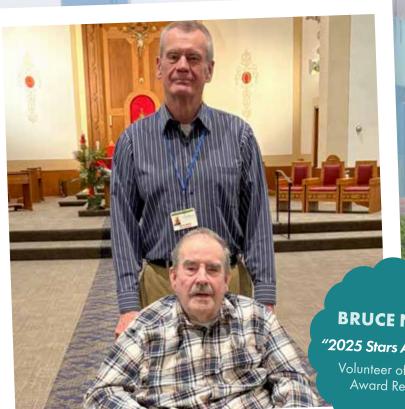
# The AGELESS SPIRIT Stories to inspire, enlighten & inform



Faith as a foundation

Catholic Life in **Senior Care Communities** 

175 Years St. Anthony of Padua Chapel

**BRUCE NOLAN** 

"2025 Stars Among Us"

Volunteer of the Year **Award Recipient** 

TOGETHER FORWARD FOR GOOD IN FAITH >>>

honoring our past. enhancing our future.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

SPRING 2025 **EDITION** 



# TOGETHER FORWARD FOR GOOD IN FAITH

honoring our past. enhancing our future.

**OUR SKILLED CARE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** 

over 825K raised

# THE TRANSFORMATION HAS BEGUN

Friends and family, there is no better time for Catholic Eldercare to lean into this scripture: "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." *Deuteronomy 31:8* 

Each day brings many decisions, changes and transitions to the senior care industry. Over our 42 years in Northeast Minneapolis and beyond, the need to pivot assures we can continue to provide the best care for seniors. This would not be possible without the generous support of donors that allows us to fulfill the needs and expectations in the future. *Thank you.* 

We are grateful for the philanthropic support of the **Together for Good**, **Forward In Faith Skilled Care Capital Campaign**. These funds will be used for renovations and enhancements to our Care Center, with a focus on honoring our past and enhancing our future.

With that in mind, construction has begun! The renovation will result in 88 new private rooms, three separate inviting neighborhoods, 3-season porches, improvements to our dining and living rooms and many more enhancements. There are more details on the campaign website: givetocec.org.

It's an exciting time, to say the least, and as we embark on this journey, we ask for your blessings for a smooth journey.

Lastly, another transition is on our front cover. We have renamed our newsletter to *The Ageless Spirit* to align with our commitment to nourishing the ageless spirit of every senior, every day!

Happy Spring,

Dreg Saunberger

Greg Baumberger, President and CEO of Catholic Eldercare



exterior porches
ON EACH
FLOOR







**QUICK LINK TO DONATE** 

# Shining a Spotlight on Bruce Nolan "Stars Among Us" Volunteer of the Year Award



We're clapping our hands for our volunteer extraordinaire... Bruce Nolan, recipient of the 2025 Stars Among Us statewide Volunteer of the Year Award by Leading Age Minnesota.

From stopping to visit with seniors on his paperboy route, to volunteering at a care center while at St.

John's University, to tutoring at Sacred Heart School, to trimming bushes at Catholic Eldercare, "learning the importance of giving back was a gift from my mother,"

Bruce says. She was also a resident of Catholic Eldercare's River Village and Albert J. Hofstede Care Center.

Bruce has volunteered at Catholic Eldercare for seven years. He began helping those with mobility issues to safely make it to Mass or Rosary. He watches out for seniors who might need help kneeling, finding a hymn or picking up a dropped bulletin. He serves coffee, helps open sugar packets and pours juice. He identifies the music that drifts out from the Adult Day Program and shares facts about the singer and the song, filling in the blanks for folks who know they heard that song before—trading music trivia and laughs along the way.

These are just a few examples of the many simple things Bruce does, but to one of our seniors it can "feel like an angel has flitted down to quietly assist them." Bruce says he was deemed the "holy roller"

66

People are grateful and it makes me feel happy.
I do a lot of smiling at Catholic Eldercare.

and there is truly something holy in the quiet ways he supports and connects with others.

# **GOING THE EXTRA MILE WITH SMILES**

He says, "people are grateful and it makes me feel happy. I do a lot of smiling at Catholic Eldercare and that is not normal for me."

Bruce knows what music they like. He sees when they are sad or angry. He enjoys the verbal back and forth with those he calls the "feisty" ones. He knows what juice they like and when they want to arrive at the Chapel or the dining room. Bruce makes sure that the woman who likes to be first to Mass is first, and that she leaves first, as well.

His ability to find a meaningful point of connection and cultivate relationships that enrich others beyond the brief time he is with them each week speaks volumes. As someone said, he "knows how to read a room" and to fill it with just what is needed—quiet laughter or simply more orange juice.

# **BRUCE PUTS THE EXTRA IN ORDINARY**

Bruce Nolan makes ordinary kindness and attention extraordinary, every day. He specializes in simple acts of respect, inclusion and faith. He offers his time as a volunteer and leaves a trail of smiles everywhere he goes.

Bruce has made a life of giving and shaped an adventurous life in retirement, full of travel and giving back. He exemplifies the ageless spirit as a committed volunteer and a solo traveler exploring the world.

Congratulations Bruce! We are all so blessed to have you in our Catholic Eldercare family. •



# Honoring Moms and Dads of all kinds...



Mother's Day and Father's Day is a wonderful opportunity to honor the remarkable men and women in your lives and in our Catholic Eldercare communities. We realize that not all our seniors may have their own children, so we honor everyone who loves like a parent—in everyday ways that matter in the lives around them.

# **HOW DO WE CELEBRATE? IN TRUE CEC STYLE**

Our long-standing tradition for Mother's Day is a carnation for every lady and a special lady's tea at the Albert J. Hofstede care center and various renditions in our assisted living communities. For Father's Day, we shake things up across our communities every year, ranging from root beer floats to beer sampling to outdoor games with an ice cream social (if Mother Nature cooperates). And every gentleman gets a scratch-off ticket as a surprise.

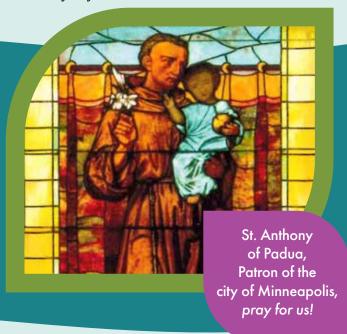
We are so honored to care for and celebrate these ageless spirits we call family, every holiday and every day. €

# **⇔1849-2024 ⇒**

# Celebrating 175 Years

OF NORTHEAST CATHOLICISM

St. Anthony of Padua is the first parish and Mother Church of Minneapolis. In 2013, the parish merged with Holy Cross, St. Clement and St. Hedwig forming Holy Cross Catholic Church. St. Anthony of Padua Chapel continues to be the spiritual heart of Catholic Eldercare.



# Honoring the Ageless Spirit of Mick Maxey



"Mick was a longtime, dedicated and beloved volunteer for our seniors at Catholic Eldercare, he will be missed, "said Robin Haenze, Volunteer Coordinator at Catholic Eldercare.

To keep his vibrant spirit alive while taking in the great outdoors, Kelly Vecker, a member of the Northeast Lions Club, had the wonderful idea for a memorial bench, honoring Mick's life of service to Catholic Eldercare, the NE Lions and our NE community. That idea came to fruition and a memorial bench was installed on October 24, 2024 in the beautiful courtyard at Catholic Eldercare. Come, sit and smile. Mick will be smiling down on you.  $\Leftrightarrow$ 

Pictured: top left, Lion Club members, Kelly Vecker, Nate Vecker and Jerry Weller. Seated: Mick's daughter and son-in-law, Kate and Tai Maxey, owners of Beast Barbecue.

# Faith as a Foundation

# **Catholic Life in Senior Care Communities**

Faith is a foundation for comfort, strength and community for all of us throughout life, especially for seniors as they face the mental and physical challenges of aging. Catholic senior care communities are designed to integrate faith into everyday life to help residents feel at ease, knowing that their spiritual needs are prioritized.

Since 1983, Catholic Eldercare continues the healing ministry of Jesus through a holistic approach that addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each resident throughout our communities," says Dr. Michael Naughton, Catholic Eldercare Board Member and Director of the Center for Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas.

### FAITH AS A FOUNDATION FOR COMFORT

By prioritizing faith, seniors develop a deep sense of stability, identity and spiritual comfort. Familiar spiritual rituals, such as praying the Rosary, attending Mass or observing the Stations of the Cross, provide a connection to tradition and continuity, even when life circumstances change.

Family members and caregivers who support seniors in their spiritual practices also play a crucial role in reinforcing faith. "Faith is a top priority in our care," adds Marie Barta, Director of Operations, Skilled Care. "Our Chaplains walk our staff through the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teachings to develop and foster a supportive and faith-centered environment that helps each resident feel part of our family."

# **FAITH AS A FOUNDATION FOR** STRENGTH AND COMMUNITY

Like a cathedral, each individual is a brick that is strong on its own but even stronger together. "There's a multifaceted connectivity between our lives, our love of God and our spiritual lives," says Father Don Piché, Priest at Catholic Eldercare. "For example, when they share a sign of peace, there's a connection they have with each other as they join together and forget about their challenges." As seniors transition out of their homes into the senior care communities, they face a lot of changes and often lose a sense of community. Prayer, scripture reading and sacraments are daily spiritual anchors that provide purpose and meaning and strengthen each person's resilience through trust in God.

As an example, "the eucharist helps people see what life is about and celebrates what they've lived throughout their lives," Father Piché explains. "People are in touch with the dynamic of soul/spirit and they're less concerned about what they've lost and their physical struggles. It's who we are together as a community."

# FAITH AS A FOUNDATION FOR A FULL LIFE

Senior care communities create opportunities for respectful spiritual dialogue and relationships. This fosters an environment of comfort, strength and community to live a life full of peace and purpose.

"Every day, Catholic Eldercare seeks to provide excellent care infused by the love of Christ that respects the dignity of every senior of every faith in our communities," concludes Dr. Naughton.





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# → Mass Schedule ⇒

MONDAY St. Anthony of Padua ....... 10:45 AM

TUESDAY ...... NO MASS

**WEDNESDAY** *MainStreet Lodge* ..... 10:45 AM

THURSDAY St. Anthony of Padua ...... 10:45 AM

FRIDAY St. Anthony of Padua...... 10:45 AM

SATURDAY MainStreet Lodge ............ 10:45 AM

SUNDAY St. Anthony of Padua ........... 10:45 AM

- NO MASS MEMORIAL DAY -

# Your Giving is a Blessing

Together we are bringing our transformative Capital Campaign to fruition with a focus on our four key pillars. Every donation keeps the momentum going. Thank you.

### PILLAR 1

1st Floor Care Center Transformation

### PILLAR 2

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Refresh, Renew and Create

# PILLAR 3

Environmental Updates for Residential Comfort

# PILLAR 4

Our Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care **Program Funding** 

What does a flower say after it tells a joke?



give however you feel comfortable...

Send a personal check to: 817 Main Street Northeast Minneapolis, MN 55413

Catholic Eldercare Foundation o scan this QR code to give online at givetoCEC.org

