

Family & Friends

A Newsletter for the Friends of Stella Maris

April/May 2003

Governor Ehrlich Proclaims 'Stella Maris Day'

On February 27, 2003, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and the General Assembly of the State of Maryland celebrated "Stella Maris Day" in honor of its 50th Anniversary. Accompanying Sister M. Karen

McNally, RSM, Chief Administrative Officer, to the ceremonies were Linda Henderson, Vice President of Nursing; Jerry Bowen, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; and Dave Stratmeyer,

Administration.

The day began with Representatives John Trueschler, Susan Aumann and Bill Frank of Stella Maris' 42nd District escorting the Stella Maris staff to the House Chamber, where they were recognized with a Resolution for "50 years of providing compassionate, comprehensive health care and housing services for Maryland's elderly from retirement through end of life." The Stella Maris guests were then showed to the Senate Chamber, where Senator Andrew Harris, M.D., introduced his

guests by saying, "When you think of a place that you would like your family to be cared for, I think of Stella Maris." The Senate's Resolution recognized "50 years of dedicated, competent and compassionate service to Maryland's elderly, infirm and terminally ill."

After a tour of the State Capital, accompanied by Stella Maris Advisory Board Member Janet Kelly and her husband, Senator Frank Kelly, the group was escorted to the office of Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., where he presented Sister Karen with his Proclamation commemorating February 27, 2003, as "Stella Maris Day" in Maryland. Governor Ehrlich wrote that "Maryland is proud to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Stella Maris and our citizens join in thanking the Sisters of Mercy, the administration and staff of this excellent facility for 50 years of competent and compassionate service." Governor Ehrlich, who toured Stella Maris several years ago, remembered his experience fondly, calling Stella Maris a great facility.

"It was an exciting experience," reflected Sister Karen on the day's events. "It was so nice to accept this recognition, and thinking back on all those staff and residents who came before us over the past 50 years, it was also quite humbling."



Sister Karen accepts the Proclamation from Governor Ehrlich designating February 27 as 'Stella Maris Day'



2300 Dulaney Valley Rd.
Timonium, MD 21093
www.stellamarisinc.com

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Volunteer Spotlight:

Susan Taylor

In March, just when the snow seemed to finally be melting away, Susan Taylor came in for her volunteer shift in the Good Buy Shop wearing a snowman pin with a bubble above its head that said, "Had enough of me yet? Yuck. Yuck. Yuck." This is just one example of Susan's wonderful sense of humor. A volunteer in the Good Buy Shop and Gift Shop on Tuesdays and Fridays, Susan is a delightful presence at Stella Maris.



Susan Taylor

A native of Parkville, Susan retired from the Motor Vehicle Administration in Glen Burnie, where she worked in the accounting department. Her greatest lifetime achievement occurred eight years ago when she survived an automobile accident, in which she could have lost her life. She was left disabled, but determined. Susan is a true survivor, overcoming many obstacles, including disabilities that affect her speech and coordination. She has never allowed this to hinder her, however, and she has never lost her ability either to see the

funny side of life or her desire to help others in need.

"She has the best sense of humor of anyone I know," says Cass Bittner, Volunteer Coordinator.

Of her volunteer work for the last 4 ½ years, Susan says, "I really like working with the people, and I especially enjoy the fast pace of the Gift Shop."

Susan takes County Ride to Stella Maris from her home on Carroll Manor Road. She is currently seeking assistance getting to and from work as County Ride recently experienced a loss of two vans and those with medical appointments have priority over Susan. "I hate it when I can't get here or get home," she says, "and any assistance I can get would be a great help to me until I can move in here." Susan is on the waiting list at St. Elizabeth Hall, and looks forward to the day she can volunteer even more of her time. As she says with a smile, "I'll take all the hours I can get."

For more information on volunteering, call Cass Bittner at 410-252-4500 ext. 254.

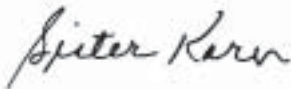
PLEASE NOTE:
The Lost and Found will be cleared out in Mid-April. Any family member who wishes to check for a resident's lost belongings should call Mary Mayer at 410-252-4500 ext. 572 during the week. Security can assist you on the weekends.

Show Your Stella Maris Pride!

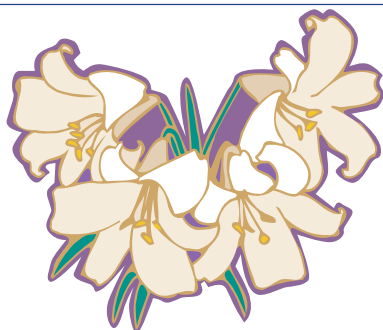
Stella Maris now has polo shirts and note cards available for purchase. The polo shirts are a vibrant blue, featuring the Stella Maris logo, and are \$16, \$18 (2X) and \$20 (3X). The note cards are beautiful pen and ink sketches of the main entrance and the Pangborn Wing created by Susan Butler of the Programs and Activities Department. They are available at \$10 for 4 of each sketch or \$5 for 2 of each. Both items can be purchased through the Public Relations Department by calling Ellen Meyers at 410-252-4500 ext. 205. Visa and Mastercard will be accepted and orders will be shipped. If you would like to purchase something in person, visit the Public Relations office between 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday.

Super Snow Removal Effort

The Presidents' Weekend snowstorm was truly of historic magnitude. The effort and energy our volunteers put in during the storm was truly of *heroic* magnitude! Their dedication and long hours enabled Stella Maris to continue its mission of compassion and mercy in the face of adversity. I express my sincere gratitude and the gratitude of our staff and residents to each and every volunteer who demonstrated such devotion. You went above and beyond the call of duty! I was so touched when I saw you in the kitchen, behind the St. Elizabeth Café counter and on the units from Sunday until Wednesday, filling in for staff who were unable to get to work. Stella Maris is truly blessed to have such a fabulous group of volunteers.



The Presidents' Weekend snow certainly left its mark on Stella Maris! Above, the entrance to the St. Elizabeth Hall dining room; left, the statue at the Stella Maris front entrance.



*Holy Week Liturgy Schedule**

Stations of the Cross	Fridays at 3pm
Reconciliation Service	Tuesday, April 8 - 10:30am
Palm Sunday	April 13 - 4pm Saturday, 9 & 10:30am Sunday
Holy Thursday	April 17 - 4pm
Good Friday	April 18 - 3pm
Holy Saturday	April 19 - 7pm
Easter Sunday	April 20 - 9am, 10:30am

**All services will be held in the Chapel.*

Upcoming Support Groups

Sudden Loss Support Group
Thursdays – 7pm
May 1 – June 5

Widows & Widowers Support Group
Daytime/Wednesdays – 10:30am
April 30-June 4
Evenings/Tuesdays – 7pm
April 29-June 3

Parent Loss Support Group
Wednesdays – 7pm
April 30-June 4

Me Too! Children's Bereavement Group
Mondays – 6:30pm
April 7 - May 19, 2003

Dementia Family Support Group
Wednesdays – 2pm
April 16 & May 21

Calendar of Events

April 2003

- 6 Daylights Savings Time begins
Auxiliary Shrimp Feast–1-6pm
Towson American Legion Hall
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 16 Passover
- 20 Easter

May 2003

- 4 “Remembering Our Mothers”
Seminar–3-4:30pm
Stella Maris Auditorium–call
252-4500 x291 to register
- 11 Mother's Day
- 26 Memorial Day Holiday

About Family & Friends

This newsletter is designed to keep our residents' loved ones informed about what is happening at Stella Maris. For more information, contact Kelly Sheridan at 410-252-4500, ext. 570.

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