

VILLA SCALABRINI
 Retirement Center & Special Care Unit
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NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016 – Volume LIII



The Ministry of Presence

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe how time flies. We are in the second trimester of this 2016, in a beautiful time called spring. It is a time of flourishing and renewal in nature. When we see the bud of something in nature, we consider it a miracle. Watching the up thrust of a daffodil become a flower and take on the warmth of color makes us feel that we are in a season of renewal and hope.

Working here at the Villa has been a time of renewal for me and renovation. Every-day challenges and hopes make me feel like I need to renew myself in my faith, my ministry, my own being.

The ministry of presence that I am called to do in this beautiful place has been a blessing especially when in our busy world the presence or the absence of somebody apparently does not mean so much. It became an opportunity to reflect on my own vocation and the service I want to give to Christ. We live in a world that is full of invisible people. We are so busy in our schedules, running from one place to another, working hard, studying with a lot of effort and in this rush we are not able to see and recognize many people around us.

There is the temptation to enter in this rush and forget many simple values and manners. Sometimes we do not have time even to say hi to people that we see every day. I have the impression that if you do not look busy and in a hurry, it seems you do not have any value in our society. I was involved in this ideology of our times until I paid close attention to the people here at Villa Scalabrini. For them the most important thing is the time I spend with them; the time I "waste" with them, talking, laughing, playing and having non-sense conversations about everything and nothing at the same time. The smile on their faces when I call them by their names, when I ask them about their families, when I show them my bad luck in the bingo room, are treasured moments that have changed my perspective in life.

Working here at the Villa has been an opportunity to renew my commitment with Christ and to pay attention to Christ's little ones. It has been a blessed time to learn from all these years of wisdom put together in this place at one time; it has been a wonderful gift from God to see life through different glasses; it has been a wonderful time to share my ministry, my vocation and to be challenged to give my best without big speeches, or complicated homilies, but sharing the most important treasure I have: my faith, my vocation and my own self.

Happy Spring Time and Happy Easter!

Fr. Ramiro Sánchez Chan, c.s.
 Executive Director

The Missionaries of St. Charles-Scalabrinians offer Perpetual Masses through the Scalabrini Mass League. Please ask the Front Desk at Villa Scalabrini or call 818-768-6500.

Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center



villascalabrini.com

La Piazza AT VILLA SCALABRINI

Socialization and Aging

Many studies have been done on this topic. How important is social support as a person ages?

Lack of social support is related to negative impact on health and wellbeing, especially for older people, while having a variety of positive social supports can contribute to psychological and physical wellness. Support from others can be important in reducing stress, increasing physical health and defeating psychological problems.

Positive social support must encompass more than physical presence or conversation. Studies have shown that social support services should contain quality activities. These activities should promote positive self-awareness, the key to a person's overall quality of life and satisfaction. Individuals may also feel more self-satisfied if they are part of the planning of social activities that take place.

At La Piazza quality activities are mostly introduced by the residents themselves and fully supported by the management. These include group exercises, card games, puzzles, a singing group, religious discussion group, excursions to the theater or to a concert and more. Participation is high and so is the residents' level of satisfaction.

As studies prove that with a higher self-awareness and quality of life an individual can slow the rate of mental decline, it is very important to make an effort to get up, get out, keep moving and engage in meaningful social activities. Regular exercise and social interaction can help seniors stay self-confident, mentally capable and emotionally strong throughout their golden years.

The Best in Retirement Living



An exceptional living experience at an affordable price!

Individual homes make our community exclusive and special.

- Enjoy your own beautifully appointed home with more than 1200 square feet
- 2 bedrooms, 1 bath all on ground level
- Soaring 10' ceilings
- Full gourmet kitchen
- Attached carports
- Private patios
- Utilities included
- Pet friendly
- Complete maintenance, including weekly housekeeping and linen service
- Two gourmet meals a day, 5 days a week
- Landscaped grounds, walking paths
- Putting green, gym facilities, library, Club house
- Weekly wellness program, movie nights, games and more
- Secure premises, 24 hours a day

Check us out!

To check for residence availability, to take a tour or to request a brochure please contact Laura Mesrobian, Admissions Director, at (818)768-6500 ext. 228 or Laura@villascalabrini.com



From the Special Care Unit

November - Thanksgiving Day: "To give thanks to God for the wonder of His love." For the many graces He bestowed upon each one of us, we owe Him thanks. The Holy Eucharist is an act of Thanksgiving and we have it here in our Special Care Unit every morning at 9:30. Thanksgiving Day was celebrated with a special lunch in the Special Care Unit dining hall. Families and friends of our residents joined the special event.

December - "Jesus is the Reason for the Season". In this particular season, we always have a reason to celebrate Jesus. He is the reason why we celebrate and take part of His life on Christmas day, a time to be one with Him, to give our best self for Him and to be a gift to one another. So, we are indeed grateful to all the different organizations who came to give their love and support to our dear seniors by sharing their talents. You brought joy to our hearts!

January 2016, New Year's Day - With excitement our senior residents gathered in the SCU dining hall to witness the spectacular Rose Parade of 2016 on television. They were indeed grateful for being able to watch such a beautiful display.

Lenten Observance - Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. Residents and Staff received the blessed ashes reminding us that "We are dust and to dust we shall return." A challenge to live out what God has given, to be His good followers, to continue His mission of loving service, for at the end we will receive what is

due to us. And He will ask us, "What have you done in your lifetime?"

February - Outdoors Exercises. The residents draw some good energy from nature when their exercises are conducted outside, in our newly blessed Meditation Garden. They enjoy the activity, the lovely weather and above all the beauty of God's creation, nature!

Valentine's Day Special Celebration - Mr. and Mrs. Remington were the blessed couple who was crowned on this special Valentine's Day celebration. They have been married for 72 years. Thanks to God for their strong and long lasting love. Congratulations!

May God continue to bless us on this Jubilee Year of Mercy, as we continue to serve Him with love and mercy, for His Greater Honor and Glory!

Sr. Mavieve Joy G. Bernaldez, AR
Maria Bedoya, SSD



Valentine's Day, Mr. and Mrs. Remington

From the Retirement Center

Activities in the month of December centered on the Holidays with several special celebrations that included the participation of many family members.

January started with the New Years' celebration and continued with many of the residents' favorite activities such as the popular monthly Pizza Night and the fun filled horse races!

The highlight for February was the Valentine's Day Dance and pink dress-up, held in honor of our King Joe Muscarella and Queen Rosa Bruno. Many thanks to the Burbank's Girl Scouts for the beautiful cards, candies and gifts they distribute during each holiday.

Activities for March will include a St. Patrick's Day party with lunch, drinks and live music and a trip to St. Peter's Italian Church for the St. Joseph's Table and Mass.

Our monthly calendar of activities continues to include weekly shopping trips every Thursday, the monthly birthday celebration on the second Friday of the month, piano music and sing along with Verna every other Wednesday and the Happy Hour with blackjack, wine, cheese and crackers on the last Friday of the month.

As always, we sincerely appreciate the participation of volunteers and family members!

Ricardo Alas
Programs Director/Social Services



King Joseph and Queen Rosa

Dear families & friends,



I am proud to announce that Villa Scalabrini has been recognized as one of the best nursing homes in 2015 by U.S. News and World Report. This is great news for all of our dedicated and caring staff members. Thumbs up to everyone.

Recent research studies show twenty-nine to fifty-five percent of older adults living in a residential care setting report feeling lonely. Traditional recreation programs do not ease these feelings of loneliness.

The feeling of loneliness is most likely due to the residential care settings' lack of input from residents, set plans, and schedules.

Villa is planning to combat loneliness in its residential care and nursing home settings by engaging residents in all aspects of their day-to-day experiences. This new approach focuses on providing opportunities for "emotional and meaningful social engagements" as a systematic method of collaborating with our residents.

Next, I am very happy to report that our Meditation Garden and Garden Pavilion are regularly visited by our residents and their family members. Thanks again to all the donors who supported these projects.

At this time, we are in the final stage of completing our new fire alarm system. We are aiming to conduct a final testing in April. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Finally, we would like to welcome our new staff members:

- Areli Ortega - Receptionist
- Dyana Rojas Ovando - Dietary server
- Nenette Gullano - RCFE Nurse Assistant
- Jesse Chavez - Housekeeper

Blessings to you all,
Ardy Afshar
Administrator/CFO



Opening of the new Meditation Garden

With the early arrival of spring, our latest improvement, the Meditation Garden is taking on a new aura of calm, quiet, spiritual oasis to be enjoyed by our residents and families. The plants are growing fast and flowers started to bloom. In addition to the original statues, two new statues were donated, a statue of St. Francis of Assisi and a statue of St. Anthony of Padua.

The garden was officially opened with ribbon cutting and a blessing by Executive Director Fr. Chan and a second blessing took place when the statue of St. Anthony was more recently placed. A sincere thank you to the anonymous donor of the St. Francis statue and to Jim Bisetti for donating the St. Anthony statue in honor of his parents Louis and Margaret Bisetti, longtime benefactors of many Italian American organizations and faithful members of the St. Anthony Society of Los Angeles. Louis and Margaret came to reside at Villa Scalabrini in 2013; Louis sadly passed away in August 2014, and Margaret is currently a resident of the Special Care Unit.

For the residents and their families who have not yet taken the time to walk through the Meditation Garden, we encourage you to do so to witness and enjoy the serenity of these beautiful surroundings.

In Memoriam Gaetano (Guy) Masciotra (1922-2016)

Born in Agnone (region of Molise), Italy on 1.13.1922, Guy moved with his family to Canada at the age of 12, then to California, establishing their lives in the city of San Fernando.

From an early age, Guy was taught strong work ethics that would last for his entire lifetime. He served in the US Army for three years. In 1942 he married his wife of 73 years, Eva and together they had two daughters.

Guy was a committed member of many Italian American organization in the Los Angeles area: the Abruzzesi e Molisani Club, the Federated Italo Americans of Southern California and the Italian Catholic Federation (ICF). For the ICF he was named National Field Director.

Guy's association with Villa Scalabrini started at the Villa's inception, during the fundraising phase and its opening in 1979. Always ready and willing to help, Guy was a big part of every special event and fundraiser, procuring and preparing food, as well as facilitating contacts and organizing volunteers' help. A real friend of the Villa, Guy will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him and witnessing his tireless devotion and wonderful energy.

Guy passed away on February 9. He is survived by his wife Eva, his daughter Linda, five grandsons and nine great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Mission Hills Catholic Cemetery.



"All we give is given to us to give"

Dorothy Day

We are grateful for the many gifts of financial support we receive throughout the year. These gifts help us meet the needs of our Retirement Center and the senior residents it serves.

Unrestricted donations will be used toward general facility improvements. Restricted donations will be used for the purpose designated by the donor. We appreciate your generous support.

Benevolence Fund - The Benevolence Fund supports one of our missions - to provide comfortable and dignified living choices to under-served or otherwise compromised seniors, whose income and assets are insufficient.

Special Projects - Funds donated towards special projects will be allocated for facility improvements.

Where Most Needed - We always appreciate unrestricted funding, which is directed to general operating costs. In the end, all our resources enable us to provide the best care and services to our residents that we possibly can.

Ways to Give: Cash, Check, Credit Card Gift or Online Donation - The easiest, most direct way to support Villa Scalabrini.

Make a Donation to Villa Scalabrini

To make a donation to Villa Scalabrini you can access our website www.villascalabrini.com/waystogive and donate using your credit card via Paypal, or you may print a donation form and mail with your check.

Through the philanthropic support of donors, Villa Scalabrini will be able to enhance its services and impact the lives of its senior residents.

Your generosity is vital and allows us to provide the excellent care and services you have come to expect from Villa Scalabrini.

Fathers of Saint Charles (Villa Scalabrini) is a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization as described in section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.



What if Villa Scalabrini earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates ad revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity its users designate. Use it just like any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Villa Scalabrini as the organization you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! Please spread the word!

Welcome New Residents!

- Salvatore Amara
- Emile Autuori
- Daniel Cashen
- Mary Ann Condon
- Laura De Stefanis
- Elisa Fasano
- Gregory Huebner
- Janet Sewnig

Visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus



The Kearns Family Gathering

