

St. Mary's Gazette



Our Mission

To continue the healing ministry of Jesus by providing compassionate care that respects the dignity of each person we serve.

Our Vision

Our vision is to lead the community in offering seniors personalized services that are life-enriching and wellness focused.

Core Values

Respect for Human Dignity
Compassion
Transformation
Solidarity with People in Need
Justice and Peace

President & CEO

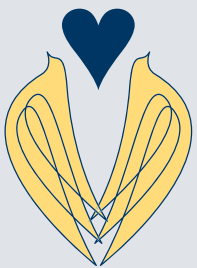
Luke Schubert

Director of Marketing

Megan Bruckschen

Marketing Specialist

Kim Christoffel, *Editor*



Felician Village

Sponsored by the Felician Sisters

Bingo and Banana Splits

Students from Bethany Lutheran School and Jefferson Elementary School visited our campus during October for a trick or treat event with our residents. During that event coloring pages were handed out and students were invited to compete in a coloring contest. The winning students got to bring their classes for a Bingo and Banana Split Party with our residents from the Gardens, the Court, and our Felician Village at Home Members.

We welcomed the first grade class from Bethany and a fifth grade class from Jefferson. This event was about bringing together older and younger generations to meet new people, to make community connections, to enrich lives and to help bring a sense of involvement to both the students and residents/members.



SOUPer Event

Nothing beats a savory bowl of soup to help you warm up on the cold winter days. Thank you to all those who attended the SOUPer Social Event at The Gardens on January 15.

A special shout out to our event co-sponsors HomeCare Health Services & Hospice, Greenfield Therapy, Peggy Kadow/Re/Max Port Cities Realtors and Felician Village.



February 2025

The resident newsletter of St. Mary's Home



1635 S. 21st Street • Manitowoc, WI • 54220
920-684-7171 • www.felicianvillage.org

President's Column

As we continue to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Felician Sisters of North America, let's reflect on the lives of the first Felician Sisters who came to Manitowoc. Although things were difficult at times, the Sisters were always thankful for what they had. Father Luczycki, the priest who invited the Felician Sisters to Manitowoc to care for the orphans and cripples, returned to Poland in 1894. With his departure, the printing establishment he had started which was a source of income for St. Mary's, also disappeared. Without a steady stream of income, the Sisters took it upon themselves to beg for food and clothing for the orphans and elderly. They became well-known throughout the city as the "Brown Sisters" because of their brown habits. They would go from home to home with a horse-drawn wagon and families would give them whatever they could offer: money, fresh produce, chickens, or a load of coal. The Sisters used the land surrounding the home for planting crops, such as potatoes, beans, peas, and corn. The residents, along with the Sisters, worked in the fields, planting and harvesting vegetables. There was a barn in the back of the home that housed milking cows, horses, pigs, and chickens. St. Mary's was commonly known as the "Poorhouse on Polish Hill," as it was a home for the poor, elderly, and orphans who had nowhere else to go. In historical records for the date April 15, 1899, it was noted "The Asylum was visited... and had 45 inmates: 21 female and 24 male. There were 28 orphan boys and 2 insane inmates. Condition of the food, clothing, beds, and grounds is good. Condition of the building is fair. City and county paupers board here." Blessed Mary Angela, the foundress of the Felician Sisters, reminded her fellow Sisters, "Submit yourself to God's will without reservation and you will merit many blessings." The Felician Sisters in Manitowoc have done that for over 137 years and those blessings continue today.



One of the Core Values of the ministry of Felician Village is Solidarity with People in Need. That value

is described here: "Sensitive to need, we provide resources and services for the underserved, especially the financially disadvantaged." There are always opportunities for us to uphold this value, as there are always those in need. This value urges us to move away from consumption for self and focus on aid for others. St. Francis hoped for his Brothers to be apart from the consumer economy of his time in the 1200s. Overconsumption and greed is not a new thing! Just as in the days of Francis, our focus on buying can separate us from the care of our sisters and brothers in Christ. Fr. David Couturier, OFM Cap., offers an examination of the economy of Franciscans in *Franciscans and Their Finances: Economics in a Disenchanted World*. He looks at what he calls a "Fraternal Economy" that provides direction for friars living in an unequal and unjust world, using goods and well managed time, talent and resources. It is good to know that the friars pay attention to their vow to live without anything of their own!

Roderic Hewlett, in *The Virtuous Economy: Reforms in the Franciscan Tradition*, translates some of the ideals of the Franciscan Friars into what we can do as lay people. He talks about a "Virtuous Economy." It's not quite taking a vow of poverty! But, he does focus on limiting consumption to needs, employing wealth principles that put wealth into action to alleviate suffering, and focusing on the impact of consumption on global peace, the environment, security, and justice.

In February we have the opportunity to participate in the "Virtuous Economy" and act on our Core Value of Solidarity with People in Need. The Help for the Homeless Hygiene drive begins in the last week of the month. Watch for information on what the particular needs are in our community. We will collect items in various locations around Felician Village so that we can offer assistance to those who are living without access to the basics for healthy living.

Written by Barb Spies, OFS,
Director of Mission Services and Pastoral Care

In January we held our Strategic Board Retreat. Here our Board of Directors and Strategic Team come together to review our previous and present plans and then look forward, not only to where we are going but where our community and others in the senior living industry are headed. A few of the important topics discussed were innovative trends in senior services, state of the industry & life plan communities nationally and statewide, labor market & agency staffing trends in senior care, and potential upcoming regulatory changes. Blessed Mary Angela reminded the early Felician Sisters, "Whatever you will do, do so thoroughly so that it may be said of you what was said of Christ: He has done everything well." We remember those words in our work daily and as we develop plans for the future. It is this trust in God that allows us to embrace prayer and the Felician core values to continue to grow this ministry of Felician Village.

Luke J. Schubert
Luke Schubert, President/CEO

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Italian Day at St. Mary's, The Court and The Villa. Our awesome culinary department plans two to three themed meals each month to add a little fun and variance to the menu.

In Loving Remembrance
January 2025

Eileen Mosuch, *Villa*
Jeanette Wilda, *Villa*
Nancy Orth, *St. Mary's*
Diane Cisler, *St. Mary's*
Evelyn Schlies, *Court, Villa & St. Mary's*