"To Serve is our Mission, to Love is our Tradition"

Saint Antoine Notes...

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE SAINT ANTOINE COMMUNITY

Winter 2009
Volume 4, Issue 1

Saint Antoine Community

A CareLink Partner

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A Nursing and Rehabilitative Center

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Beacons of Light in the Current Economy

Saint Antoine is carefully navigating its way through the uncharted financial waters of the current economy and finding beacons of light along the way. During these trying times we need to remember the many good things that are happening.

For instance, over 235 people showed up for the first informational sessions of the year about our Certified Nursing Assistant Training and Career Laddering Program known as teamHEALTH (Train, Employ, Advance, Mentor). This may be a sign of the times, but it also bodes well for the success of our program. When the program is completed at the end of this calendar year, we estimate that we will have trained and employed more than 129 under-skilled and underemployed individuals as Certified Nursing Assistants. More than 31 others will be training or will have completed their training as Certified Medication Technicians, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Registered Nurses. All this has happened because of a three-year, Community Impact Grant from the United Way of Rhode Island with matching funds from various foundations and individuals.

Another bright spot during these difficult times is that our contributors have been steadfast with their donations, maintaining and even surpassing previous levels of giving. We have also been fortunate to have received some major gifts, notably from the Manton Foundation to install an Electronic Health Records System, and a major bequest from the estate of Normand Peloquin. For these things, we are extremely grateful.

Finally, our staff is ever-vigilant in staying within budget limitations, even tightening our belts and finding new sources of income. The results of these efforts are that we have been able to maintain our high level of compassionate care for residents with a full complement of staff and services.

By girding ourselves with the many positive and bright things that are happening around us each day, we honor our mission and keep our standards high.

www.stantoine.net

Pay it Forward

In the movie, "Pay It Forward," a student is given an assignment by his teacher to help three people, who, in turn, will help three more people, and so on, in an ever-widening circle.

The student is amazed at how many people he has touched by his initial act of kindness.

And, so it is with Joyce Corsi, RN, and Director of Resident Services. "I remember when I was just starting out --- studying to be a nurse --- I was a single mom with a young child. Times were tough! But they were particularly difficult during the Holiday Season. If it hadn't been for friends, I don't know what I would have done," reminisced Joyce.

So, Joyce, now able to help others, made a personal commitment --- an obligation, if you will --- to find food and toys for families of staff that may be having a difficult time during the Holiday Season. "It's my way of paying back what others have done for me," said Joyce.

This year was a particularly hard one because of the economic turndown. More families needed help and donations were difficult to come by. "Our usual sources were, themselves, being affected by the economy," said Joyce.

Just before Christmas, when the food baskets and toys were to be handed out, things looked pretty dire. But, lo and behold, the Woonsocket Elks Club that had helped us every year in the past asked if we could use more than the usual food allotment that they had given us in the past (for some reason, their donations were up). And, donations of toys seemed to come out of nowhere.

To top it off, one of our staff members who had been helped in the past donated a large amount of money and gift certificates to the program --- it was this staff person's time to "pay it forward."

Everyone that needed help was helped! .

"I really believe in 'paying it forward." What do the Gospels tell us? 'What you do for the least, you do for Me.' It is the 'God' in all of us that wants to give back what has been done for us," concluded Joyce.

your Will...

please remember
Saint Antoine
in your WILL and ESTATE.

Executive Director's Message

Wendy Fargnoli

SERVICE AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Friends:

What could be more important than this nation's call for "personal service and responsibility?"

My mentor and predecessor, Mary Ann Altrui, used to say, "If you see something broken, fix it!" It's a powerful concept. In other words, don't wait for someone else to do it. Take 'personal responsibility' to do the job yourself or get someone else that can do it. And, it covers a full gamut of things from picking up a piece of litter to helping a fellow-colleague who may be in distress.

Surely, this is what is meant by our country's call to "personal service and responsibility." When you 'fix something that is broken,' you immediately have a personal stake in the organization. You become a sort-of de facto guardian of its mission and delivery of services. With the simple act of personal participation, you become a part "owner" in what the organization does and how it does it.

As we, as an organization, face the impact of our current economic downturn, we have asked, and expect, our full staff to take personal responsibility in helping us ride out the economic wave upon us. The simple act of making sure that not-needed lights are turned off, for instance, can save money.

Together, with each of us taking 'personal responsibility' to continue delivering quality and caring service and 'tightening our ship' wherever possible, we will prevail and be a better organization for it.

Sincerely,

Wendy Fargnoli, Executive Director

Pictured above is resident Alice Joyal surrounded by her two daughters, Anita on her left and Jane in back of her. Also in the picture is Bishop Louis E. Gelineau, Bishop Tobin, Sister Joyce Gardella, FMM, and Monsignor George Frappier.

Bishop Tobin Visits Saint Antoine

Bishop Thomas J. Tobin visited the Saint Antoine Community in early January as part of his Christmastide visits to Diocesan agencies. He celebrated Mass at the Residence and then enjoyed lunch with the residents and staff of the VILLA. Residents of both facilities were extremely moved and very grateful for the Bishop's visitation and the promise of hope that he embodies.

THE TECHNOLOGY TRAIN HAS LEFT THE STATION

"Project CONNECT" Bringing People and Technology Together

An Electronic Health Records (EHR) system is well on its way to becoming a reality.

Earlier, Saint Antoine was awarded a $770,000 grant from the Manton Foundation to implement an EHR system, which is federally-mandated to be in place by 2014 for all health care providers utilizing federal funds such as Medicare and Medicaid.

After an exhaustive research and review process, the EHR Implementation Team has chosen the following software:

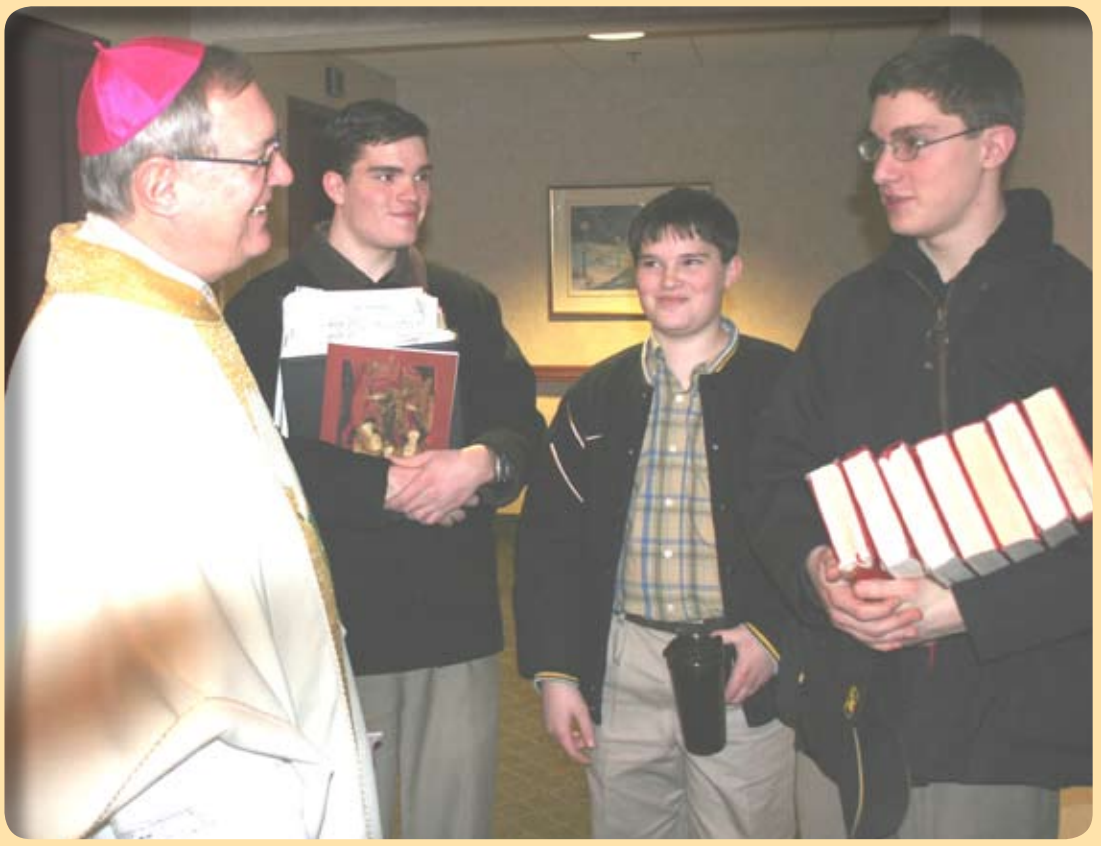
- *American Health Tech (Clinical and Financial)*
- *Computrition (Food Services and Nutrition)*
- *Donor Perfect (Fundraising and Development)*
- *MPulse (Preventive Maintenance)*

Over the next several months, a wireless network infrastructure will be put in place. Then, computers and other hardware will be installed on each unit and in some offices.

During this process, policies and procedures have to be written and reviewed, and then training will take place for all personnel using the system.

The EHR Implementation Team has been extremely deliberative in choosing the best and most reliable systems, knowing full-well that such an opportunity will not come along again. It is reported that EHR systems are extremely cost effective because of the veracity of the information; information is entered only once at the point of care thus avoiding duplication and error.

Singing to the Glory of God



Pictured with Bishop Tobin are members of the Garrepy Family Singers from left to right: Michael, Andrew, and Christopher

Singing for God is truly a family affair with the Garrepys. When Bishop Tobin celebrated Mass during his annual Christmas visit to Saint Antoine, members of the Garrepy family supplied the music. There was 20 year-old Stephen, 18 year- old Michael, 16 year-old Christopher, 13 year-old Andrew, 11 year-old Mark, and their mother, Francoise --- all singing to the glory of God!

How did it all get started? Mrs. Garrepy explains: "All nine of my children have been home-schooled over the past 15 years. So, we're together a lot and music is one of the things that we all take part in, all the time. I'm an organist and pianist myself and I would play Arcadelt's 'Ave Maria' for them. After a while, the children could sing it in four-part harmony."

"When my daughter Rebecca got married seven years ago, she asked if the boys could sing 'Ave Maria' at her wedding. I didn't know if the boys were good enough to do that. So, I asked Henri St. Louis, a family friend and musician, to listen to them. He said they were more than ready to sing in public and were able to fill in the harmony parts, even without having the music in front of them."

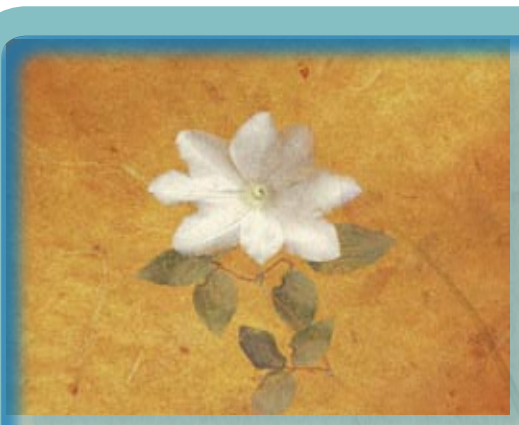
When the boys sang at her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Garrepy says that Father Kevin Fisette who was pastor at the time of Holy Name of Jesus Church in Providence, exclaimed that he didn't want the boys to serve on the altar anymore; he wanted them to sing in the choir!

That's how it all got started, but what about the other children? There are nine of them, all together. Kenneth --- the oldest --- is married and loves to sing for pleasure. Rebecca is married and although she doesn't sing with the family, she contributes by playing the violin on occasion. Eight year-old Rachel is an up- and- comer who has recently joined the choir at Holy Name of Jesus Church, where she can learn to sing with her brothers. And, then there is four year-old Thomas who is just beginning and is often heard singing around the house.

There you have it, but what about Dad? Father and husband, Ken, as Mrs. Garrepy explains, "…has spent years carting the kids to this event and that event and considers himself very much a part of the group, even though he chooses not to sing!"

Ken is his family's greatest supporter, telling them that "they have to do this or do that," relates Mrs. Garrepy. Son Michael is taking organ lessons from Henri St. Louis and regularly plays for Masses at St. Stanislaus in Woonsocket and Our Lady of Good Help in Mapleville. Mrs. Garrepy is the organist at Holy Ghost Church in Tiverton. The family is heavily involved, singing at pro-life events. And, every once in awhile, the Garrepy Family Singers, as they are colloquially known, or The Schola Cantorum Sanctae Ceciliae, as they are formally known, with Henri St. Louis as their director, give concerts such as the "Sacred Music of the Christmas Season" held at Holy Ghost Church or singing Latin Masses at Saint Joseph's Church in Woonsocket.

"Henri is always reminding us that we are singing for the glory of God and we need to work at making it as perfect as possible. My hope is that when people hear us sing, they are brought closer to our Lord and give thanks to Him for the gifts He has given us," concluded Mrs. Garrepy.



Saint Antoine Notes...

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"To serve is our mission,
to love is our tradition"

The first order of memorial bricks/pavers was placed in early December. They form a border around the small "pocket" garden at the entranceway to Saint Antoine Residence. The statue of Saint Anthony (Saint Antoine's patron Saint) holding the Christ Child overlooks the memorial garden.

Orders are now being taken for a spring placement of 4' x 4" bricks (3 lines of inscription) and pavers (6 lines of inscription).

Families interested in purchasing a brick or paver should fill out the Brick/Paver Order Form and return it with payment to Saint Antoine Residence at your earliest possible convenience. A dedication of the Memorial Garden is planned for early summer 2009.

Editorial Information

"Saint Antoine Notes..."
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