

Semper Caritas

Congregation of the Divine Spirit

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Summer, 2011

Community Honors

Erie Serra Club Honors CDS

Each year, the Serra Club of Erie names an Outstanding Priest, Sister and Layperson of the Year. Instead of choosing one Sister to honor, this year the Serra Club selected our Congregation of the Divine Spirit for our Community's service to the Diocese of Erie.

Since our founding in 1956, our Community has served throughout the Erie Diocese in education in the Catholic schools,

public school religious education, parish census, diocesan administration offices and Gannon University.



... and the Assumption School . Endowment Board

On April 9, 2011, the Assumption School (Geneva, Ohio) Endowment Board honored the Sisters of the Congregation of the Divine Spirit for "planting the seeds of faith, love and family at

Assumption School" for over 35 years, from its opening in 1957 through 1992.

Several of our Sisters who taught at Assumption through the years were able to attend the "Comalya" gathering. It was an evening of many wonderful

memories, and we were most pleased to hear how many of the traditions of those early years continue to inspire the students of today.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Breathe in me,
O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts
may all be holy.

Act in me,
O Holy Spirit,
that my work, too,
may be holy.

Draw my heart,
O Holy Spirit,
that I love
but what is holy.

Strengthen me,
O Holy Spirit,
to defend all
that is holy.

Guard me, then,
O Holy Spirit,
that I always
may be holy.

A Roof over our Heads – and More!

After 30 years we are beginning to see a new roof over most of the House of Loreto. By finishing the sections over the Caritas Convent and Lourdes Hall this summer, we will have only Regis Hall and Marian Hall to complete the whole project.

We have also put in a new water heating system for the building, replacing the original cast iron boiler with energy-efficient water heaters. After some "glitches" (do not say "Eternal Water Heater" to us) the system is now working up to capacity.

Other improvements include a new steamer and steam kettle in the kitchen and the replacement of our backflow device in the boiler room. Thankfully the Sisters have received some donations; and because we have been relieved of the bed tax, we have been able to use them for long-delayed improvements in our home. This is especially helpful



since now the House of Loreto is not only home to our 50 guests but it is the Motherhouse of our Sisters since we have moved from our original Motherhouse in Erie, Pennsylvania.

House of Loreto News

June: “Wedding Month”

From June 18th to June 28th Seton Hall was a “Wedding Gallery.” The room which the Sisters turned into a veritable history museum of wedding gowns from the 1800’s to the present times drew “record” numbers of visitors from among our families and friends. The 23 Residents, staff



members, families and friends whose gowns were displayed were delighted to share their wedding stories and pictures as well as their

wedding dresses. The gallery also featured photos dating back to 1894 of wedding couples who no longer had the gowns but also wanted to share their special day.

During this wedding festival, we had two added attractions: Tom and Janet Clark and their friend “Woody,” who is a Sinatra singer, entertained the residents with an after dinner concert of great love songs. We also had a wedding dinner complete with “champagne” and a wedding cake. The dining room was festive in pink and blue with giant blue hydrangeas floating in bowls on each table. There was an after dinner reception with Chris Kiko-Cozy playing the harp. Go to www.sempercaritas.org/house-of-loreto-activities/ for more photos.

Music Masters

July 9th was the date of the House of Loreto musical production of “Showers and Flowers.”

Seventeen of the Residents and friends, accompanied on the keyboard by Dr. Bob Roden, performed 10 vintage songs for an audience of over seventy friends and family members.

The scenery was painted by the residents themselves under the direction of Vicki Bobby and Ann Meinerding. Giant Eagle provided picket fences. Mrs. Bette Donant, Mrs. Jean Spring and Msgr. Homer DeWalt had speaking and singing solos and Mrs. Mary Anne Fearon and Miss Marguerite Ferguson did a seated soft shoe to “Singing in the Rain.” Mrs. Rita Awkerman wielded a violet filled umbrella during “April Showers” and Ann Albright managed the moon and the clouds for two of the numbers.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wagner drove Dobbin across the stage in a sweet version of “Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet.” Other performers were Mrs. Helen Treff, Atty. August Maron, Mrs. Mary Pat Blubaugh, Mr. John Stellflug, Mrs. Louise Sales, and Mr. Pete Burns.



Field of Dreams?

Many have commented about our “green space” south of the Home. Yes, we have a dream – a beautiful addition that will expand the Sisters’ ministry to the Aged by providing independent apartments with the spiritual and caring environment of the House of Loreto.

Now this is just a dream. We are looking for anyone who would be willing and able to help us to make it a reality.



If you care to make a donation, or remember us in your will, Congregation of the Divine Spirit is our legal name.

Please pray for vocations to our Community.