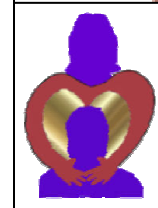
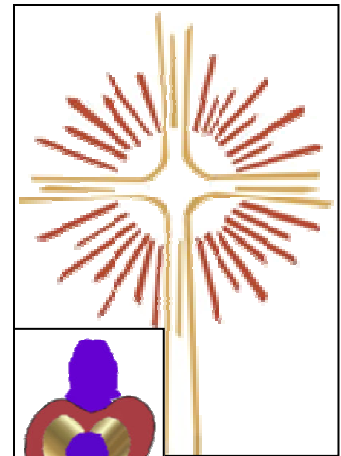


Holy Cross Catholic Church

Enriching Lives Ministry

Through God's boundless love for all of us; sharing spirituality, love, friendship and enjoyable times with special people.



Volume 2, Issue 1

Summer 2011

Thank you for your interest in the Holy Cross *Enriching Lives Ministry*. In this newsletter you will find a list of our task groups, along with highlights of some of our groups. Leaders for each of our efforts are listed on the back page along with how to contact them. Our goal is to connect those who want to serve others with those who need assistance.

Our Mission: The mission of the *Enriching Lives Ministry* is twofold. First, to spiritually and emotionally enrich the lives of the elderly, home-bound, disabled, sick, and any other people needing companionship, love and/or other assistance through Jesus' boundless love for all people by providing friendship, caring assistance, enjoyable times, spiritual and social fellowship, transportation to church functions, other assistance...and love to these people on a long-term basis. Second, to connect those who want to help people with those who need assistance.

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Connecting those who want to serve others
with those who need assistance.

Senior Visits and Respite Care

Description: Some families visit seniors regularly but the ministry has found out that the majority of seniors are basically forgotten by their loved ones. Volunteers who would like to make the life of a senior happier and less lonely are matched up with seniors who would like a visitor. Seniors just love seeing children on these visits as well. These volunteers visit the senior where they live, either at a residential or private home. The hope is that the relationships between the seniors and their visitors will grow into one inspired by the Holy Spirit. People may also volunteer to give short-term respite care for caregivers (e.g., for wife with disabled husband).



Needs: Several volunteers to visit seniors.

Assistance to Families and Others

Description: From time to time our ministry is asked to help a family or other non-seniors, sick or disabled in need. When this occurs, their needs are put in the bulletin for at least two weeks as well as e-mailed to a very large-distribution list. Some of the needs have included but are not limited to companionship, house cleaning, clothes, gift cards, lawn care and other yard work, shopping and other errands, and sometimes monetary assistance.



Comments: Our ministry most always works with the **Holy Cross Family Assistance Group** when families are involved. The ministry also works with **St. Vincent dePaul** as well as other resources when the need arises.

Cards to Seniors, Families, Others and Groups

Description: Everyone enjoys receiving cards of compassion and love, especially lonely seniors. Volunteers send cards monthly or more frequently to however many people they requested be assigned to them. Card senders are asked to include minimally their name and contact information, only if they agree so that card receivers, if able, can thank them. We ask card senders, if they agree, to visit their card receivers once to let them know who is sending them cards.

In addition, children from regular school or religious education classes both at Holy Cross and other parishes send cards as a group to seniors.

Needs: Volunteers, including new groups, to send cards to seniors.



Contacting the Ministry: Phone (630 879-4750 x-321) or e-mail (holycross.batavia.elm@gmail.com) the ministry if you need or know of someone who needs assistance, would like to get on the ministry's e-mail list, or would like more information about volunteering.

Contacts for Ministry Activities: See the back page of the newsletter.

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Rides to Mass, Senior Luncheon and Other Activities for Seniors in the Holy Cross Bus or in Private Cars

Mass: Seniors from Heritage Woods and Holmstad are taken to and from 4:15 PM Mass on Saturdays and 9:45 AM Mass on Sundays, respectively, on the Holy Cross bus. As of August 7th, seniors from Batavia Rehab will also be taken to and from 9:45AM Mass on Sundays. In addition, seniors not living at either of these residences are taken to Mass in private cars.

Senior Luncheon: Ten months per year, usually on the fourth Friday of the month, seniors from Heritage Woods, primarily, and Holmstad are taken to the Holy Cross Senior Luncheon then brought back to their residences on the Holy Cross bus. Volunteers assist seniors on and off the bus, and into the church basement. Batavia Rehab seniors are brought to the luncheon in their van. The seniors enjoy food, games and entertainment.

Other Activities: From time to time the Holy Cross bus is used for other senior activities such as the annual Holy Cross School “Senior Appreciation Luncheon” and outings such as visits to Catigny Park in Wheaton and the flower gardens and zoo in Aurora.

Needs: New drivers and assistants available to help on some Fridays for the Senior Luncheon. The



Holy Cross School Senior Appreciation Luncheon

Description: Each year the Holy Cross Catholic School and/or the home-school children and parents, in conjunction with the *Enriching Lives Ministry*, host a luncheon, usually in September, for the area’s seniors. Bus and private care transportation are provided for the seniors. School children serve the food, provide entertainment, and mix in with the seniors for great discussions. The seniors and the students love it. This year’s luncheon will be September 23rd.



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Rosary Crusade Rosaries Said for People in Need

Description: The purpose of this new ministry is twofold. First, it has people praying the Rosary for specific people in need of prayers and second, it encourages volunteers to pray the Rosary regularly just as our Blessed Mother has requested. The Rosary Crusade is divided into groups of 20 people each. When a group is given a specific person for whom to pray, each person in that group prays one specific decade of the Rosary every day for 20 days for that person. Thus, each day a complete Rosaries (4 mysteries and 20 decades) are said for the person. After the 20-day period, 20 complete Rosaries have been said for the person. A Rosary Crusade is made for a person needing prayers for any reason, with the request for prayers made either by the person, a relative or a friend.



Goal: To have a majority of Holy Cross parishioners praying minimally one decade of the Rosary each day for people in need.

Needs: **Many more people involved.**

Minor Repairs, etc. for Hearing Aides

Description: A volunteer currently does minor repairs and general assistance on hearing aides for the seniors at both the Holy Cross monthly senior luncheons and at Batavia Rehab.

Crafts/Games/Bingo at Batavia Rehab

Description: In November 2008, a small group of *Enriching Lives Ministry* volunteers began visiting with the residents of Batavia Rehabilitation Center to share conversation and social time. This task group remains vibrant and schedules about six to eight visits per year. The volunteers are dedicated to bringing smiles to their participants with bingo, crafts and snacks. Visits usually occur before an upcoming holiday, adding theme to planned activities. The residents have created their own placemats for holiday meals along with door-hangers and flower pots. In addition to playing bingo and making crafts, the volunteers and the residents have been a big part in supplying writing materials and thank-you/prayer cards to our local soldiers stationed overseas. We coordinate with the Batavia VFW before Christmas and contribute to their holiday mailings. We have also had the opportunity to include a group of young helpers, who have lent energy to our Saturday visits. This group of volunteers is led by Elaine Leist.



Second Group Forming: Virginia Stazak has begun to organize a second group of volunteers to provide much the same fun to seniors as the first. This group will emphasize crafts and will meet the third Monday of every month at Batavia Rehab at 1:45PM.

Needs: **Volunteers, including children, are needed to help the second group initiate its efforts.**

Comment: The committee is always eager to welcome new volunteers and ideas. Donations for bingo prizes can also be accepted by any of either group's volunteers.

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Hospital Visitors

Description: Volunteers visit Delnor Hospital Catholic patients to add some cheer to their hospital stay, pray with them if they wish, and find out the patients needs while in the hospital and especially once they come home. This information is given to the ministry coordinator and help is provided whenever possible. Volunteers sign up monthly to visit the hospital on a specific day or days of the month.



Needs: More volunteers to visit the patients.

Entertainment for Seniors

Description: For over one year, the ministry entertained seniors at area senior residences. Singing, piano, violin, group and seniors dancing, and karaoke brought fun times to the mostly lonely seniors. This program was highly successful as the seniors loved it, but with the rapid rate of growth of the ministry, the one person who organized and participated in this effort could not continue and the entertainment was suspended.



Needs: All it would take to restart this effort is ten volunteers who would each assist the entertainers once every two months, and one or two volunteers to schedule the entertainment.

Monthly Masses at Batavia Rehab, Michaelsons (Holmstad) & Heritage Woods

Description: A Holy Cross priest says Mass at each of three senior residences once a month. When this occurs, three different groups of *Enriching Lives Ministry* volunteers bring residents to the location assigned in the residence for Mass, assist the priest during Mass, and take the residents back to their rooms after Mass. The monthly Mass schedules are as follows:



1st Wed. at 2:00PM (Fr. Romke, Batavia Rehab)
2nd Wed. at 10:30AM (Msgr. Deutsch, Michaelsons)
4th Wed. at 2:00PM (Fr. Evans, Heritage Woods)

Needs: A few additional volunteers and subs.

Weekly Rosary at Heritage Woods and Batavia Rehab

Description: *Enriching Lives Ministry* volunteers pray the Rosary with seniors at Heritage Woods Saturdays at 10AM and Batavia Rehab Tuesdays at 10AM.



Needs: Additional volunteers to say the Rosary with seniors weekly at other area senior residences and a few substitutes in case a volunteer is unable to come.

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Thank you to all volunteers: Without the very special people who either lead or perform activities within this ministry, many parishioners and others in our community would go without the love, compassion and happiness that you have given them. Thank you so very much! May God bless and your families.

Share your time
and faith with
those waiting for
your love

Additional ELM Efforts:

- Michaelson Beauty Shop—Assist seniors to/from beauty shop
- Events/Trips—Assist seniors on special events and/or trips
- Database—Maintain and enhance ministry database
- Transportation/Errands—Take seniors to needed places (*e.g.*, doctor's office) and do errands for seniors or others who are unable to do so
- Interviewing New Clients—Interview new senior residents to understand their needs and whether they would like a visitor
- Yard work, house repairs, and/or housework—Assist seniors and others
- Any other activity which will enrich the lives of others

Contacts for Ministry Activities

Assistance to Families and Others:	Ed Barsotti	Monthly Mass at Heritage Woods:	(Need volunteers)
Cards:	Lynn D'Amico	Monthly Mass at Michaelsons:	Joan Kase
Crafts/Bingo:	Elaine Leist	Newsletter:	Kay DiVerde
Crafts:	Virginia Stazak	Rides to Mass, etc.:	Carole Meeker
Database	Jeff Van Domelen	Rosary Crusade:	Arlette McNamara
Entertainment for Seniors:	Ed Barsotti	Senior Visits and Respite Care:	Carole Meeker
Group Cards:	Marla Isaacs	Transportation/Errands	Ed Barsotti
Hearing Aide Repair, etc.	Lori Johnson	Weekly Rosary at Batavia Rehab:	Lori Johnson
Hospital Visits:	Lucy Cuartero	Weekly Rosary at Heritage Woods:	Carole Meeker
Interviewing New Clients	Suzanne Kolb	Weekly Rosary at Michaelsons:	(Need volunteers)
Michaelsons Beauty Shop	Elaine Leist	Yard Work/House Repairs/Work:	Ed Barsotti
Monthly Mass at Batavia Rehab:	Brian D'Arcy		

If interested in any of the above activities phone or e-mail the ministry (630 879-4750 x-321, holycross.batavia.elm@gmail.com) and leave your name, phone number and a brief message about your interests. The appropriate person or people will contact you.

News about the Ministry

For ministry news, access <http://www.holycross-batavia.org/outreach/elm/>. In the near future these web pages will be expanded to include both past and future ministry news. Secure Facebook pages will also allow for better communica-