at the Erie Community Foundation's Annual Meeting on June 2nd.

### Non-discriminatory in admissions, services & employment.

*A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.*

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