

the continuum...

www.lourdesseniorcommunity.org

Sister Frances Mary Kernalovich,
OP Celebrates 90 Remarkable
Years at Lourdes Legacy Event!



Lourdes Senior Community is sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Peace

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Dear Friends,

As the weather cools and summer winds down, we reflect on a season filled with sunshine, laughter, and treasured moments here at Lourdes Senior Community. Residents and team members alike enjoyed favorite summer activities, from boat rides and fishing on Scott Lake to ice cream socials and outdoor picnics, reminders of the joy that comes from simple pleasures and community connection.

We also celebrated a milestone this summer at our 24th Annual Golf for Lourdes Event. This year's outing honored Lourdes' 60th Anniversary and brought together over 100 golfers and nearly 150 dinner guests for a day of camaraderie, friendly competition, and fun. Thanks to our generous participants and sponsors, we raised \$42,000 to support Lourdes' mission. Read more on page three.

Shortly after, we were delighted to host our Annual Legacy Event, where we had the honor of celebrating Sister Frances Mary Kernasovich, OP, for her 90th birthday. Family, friends, and supporters joined us to recognize her remarkable life and legacy, and we unveiled the Sister Frances Mary Compassionate Care Fund, ensuring her Mission of compassionate care continues for years to come. This event raised more than \$45,000 to support future residents of Lourdes Senior Community who may not have the full financial resources to cover the cost of their care and living. Read more on page five.

Finally, we continue to watch our ranch-style villas take shape in front of Scott Lake. Construction is progressing quickly, and many of the outer structures are already completed. These beautiful lakefront homes will offer the next generation of older adults a new standard of independent living, combining privacy, comfort, and access to the vibrant Lourdes community. Read more on page two.

As always, we are grateful to our residents, families, team members, and supporters for helping us make each summer and every milestone memorable. We look forward to the coming months, filled with the warmth, care, and connection that make Lourdes such a special place.

With gratitude,

Richard Acho

Rich Acho, MBA MSF
President & Chief Executive Officer

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Conceptual Design of New Independent Living Villas on the Lake

INDEPENDENT LIVING REIMAGINED

THE RANCH STYLE VILLAS - COMING SPRING 2026



Excitement is building at Lourdes Senior Community as our new ranch style villas take shape along the shores of Scott Lake. What began as a bold vision in 2023 is now becoming reality, with construction progressing quickly and the outer structures of many villas already standing tall.

These private, lakefront homes are designed to bring a new level of comfort and independence to older adults while preserving the vibrant sense of community Lourdes is known for. Each of the eight villas will feature two bedrooms, two full bathrooms, an attached garage, a private patio, and approximately 1,620 square feet of thoughtfully designed ranch-style living space.

Each villa is enhanced with modern finishes, including quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, open-concept dining and living spaces, and the convenience of in-unit laundry. Large windows invite in natural light and offer scenic views that bring the outdoors in, creating a setting that feels both elegant and inviting.

Life at the villas also comes with the opportunity to share in the vibrant Lourdes community. Residents are

invited to join Fox Manor Independent Living for dinner five nights a week, where menus range from savory ribs to perfectly grilled steak to fresh seafood favorites. These meals aren't just about delicious food; they are about fellowship, laughter, and the joy of gathering around the table with friends.

Construction is expected to be completed next spring, and interest in the villas remains high. With only a few homes still available, now is the time to secure your place in this exciting new chapter of Lourdes' story.

Have you been considering the villas lifestyle but want the chance to experience it firsthand before making your decision? We are excited to announce that Lourdes will be hosting an exclusive first-look tour of the villas before the grand opening. This special opportunity, available only to the first 20 people to sign up, will give you the chance to walk through the villas, take in the scenic views, and truly imagine life at Lourdes. To reserve your spot or learn more about the villas, please contact Rich Acho at 248-886-5611 or racho@lourdes-sc.org.



A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON THE GREEN

THE 24TH ANNUAL GOLF FOR LOURDES EVENT

This summer, Lourdes Senior Community celebrated another milestone in style at the 24th Annual Golf for Lourdes Event. Held on June 12th, the outing embraced a festive birthday theme in honor of Lourdes' 60th Anniversary, which was marked on May 1. It was the perfect time to tee off and toast six decades of compassion, care, and community.

The day began with a brief rain shower as golfers arrived, but the skies quickly cleared to reveal beautiful weather for the rest of the outing. More than 100 golfers took to the course, enjoying a day of camaraderie, competition, and community. The fun continued into the evening, where nearly 150 guests gathered for a summer barbecue dinner followed by a birthday cake celebration.

Beyond the friendly competition on the greens, the day was filled with laughter and special touches that made the event feel like a true birthday party. Golfers enjoyed on-course contests like closest-to-the-pin and longest drive, while others took in the chance to reconnect with friends who have been golfing with Lourdes for years. The birthday theme added to the fun, with festive decorations and, of course, a giant cake to mark the milestone.

What makes the Golf for Lourdes Event so special isn't just the golf, but the people. Many of our golfers return year after year, building a tradition that has lasted more than two decades. Their dedication, along with the generosity of new participants and sponsors, ensures that this event continues to make a meaningful difference for the older adults we serve.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants, this year's event raised \$42,000 to support Lourdes Senior Community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made the day possible, from those who golfed to those who joined us for dinner, to the many sponsors whose names are listed alongside this story.

The Golf for Lourdes event is a tradition that brings friends and families together to celebrate the Mission of Lourdes. We look forward to seeing you back on the green for our 25th Annual Golf for Lourdes Event on June 11, 2026, when we will once again gather in the spirit of fun, friendship, and support for seniors.

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Thank You

LOURDES LEGACY EVENT

CELEBRATING SISTER FRANCES MARY AND HER 90 REMARKABLE YEARS OF LIFE



August 14th was a magical night for Lourdes Senior Community. At our Annual Legacy Event, family, friends, donors, and supporters gathered to celebrate not only the Mission of Lourdes but also the life and legacy of a remarkable woman: Sister Frances Mary Kernasovich, OP.

Sister Frances Mary was instrumental in shaping Lourdes into the continuum of care it is today. When Lourdes Nursing Home first opened its doors in 1965, it was founded with a Mission to care for the sick and elderly, regardless of race, creed, or ability to pay. The Archdiocese of Detroit recognized a growing need for senior care rooted in compassion and dignity, and Lourdes was created to meet that need with grace.

When Sister Frances Mary came to Lourdes in 1981, she carried that Mission forward with vision, heart, and determination. During her time as Lourdes' first Campus Administrator, she knew every resident by name, their needs, and their families. She walked the halls, prayed with those who were struggling, offered comfort to grieving

families, and even helped care for residents directly when needed.

She was a leader who led by example. Her staff knew her as a mentor, a cheerleader, and a servant leader. She checked in on their lives, encouraged their education and growth, and helped them see their work as part of a greater purpose. She believed there were no small jobs; only moments to serve.

As care needs evolved, so did she. Sister Frances Mary led Lourdes through expansions that created more homes, more services, and more opportunities to serve seniors with dignity, compassion and respect.

And as care costs began to rise, she was already one step ahead. In the 1980s, she created the Continuing Care Fund, a groundbreaking initiative to support residents who had exhausted their savings, ensuring no one would be asked to leave their home at Lourdes. This fund remains in place today, providing a lifeline for residents across all levels of care who outlive their resources.

As the evening unfolded, it became clear Sister Frances Mary had impacted many throughout her ninety years of life. Colleagues, friends, and community members shared heartfelt tributes, recalling her unwavering faith, personal kindness, and the countless ways she had uplifted others. Their words painted a portrait of a woman whose influence reached far beyond the walls of Lourdes and to the heart of each individual she touched.

The highlight of the night came when Sister Frances Mary was presented with a commemorative plaque in her honor. With deep gratitude, the Sister Frances Mary Compassionate Care Fund was also unveiled, an initiative created to carry her life's work forward.

While the Continuing Care Fund she established in the 1980s ensures that long-term residents are never asked to leave their home at Lourdes, today's seniors face new challenges. Rising costs and limited support mean that many older adults find themselves falling into a widening gap: too rich to qualify for aid, yet unable to afford the care they need. The Sister Frances Mary Compassionate Care Fund will help bridge that gap, offering a lifeline at the point of entry so seniors can begin their Lourdes journey with security and peace of mind.

This is a bold step forward and a natural continuation of everything Sister Frances Mary stands for. We are excited to share that this year's Legacy Event raised nearly \$50,000 to launch the Sister Frances Mary Compassionate Care Fund.

And that is only the beginning. With your support, this fund will continue to grow into a vital resource, helping to ensure quality care remains affordable and making a difference one life at a time. This effort brings us back to our roots: to create a place of healing where care is not a luxury, but a calling and every older adult is welcomed with compassion, respect, and dignity.

If you'd like to learn more about the Sister Frances Mary Compassionate Care Fund or how you can be part of the solution, please contact Elisha Christopher in the Development Office at 248-886-5673 or echristopher@lourdes-sc.org



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

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Jo Heitmeyer

Sister Teresita Lipar
Sandra Ritter
Fern Walch



A NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

THE TREE OF LIFE - A HOLIDAY TRIBUTE

As the Christmas season draws near, many of us look forward to traditions with family and friends such as baking cookies, exchanging gifts, or gathering around the glow of a Christmas tree.

Yet, for some, the holidays also carry a quiet ache. The loss of loved ones, distance from family, or changes that come with age can make this season bittersweet, especially in senior communities where cherished traditions may look different than before.

That is why, this year, Lourdes Senior Community is partnering with Angela Hospice to begin a new tradition: the *Tree of Life*. For the first time, our Christmas trees will hold a purpose beyond decoration. They will be a special tribute to those we wish to remember this holiday season.

The *Tree of Life* began as a cherished holiday tradition at Angela Hospice's Livonia campus, where families gather each year to honor the memory of loved ones who have passed. Wanting to extend that same spirit of remembrance to our

community in Waterford, Angela Hospice proposed a new *Tree of Life* to be placed here, at each of our residences. Together, we are expanding the tradition, offering families, friends, and residents the chance to remember not only those who are no longer with us, but to honor any who continue to hold a special place in our hearts this Christmas.

The heart of the *Tree of Life* is more than ornaments and lights. It is tradition rooted in compassion and living out the spiritual call we all have to care for one another in Christ Jesus. Scripture reminds us to uplift one another, holding each other up in times of grief or hardship.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

During the holidays, that reminder feels especially tender. This season often holds both joy and heaviness: laughter around a full table, but also the quiet ache of missing someone who isn't there.

In those moments, even the smallest gestures - a smile offered to a stranger, a visit with a grieving heart, or a plate of cookies baked for a neighbor who can no longer bake for themselves - become reminders of love.

The *Tree of Life* carries that same spirit. This holiday season, we invite you to leave an ornament and a prayer for a loved one. Each of our four resident facilities will have a *Tree of Life*, with angel ornaments and a decoration station to make your ornament personal and unique.

This Christmas, may we find comfort in remembrance, joy in tribute, and hope in the gift of care that continues long after the ornaments are packed away.

More information on the *Tree of Life* will be available soon. Keep an eye out on our website, social media and your mailbox, or contact Elisha Christopher in the Development Office at 248-886-5673.

ANGELA HOSPICE AT LOURDES

GROWING TOGETHER IN COMPASSION



Our partnership with Angela Hospice continues to grow, strengthening the shared mission of both organizations: delivering compassionate, dignified care to those in need.

Since opening their wing at Lourdes Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center last year, Angela Hospice has provided care in a serene, supportive environment, with private rooms overlooking Scott Lake or the Lourdes Healing Garden. Their team of experts in pain management, personal care, social work, and spiritual support has brought comfort to countless patients and families.

Hospice care is often misunderstood, but at its heart, it is about living fully and comfortably in the time that remains. It is about ensuring that patients and their loved ones experience dignity, autonomy, and peace. Just as senior care focuses on enhancing quality of life in one's later years, hospice provides the

same sense of care and respect in life's final chapter.

This partnership also strengthens one of Lourdes' greatest advantages: the wide range of care available within our community. Here, individuals have the option to move through different levels of support as their needs change. From independent living to assisted living, from rehabilitation after a hospital stay to long-term or memory care if needed. Now, through Angela Hospice, end-of-life care is provided as well.

To learn more about hospice care at Lourdes Senior Community, contact Leah Yacoub in the Admissions Office at 248-886-5601.

ANGELA HOSPICE INVITES YOU TO A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF LOVE, REMEMBRANCE & COMMUNITY



Angela Hospice is honored to serve residents and families at the Lourdes Senior Community through our newest inpatient care center, which opened on the Lourdes campus in December 2024. This partnership has allowed us to extend our mission of providing

compassionate, Christ-like care to even more individuals in need.

As we continue to grow this meaningful relationship, we invite Lourdes residents, staff, and families to join us for one of our most cherished traditions – the *Tree of Life*.

Held annually on the grounds of our Livonia Care Center, the Tree of Life is a heartfelt opportunity to remember and honor loved ones during the holiday season. Each light and ornament placed on the tree symbolizes a life, a memory, and the love that endures. We invite you to attend our opening ceremony, or visit anytime between November 20 and January 5 to

personally decorate angel ornaments for those you love.

The Opening Ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m. outside at the Angela Hospice Livonia Care Center. This family-friendly event marks the beginning of the Tree of Life season and will include a welcome and dedication, angel ornament decorating, a hot cocoa bar, a performance by the Angela Hospice Choir, and a visit from Santa. For full event details, please visit: <https://angelahospice.org/tree-of-life/>.

We are grateful for our growing partnership with Lourdes Senior Community and look forward to sharing this season of reflection and remembrance with your community.

Thank You

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS
THAT GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE HOLY WORK OF LOURDES SENIOR
COMMUNITY BETWEEN JANUARY 2025 AND AUGUST 2025

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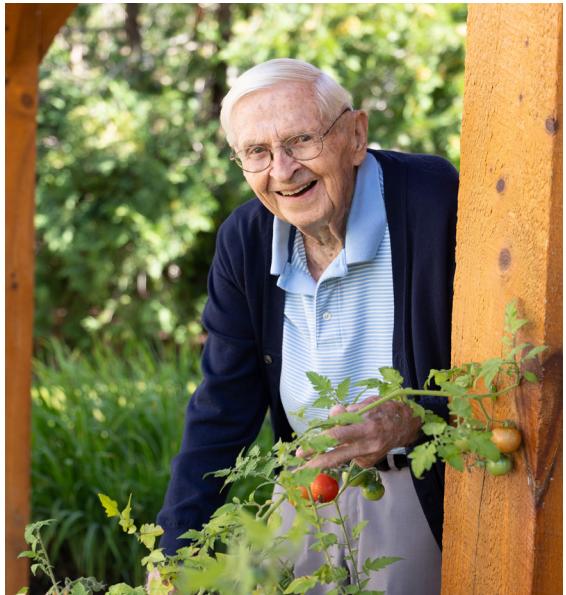
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LEAVE A LEGACY MAKE A GIFT THAT LASTS

Did you know your generosity can continue to support Lourdes Senior Community for generations to come?

Through planned giving, you can create a legacy that reflects your values, provides for your loved ones, and sustains the Mission of Lourdes far into the future.

Planned giving can take many forms: a bequest in your will, a charitable remainder trust, or a contribution from a retirement account. These gifts provide more than financial support; they ensure that Lourdes can continue offering compassionate care, enriching programs, and spaces that nurture body, mind, and spirit.

This year, Lourdes also established the Lourdes Mission Sustainability Endowment Fund with the Catholic Foundation of Michigan.

This endowment strengthens our long-term financial stability, ensuring operations, resident care, and mission-driven services will always have a foundation of support.

Planned gifts also carry with them stories of love and legacy. One beautiful example is Carole. When she moved to Mendelson Home, she immediately felt the peace of this community. The staff who knew her by name, the laughter shared at meals, and the friendships that grew around her. For Carole, Lourdes wasn't just a place to live; it was family.

That love shaped her decision to include Lourdes in her estate plans. Her generosity will now provide care for residents who cannot cover the full cost, expand programs that enrich daily life, and strengthen the Mission she so deeply believed in. To honor her, Carole's sailboats are displayed

in Mendelson's Bayview Room, a reminder of her joyful spirit and lasting impact.

Carole's story reminds us that planned giving is more than a financial decision. It is an act of faith in the future, one that continues to touch lives long after we are gone.

If Carole's legacy inspires you, consider how you might leave one of your own. To learn more about planned giving or the Lourdes Mission Sustainability Endowment Fund, please contact Rich Acho at 248-886-5611 or racho@lourdes-sc.org.

