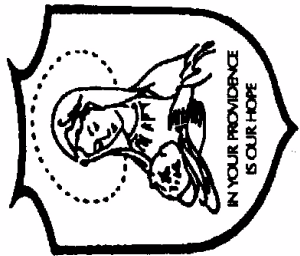


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Divine Providence Community Home  
ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH QUALITY SERVICES AND CHRISTIAN CARE





## A note from the Administrator- Jayna

A few months ago, I suggested our flooring project would be completed in time for the Auxiliary Bazaar the beginning of November. Without much time to spare, the remaining carpet and floor transitions were completed just days before the annual event. Perfect timing to welcome the community into our home and share some of the results of their support of our mission.

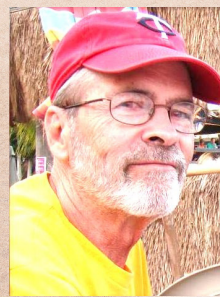
The project included removing all the floor tile, vinyl and carpet in the front entrance mall area, chapel corridor, service hallway, and two business offices. All the tile and vinyl were converted to a polyurea floor coating that should last more than 30 years and fix our problem of floor tiles lifting and becoming loose. A smoother ride in a wheelchair is another plus. Most of the carpet areas were updated with new carpet squares. Of course, with a new flooring, some of the furniture needed to be upgraded too, which is still a work in progress. At another time, a paint refresh will tie everything together.

With the conclusion of the bazaar, next we look forward to Thanksgiving a time of year when we reflect on all our blessings. Divine has been blessed this year with many volunteers, family members, friends, Sisters, and employees who have tried their best and worked their hardest to make our resident's lives better. They have blessed us with love, family visits, good friends, excellent caregivers, caring volunteers, and a clean environment. In return, the residents have blessed us with their love.

While we currently grieve the loss of our chaplain Msgr. John Richter who recently passed away, we cannot help but acknowledge what a blessing in 2017 when he offered to be our chaplain. We are forever grateful for his service to provide daily mass, anointing of the sick, reconciliation, visiting of the sick, and anything else that shared his deep love for all of us. He helped all those who came to live or work here know the presence of a living God. The residents, tenants, staff, and Sisters are truly appreciative for all he did to bring God to those in need.

God has blessed all of us this year in different ways, and we are Thankful for the health, love, friends, family, and freedom, that we have been given.

**Divine Providence extends our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of 4 dear Grandfriends during the month of October**



**David Waggie**

A husband and father of 3 from St. George, David was an avid sports fan- especially cheering for the Iowa Hawkeyes, Minnesota Vikings, and Twins. Very notably was his love for animals as David and his wife rescued many strays. He also enjoyed flea markets and antiquing with his wife, Bonnie. David will be remembered as being forever young at heart and as a "silly grandpa".

Growing up in a family of 10 children and raising 3 children with her husband Stanley in Severance Township, Marlene was devoted to her family. She was an active member of St. Willibrord's Catholic Church in Gibbon. Weekly card clubs, gardening, and denim square quilts were just a few of Marlene's favorite pastimes. Marlene's witty personality and infectious laugh will be remembered by her friends and family.



**Marlene Herschman**



**Bonnie Reitter**

Living to the age of 102, Bonnie fulfilled God's plan for her life on this earth. She grew up and raised her family of 3, with her husband Otto, in rural St. George. Bonnie was active in numerous roles through St. George's parish. Some of Bonnie's hobbies included cooking, dancing, playing cards, gardening, embroidery, reading, traveling and gatherings with family & friends. Bonnie & Otto lived in Las Vegas for 11 years. She also had the honor of presenting Msgr. Richter with a Spiritual Bouquet for his 60th Anniversary to the Priesthood.

In July 2024, as Msgr. Richter was preparing for his eternal home in Heaven, I did an interview with him to learn about his legacy. Since many people may have not had a chance to visit with Msgr. and hear his lasting words, read this tribute on the next page to hear his words.



**Msgr. John Richter**



# *In Loving Memory of Monsignor John Richter*

January 20, 1938-October 23, 2024

**Describe yourself as a child:** I grew up in town and was a mischief maker, I got into trouble just like the other kids. I helped with the gardening, sold produce to their neighborhood including sweet corn and potatoes. I helped my mother can peaches, pears, wild raspberries and lots of apples.

**Who was your biggest role model in life?** My Dad- he was a man of great faith, reaching out to others in need, and prayed often. He would go to 2 Masses on Sunday. He ushered for the first Mass and brought his family for the second Mass.

**What was your favorite hobby?** I enjoy reading history

**Describe the best day of your life:** The day I made my First Holy Communion at 7 years old. There were 35 kids that day. We couldn't eat or drink from midnight until then. I watched the priest and wished I could do what the priest was doing for the kids.

**Tell the story of a moment when you were scared to do something but did it anyway:** I was trained to be an altar boy at 8 years old. I had to know all the prayers in Latin and recite them in front of the priest.

**How did you decide to become a priest?** In 8th grade, Fr. Stephen Adrian was pastor at the time and eventually he came to St. Mary's. He called three of us from our class in individually to see if we ever thought about joining the seminary. He took us to Nazareth Hall in St. Paul which is a minor seminary. I was attracted to that way of life. I started as a high school freshman in the seminary. But even at the time of my First Holy Communion, I knew I wanted to be a priest.

**What's the best part of being a priest?** Celebrating Holy Mass, celebrating the sacraments, preaching, evangelizing, and celebrating in any way I could. Even though I am incapacitated now, I have wonderful opportunities of evangelizing by encouraging the staff and people- it's inspiring for me.

**What's the hardest part of being a priest?** The hardest part was suffering with the people. Going through tragedies and painful things in peoples' lives and being able to be united with them in some way with their sufferings. I encourage them to try to unite their sufferings to the sufferings with Jesus even though it's a difficult thing to do. As Jesus suffered and died on the cross to save us from our sins, that by uniting our sufferings we will be redemptive.

**Which accomplishment in life are you most proud of?** Touching the hearts of people and helping them to be drawn closer to Jesus.

**When people think about you, what do you want them to remember most?** I was supportive of them. I tried to reach out to them.

**What memories make you most proud?** I've told this story so often: the day before I was ordained, I went to see my pastor. As we talked, he told me the story of St. Therese of Lisieux and that she loved snow. She asked Jesus for a blanket of snow as a sign that He accepted me in my vocation. Snow covered the ground after her ceremony. The next day was my ordination on February 22, 1964 and we walked into the church and the ground was completely brown. After we came out of church on the ordination, the ground was covered with a blanket of snow. So that was really God's sign for me that he was accepting me as a priest. I wasn't all that much but He was accepting me for who I was.

**What advice have you received that has made the greatest impact on your life, and who gave you the advice?** To be open to doing God's will. I was asked to do hard things and not feeling capable of doing those things. Like I was asked to be Pastor here at St. Mary's but thinking I was not capable to carry out that responsibility. I was encouraged in the ministry and Bishop Lucker thought I could handle it. I came to St. Mary's and I was supposed to be here for 10 years and after those 10 years, the people put up a petition that I should stay longer. The bishop said I could stay 3 more years and I was able to stay those 3 years. They did another petition after that and the bishop said I could stay 1 more year and then I'd have to leave. I was here for 14 years at St. Mary's. Then I was sent to Wabasso and one day Bishop Neinstedt came and said "I want you to consider going to the Cathedral in New Ulm." I said, "No Bishop, I'm not capable of doing that." About a month later he came back and said, "Last time I told you to think about it but now I'm telling you that you're going." So I went to the Cathedral and I was superintendent of the schools and was there from 1998-2017. Those were glorious years and wonderful opportunities.

**What words do you have for people that are struggling with their faith due to sufferings and illnesses that are happening to them?**

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Without the cross in our life, there will be no happiness. Our happiness, our joy, flows from the love Jesus has for us by dying on the cross. At times the pain and sufferings I have is so excruciating that it just makes sense of the sufferings Jesus experienced on the cross.

**What message do you want to share with all the people you have served through the years?** Stay close to the mother of Jesus. She leads us to her son. My prayer is that she would be at my side in my dying breath. And that she would usher my soul back to her son for my judgement and stand in defense of my salvation.

