

SUMMER 2023



# *The Mirror*

Reflecting Life at *Saint Mary's Home of Erie*

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**A Continuing Care Retirement Community**

**Levels of Care**

- Independent Living
- Residential Living & Personal Care
- Skilled Nursing
- Short & Long Term Rehabilitation
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
- Home Care
- Respite Care

**Services & Amenities**

- On-site Nursing staff including RN's, LPN's & CNA's
- Catholic & Ecumenical Religious Services
- Social Services
- Support Services
- Nutritional Services
- Daily Recreational Activities
- Beauty & Barber Services

**Board of Trustees**

- Ronald Seigley, Chairperson**
- Shawn Emerson, CPA, Vice-Chairperson**
- Robert Ek, Treasurer**
- Austin Brugger, Secretary**
- Allen Bonace, President/CEO**
- Bridget Power Barber
- Rev. Thomas Brooks
- Debbie Burbules
- Mary Candela
- Christopher Coughlin
- Sister Mary Drexler, SSJ Designee
- Rebecca Dudenhoeffer, CPA
- Annie Frew
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- Brenda Sandberg
- Andrew Schmidt, Esq.
- Garrett Shames, Esq.
- Colleen Stumpf, Esq.\*
- Mary Zenner

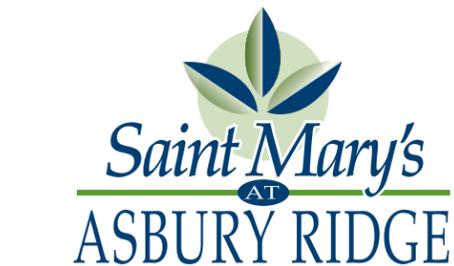
**Our Mission**

Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph and operated in the Catholic tradition, Saint Mary's Home of Erie is committed to an environment of loving to care where primarily seniors, their families, staff and volunteers participate in fostering an atmosphere of community.



**Corporate Office**

1781 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16508



**Main Campus**

4855 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506



4855 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506

**(814) 836-5300**

**www.stmaryshome.org**

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

**Non-discriminatory in admissions, services and employment.**



\*Non-voting Board Member and Legal Counsel

**A Message from the President**

In this issue of the Mirror, we reflect on milestones and summer fun! Highlighted are anniversaries, service awards, and more – these are just some of the milestones our community has celebrated recently. We continue to be active and engaged!



Beyond Saint Mary's, the larger landscape of aging in America is also reaching a new milestone. Leading Age recently released a data infographic that showed for the first time in 100 years, there are more Americans over the age of 60 than there are under the age of 10. The data provides clear implications for aging services – that most older adults will not have enough money for long-term care and that there won't be enough caregivers.

While Saint Mary's and other long-term care communities are adapting and working to find solutions, we cannot do it alone. Advocacy for funding and investments remains an important part of the strategy for united action on a national level – while charitable giving is a way that you can act now to support our mission and services on a day-to-day level.

I am also approaching a personal milestone. At the most recent Board of Trustees meeting, I informed the Board members of my decision to begin down the path to retirement. This is a bittersweet moment for me as I share this announcement with all of you. I plan to retire next year, July 1 of 2024. It has been and continues to be a great joy to serve the families, employees, residents, and community partners of Saint Mary's!

I share the news of my upcoming retirement well ahead of time to keep you informed as the process unfolds. I look forward to reaching more milestones in our final year together!

Thank you!



Allen L. Bonace  
President/CEO



# — Saint Mary's Home of Erie Announces — Retirement of President/CEO Allen Bonace

## Bonace to retire in 2024 after more than twenty years of service to Saint Mary's

Saint Mary's Home of Erie and the Board of Trustees have announced that President/CEO Allen Bonace plans to retire from the organization July 1, 2024 after five years in the role. Bonace's decision to retire will end a remarkable career of over 20 years of service to Saint Mary's.

The Board of Trustees will proceed with a formal search for his successor and anticipates engaging an executive search firm to conduct a local and national search for the next President/CEO of Saint Mary's.

*"Allen has given Saint Mary's years of outstanding leadership and accomplishments. Throughout every decision he has shown his true belief in Saint Mary's mission of Loving to Care," stated Ron Seigley, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for Saint Mary's. "We on the Board of Trustees will miss his inspiration and friendship but wish him a long and enjoyable retirement."*

Bonace joined Saint Mary's in 2003 as the Director of Nursing at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge. He advanced to the position of Vice President for Special Projects and then Chief Operating Officer prior to his appointment as President/CEO in June of 2019. Bonace was the first lay person to ever lead Saint Mary's Home of Erie; until his appointment the role was previously held by religious members of the Sisters of St. Joseph of

Northwestern Pennsylvania of which Saint Mary's is a sponsored ministry.

During his tenure, Bonace guided the organization through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sale of its former campus, Saint Mary's East. He made impactful strategic and operating decisions that positioned

Saint Mary's for continued growth and success. Perhaps the most tangible part of his legacy has been the expansion of the Carriage Homes at Asbury Ridge and renovations made to offer more senior living options in the Residential Living and Personal Care portions of the facility. Bonace has stewarded the organization with clear vision, inclusive collaboration, and exceptional leadership.

"This is a bittersweet moment for me. My twenty plus years with Saint Mary's have been one of the highlights of my life. It has been a privilege to serve the residents, their families, our employees, and the Board of Trustees," reflected Allen Bonace. "I hope my presence has served to enhance Saint Mary's mission and vision."

While identifying his successor over the course of the next year, Saint Mary's and the Board of Trustees will keep the community updated as the process progresses.

**Throughout every decision he has shown his true belief in Saint Mary's mission of Loving to Care**

- Ron Seigley,  
Chairperson of the Board of  
Trustees for Saint Mary's

# Employee Service Awards

## Honoring employees who have reached significant years of service

During National Nursing Home Week, we recognized our dedicated employees who reached their milestone years of service this year. Thank you for keeping Saint Mary's mission of "loving to care" close to your heart! We couldn't do it without you. Congratulations!

### 45 Years

Kathleen Macrino

### 20 Years

Allen Bonace  
Damir Buljubasic  
Zachery Taylor

### 15 Years

Michael Murphy  
Tabitha Conrad  
Erica Giglio

### 10 Years

Kevin Brocki  
Carrie Campbell  
Amy Hall  
Kimberly Bisbee  
Susan Clark  
Brenda Wilson  
Kimberly Hudson

### 5 Years

Amanda Wheeler  
Jack Thayer  
Wayne Berringer  
Suzanne Hauber  
Bonnie Eastman  
Bethany Fried



*A special award dinner was held to honor the recipients. Pictured, from left to right, are the recipients in attendance. Back row: Damir Buljubasic, Tabitha Conrad, Allen Bonace, Amy Hall, and Zachery Taylor. Middle row: Susan Clark, Erica Giglio, and Kim Hudson. Front row: Kathy Macrino, Brenda Wilson, Suzanne Hauber, Bonnie Eastman, and Kimberly Bisbee.*

# Join Us!

## Great care begins with great people

Explore career opportunities at  
[www.stmaryshome.org/careers](http://www.stmaryshome.org/careers)  
or scan the QR Code



# Marriage Memories

## Reflecting on 74 years together as the Gilberts

By: Helen Gilbert

"How do you talk about a lifetime in seven or eight paragraphs? It's no easy task. Every life has a story to tell as it unfolds. Our lives were pleasant growing up. We both had loving parents. We lived in a small town outside of Pittsburgh. Chuck had twin sisters, a novelty at the time. And I had one brother.

We met at 14, when we were freshman in high school. Chuck played football all four years of high school and I was always rooting for him. When World War II came into our lives, the whole football team enlisted, including Chuck. He chose the Navy and ended up in the Philippines. He contracted malaria there and almost died. He told me the doctor held out 30 pills in his hand and said, "Here.

Take these." Chuck replied, "All of them?" and the Doctor answered, "If you want to live." And Chuck swallowed them all.

We married at age 22. Chuck worked as an insurance adjuster in the Pittsburgh area, and I was a secretary for U.S. Steel. We vacationed a lot in Edinboro and eventually built a summer cottage there.

We have four boys and all loved boating, the beach, and water skiing. Chuck and I often enjoyed double water skiing together. The boys learned some trick water skiing as well. I stayed at the cottage in the summers with the boys and Chuck traveled to Pittsburgh to work when necessary.



Helen & Chuck, Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge, 2023



The Gilbert's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary vow renewal at their cottage on Edinboro Lake, 1999



We went to Florida every year for vacation, and we would take our motorhome. The boys would bring friends and sleep in tents outside. Disney World was a must and the boys enjoyed it! Fun! Fun!

Retirement came and we sold the Pittsburgh house and moved to the Edinboro cottage full time. All the boys went to Edinboro University except for one who opted for a Florida college.

After the boys were grown, we moved part-time from Edinboro to Port Richie, Florida. There was a new development going in, so we purchased a lot and built a new home. We loved it there and stayed there part-time for 25 years. As snowbirds, we stayed north in the summer and Port Richie in the winter.

We also did a lot of traveling. We circled the United States three times in the RV! We have been to all 50 states. We saw many parks and beautiful country. We also enjoyed many cruises, especially to the Bahamas and Aruba."

Charles and Helen Gilbert have been residents of Saint Mary's since the spring of 2022. This reflection was written by Helen Gilbert, in honor of her and Charles 74th wedding anniversary which was celebrated in May. We're happy to share the story of their life together and we're grateful that after all their adventures, they chose Saint Mary's for their next one.



Helen & Chuck on one of their many cruises, mid-1980's



The Gilbert's beloved RV that took them around the United States



# Volunteers Honored

## Recognizing the valuable contributions of the Friends of Saint Mary's

A luncheon honoring our volunteers for all they do was held on National Volunteer Day. Special recognition was given to volunteers who achieved 100-Hours of service with Saint Mary's. This year we recognized three volunteers who reached this milestone! Congratulations and thank you to Mary Ann Brothers, Bert Sobers and Joe Steger.



*Pictured from left to right, Allen Bonace, President/CEO, Mary Ann Brothers, Bert Sobers, Mary Venezia, Administrator, and LeeAnne Pukylo, Activities Director. (Not pictured: Joe Steger)*

## Want to Get Involved?

Become a Volunteer! Volunteers make an impact in our community and help create meaningful experiences for our residents. There are a wide range of year-round opportunities including:

- Facilitating games and group activities
- Serving customers and residents in the gift shop
- Helping to organize and run special events and parties
- Attending community outings
- Assisting with transporting residents to activities
- One-on-one visits that offer moments of friendship and companionship

## SPECIAL CALL FOR volunteers!

Help needed in the Gift Shop!

The Gift Shop in the main lobby at Asbury Ridge has limited hours based on the availability of volunteers. If you have just a few hours a week, consider spending it serving residents and customers in the gift shop. Training is provided – a friendly smile is all that is needed!

**To Volunteer:** Please contact LeeAnne Pukylo, Activities Director, at (814) 836-5358 or [lpukylo@stmaryshome.org](mailto:lpukylo@stmaryshome.org).

# SAINT MARY'S FOLLIES

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY

## Celebrating A Decade of Distinction

You're invited to join Saint Mary's and event chair couple, Drs. Chris & Caitlin Clark, for an inspiring evening at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Saint Mary's Follies!

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**

at the Bayfront Convention Center

Cocktails at 5 p.m. | Dinner & Entertainment at 6 p.m. | Award Ceremony at 7:15 p.m.

**Honoring the 2023 Ageless Remarkable Erieites  
Mary Jane Koenig, Richard and Diane Quien and the late William DeWitt**

Featuring live musical entertainment throughout the evening performed by Sherree Beltz, Brenda Evans, Joe Greulich, Michael and Jean Malthaner, Bob Martin, Patrick Thiem, and Devon Yates.

### How to Attend

Individual tickets are \$110 per person or choose a Table of Eight for \$800. Please call (814) 836-4393 to make your reservations! Or scan the QR Code below for more event details available on our website at [www.stmaryshome.org](http://www.stmaryshome.org)



Reservations are required and requested by **August 31, 2023**.  
*Can't attend but still want to support? Consider making a donation in lieu of attendance!*

**All proceeds benefit the mission of Saint Mary's Home of Erie!**

Sponsored in part by

Atty. James & Barbara McNamara



# Volume 1 Number 1

## Recognizing the 40th anniversary of The Mirror newsletter

August marks 40 years of the Saint Mary's newsletter, The Mirror! Originally an unnamed, brief publication, The Mirror has turned into a quarterly magazine with a circulation of about 3,000. Thanks to our friends and family for reading!



# Around Our Home

## A glance at our active and dynamic community



### Knitting Circle

The Saint Mary's ladies meeting up to chat and knit!



### "Egg"cellent DIY

Residents come together to construct Easter DIY decorations!



### Green Thumb

Garden Club provides residents with an opportunity to practice their green thumb and help the garden beds bloom!





## Summer Carnival

Getting in the spirit for summer with carnival games!



## Gazebo Hang Out

Soaking up every bit of summer with time spent out at the gazebo!



## Baking Club

Every month, our baking club joins forces to make a deliciously sweet treat for themselves! In June they made banana split cake.



## No-Sew Sock Bunny

Activity Aide, Tammy, showing our residents how to make sock bunny décor to display in their apartments!





**Jewelry Making**  
Residents try their hand at making their own jewelry including necklaces and earrings!



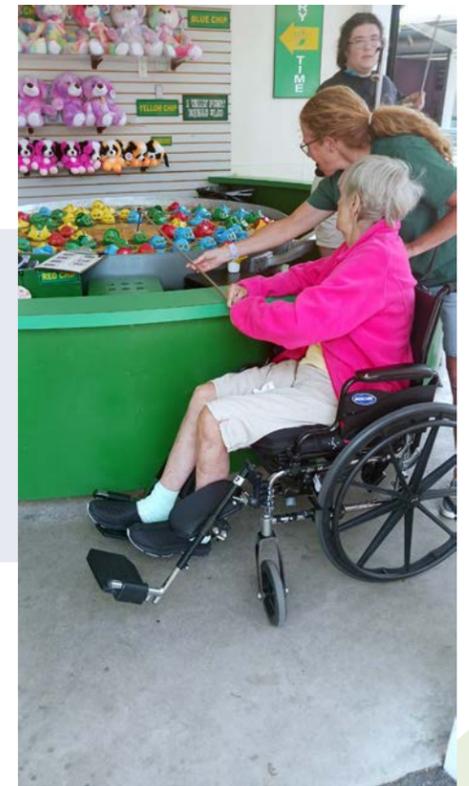
**Summer Employee Picnic**  
Employees hanging out during our annual summer picnic!



**Oinking Good Time**  
Willow and Perry from Tree Family Piggie Parties came to visit with our residents! The pig had many talents including painting and special tricks.



**Waldameer Fun!**  
Residents had fun playing games during an outing to Waldameer.





**Saint Mary's Home of Erie**  
*A Continuing Care Retirement Community*

**1781 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16508-1256**

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**We'd love to hear from you!**

Saint Mary's invites you to share your stories, anecdotes and thoughtful moments of the part we've played in the lives of you and your loved one. If you are interested in sharing your story, please send to Saint Mary's (Attn: Marketing Department) or email us at [marketing@stmaryshome.org](mailto:marketing@stmaryshome.org).

Please let us know if you have a change of address; the addressee is not at this address; you are receiving more than one newsletter; or you would like to be removed from the mailing list. If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please notify us by calling our opt-out voicemail at (814) 836-5431 or emailing [optout@stmaryshome.org](mailto:optout@stmaryshome.org).

**Learn more at [stmaryshome.org](http://stmaryshome.org)**

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There's always something going on at Saint Mary's. Want to catch what's happening Around Our Home and more in real time? Give us a follow on Facebook to stay up to date!

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