



Joyful Visit with Seminarians

For the past several years, it has been our great pleasure to welcome the 1st Theology seminarians from Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg to St. Martin's Home. Although most are blessed with grandparents, for many of them this is their first glimpse of the aging process.

This year we have also welcomed the propaedeutic seminarians from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. "Propaedeutic" means "preparatory," so for these young men it is a year of preparation for the seminary.

While here, all the seminarians are given the opportunity to grow comfortable interacting with their elderly brothers and sisters. On their visits, they learn to respect, esteem, and love the elderly, while appreciating their gifts and riches.

Serving in a Home for the elderly brings into greater

clarity the thought of mortality. Every Resident they meet was once their age, full of youthful vigor and health but now experiencing the debilitating effects of old age. The seminarians sometimes can visit and pray with a very sick and/or dying Resident, and for most of them, this is their first such experience.

For their part, the Residents bond quickly with these young men. They form friendships which last long after the seminarians have finished their year of service here.

The Residents continue to support the seminarians by their prayers. When, after several years, these young men are ordained to the priesthood, it is the Residents' greatest joy to meet them again and to be able to address them as "Father".



Toto, I have a Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore...

This Halloween, several employees at St. Martin's Home came together and dressed up as characters from the classic movie, *The Wizard of Oz* (1939).

Dorothy (activities director Nikki Dorey), the Tin Man (administrator Ryan Sachs), the Scarecrow (activities assistant Julie Collaguazo), Glinda the Good Witch (Antoinette Comer from social

services). We even had the Yellow Brick Road – our recent Spring into Service participant, Marie Espiritu, who wore front and back yellow and black painted cardboard pieces.

The crew made an appearance in all the cottages at the Home. As soon as they entered through the doors to the tune of "Follow the Yellow Brick Road," they

were met with smiles and laughter all around!

Maddie, our administrator Ryan Sach's pet dog, who frequents the Home and often brings comfort to our Residents with her calm and gentle nature, stole the show as the Cowardly Lion, rocking a fluffy mane.

It was truly a treat for the Residents, staff and volunteers!



Surrounded by a Cloud of Witnesses

Our All Saints Day celebration began with the reciting of inspiring quotations by St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas More, St. Therese of Liseux, St. Monica, and of course, St. Jeanne Jugan, who were each portrayed by a Resident in homemade costumes prepared by Sister Maria Lutz, one of our apartment Residents.

It was followed by a procession to the chapel while praying the Litany of the Saints. Many of the Residents heard their own names sung, reminding them that they too are called to be saints.

While in the chapel, everyone joined the Little Sisters in Eucharistic Adoration. A young volunteer, a college

student from a local university, played the Adoro te Devote on his violin as our chaplain exposed the Blessed Sacrament.

Once Our Lord was exposed, everyone chanted the Te Deum in English. The Residents had been practicing this hymn of thanksgiving every day for a week prior to this event. Another young man, who cantors at a local parish and is a professional actor, came to lead the singing.

After a period of silent adoration, we began Vespers. After the Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Residents enjoyed a simple Italian supper together in Main Street.



So Many Fun Activities All Year Long at St. Martin's Home

If being active keeps you young, then the Residents of St. Martin's Home will never age. Our director, Nikki, along with her activities assistant, Julie, make sure the days are filled with interesting and oh-so-much-fun things to do. Rarely do you walk past Main Street that you don't hear the hum of comradery or the laughter of our Residents. No matter your ability level, there is never a lack of an activity.

This year alone, our Residents have participated in the New Years' Eve party, Mardi Gras celebration, Easter Parade, Senion Prom, Mothers' Day brunch, Fathers' Day Baseball, and our Summer Luau. Additionally the summer ended with St. Martin's Summer Camp and introduced the next season with our Fall Carnival.

At Summer Camp, the Residents sat around the "campfire" listening to stories, singing and making s'mores. They then moved on to the games of kickball, cornhole and beach volleyball. And, of course, there were sweet treats all week long such as ice cream, root beer floats and snowballs which only added to increased socialization. A special 'camping edition' Bingo segued into a Happy Hour social where our Residents played "Would You Rather: Camping Edition".

Reliving their youth at the Fall Carnival, the Residents played games such as Balloon Pop, Soda Pop Ring Toss, Bean Bag Toss and Knock em' Down. There was face painting and various food stations where everyone enjoyed popcorn, apple cider, cotton candy and snowballs.

The Little Sisters, the Residents, and the staff agree. St. Martin's has the best Activities Department in the world!



MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends of the Little Sisters,

The holiday traditions you enjoy are also in the minds and hearts of the elderly in our care. They have such wonderful memories of singing carols, Mass on Christmas Eve, and visiting with family and friends. They don't remember what they received for Christmas in 1950, but they remember where they were and who they were with.

This Christmas, please take a moment to treasure what is going on around you and ponder it all in your heart. Treasure singing carols, Mass on Christmas Eve, and being with those you love.

And treasure the elderly as we do. There are a number of ways you can give them gifts, but the best is to give them the gift of family, friendship and caring. As people age, they treasure your time and the memories of being together.

You and all you hold dear will be remembered in our Holy Mass on Christmas and throughout the Christmas season. We ask that you, in return, remember to pray for us.

God bless you,
Mother Jeanne Mary, L.S.P.
Superior

Community Spirit at Our 11th Annual 5K and 1-mile Nun Run/Walk

We're excited to share the highlights from our 2024 Nun Run! It was a fantastic day filled with energy, laughter, and a strong sense of community.

A Great Turnout! This year, we welcomed over 300 enthusiastic participants who laced up their running shoes and hit the pavement! From seasoned runners to families and friends enjoying a leisurely stroll, the diversity of our participants added to the event's lively atmosphere.



Inspiring Experiences!

The stories shared by our participants were truly heartwarming. Many runners shared their personal goals, whether it was completing their first 5K or supporting the Little Sisters of the Poor. It's always nice to reconnect with familiar faces and share new experiences together.



Memorable Moments! From the energetic warm-up session led by the Oriole Bird to the cheering crowds at the finish lines, there were countless moments of joy. Our post-race festivities included delicious snacks and awards to all of our winners including the Top three female and male runners, Parish Pride, Blisters for Sisters and age group winners.

Thank You! A huge thank you to everyone who made this event possible – Father Lou Bianco, Rector of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, and his staff, our dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, and, of course, our amazing participants! Your enthusiasm and support make our community stronger.

Stay tuned for our 12th Annual Nun Run! Scheduled on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 8 a.m., located at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. We can't wait to see you all again – whether you're running, walking, or cheering from the sidelines!



SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Purse Auction will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Mark your calendars and spread the word. We look forward to seeing you!