

Serving the elderly poor in Gallup, New Mexico since 1983

June: The Month of the Sacred Heart

"I love you and you are mine!"

Even today the tradition prevails: June is the month for weddings. So many factors blend into this tradition for couples to celebrate their special day with family and friends. They seal their love by reciting their wedding vows, but with an increased lack of fidelity, commitment, and dedication today there seems to be a misunderstanding of love. The problem here is the vagueness of the word. The modern yet confused world has any number of possible descriptions of what love is. Perhaps the best declaration of the word is an inspired one. St. John told us that "God is love and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16).

"But, how do we integrate this inspired understanding of love into our own lives? The answer comes to us in the flaming heart of Christ revealed to St. Margret Mary Alacoque. It is through this that we can come to understand the truest expression of love. In this heart engulfed in light, we see our Lord's overpowering love; a love which offers itself completely for its beloved, to the point of excruciating pain and suffering. In the image of the Sacred Heart, Christ freely gives himself to us, burning with love, as if to say, "I did this for you, my child." His faithfulness is expressed in the vow of a bleeding and beating heart, ignited



Our devotion to the Sacred Heart at Villa Guadalupe.

with intense self-sacrificing love for us. This is the fullest expression of love and it is revealed to us in the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Since my early Catholic school days, the devotion to the Sacred Heart has held a special place in my life. Later, when I was ordained a Catholic priest on the Feast of the Sacred Heart at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the importance of this devotion was again emphasized. In many ways, the day I married the Church was a day absorbed in the love of His heart. It would be a sign for years to come that the trials which I would face could only be overcome through His burning love for me and for those around me. The love the Heavenly Father has for His people is a sacrificial love which overcomes death itself and the love I had for His people had to be penetrated by his eternal love. Devotion to the Sacred Heart reminds us of this and provides an example of how we should love each other. This transformation of love through the heart of Jesus provides clarity to a world bogged down by disfigured love. How refreshing, the eternal love of Christ- any individual or family devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus can be sure of God's abiding love for the duration of their lives.



Our devotion to the Sacred Heart at Villa Guadalupe.

by Fr. James Walker, Chaplain

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Annual Mother's Day Tea Party

Thank you, Mom

Our dining room was adorned in spring colors, delicate flowers, and china tea cups for the Mother's Day Tea Party at Villa Guadalupe on May 18. All of the "moms" at our Home were surrounded by their children, grandchildren, and other family members for an evening of love and laughter. The event brought joy to everyone and encompassed the family spirit that we try to foster in all of our Homes. Those who attended seemed to enjoy honoring their mothers for all the love and sacrifices that they have made. We know motherhood is not always easy and this is our way of showing our appreciation. During the party, the following open letter addressing all mothers was read. Needless to say, many were touched and were filled with tears of joy upon hearing it.

Dear Mom,

One day a year is not enough to convey the immense love and gratitude we have for you and for the love you have shown us.

As we near the day that celebrates your "yes" to God's call of being open to life, we want to thank you for everything you have taught us, all the sacrifices you have made for us, and the example of living a holy life that you provided for us.

As a young woman, you made the choice to bring up your family in love and virtue and you showed this in dealing with us with patience and kindness. Your compassionate heart, your warm smile, and your all-encompassing embrace exude the love of God.

Pope Francis said, "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love," and Mom, you did just this.

You are truly a reflection of God's love.

So, thank you for being such an amazing mother!

WE LOVE YOU!



Sami Daniels, enjoying a good laugh with Claire (volunteer), her newly found friend and "adopted granddaughter" for the party.



Irene and her niece having a great time together.



Luby (103) sharing some words of wisdom with her granddaughter, Misty, and Sr. Fatima during the tea party.



Vicki and her daughter exchange a loving glance.

A Special Guest

Supreme Knight Visits Villa Guadalupe

On March 31, we had the privilege of hosting Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight and head of the Knights of Columbus and his wife, Dorian. The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization which raises millions of dollars and many hours of volunteer service throughout the world, as a sign of love to the Church and community. As part of this mission, Carl Anderson came to Gallup to get involved with the various ministries this diocese offers. While they were in Gallup, they had the chance to see Villa Guadalupe. The Andersons were led on a tour of our Home where they engaged in lively conversations with the Little Sisters and Residents. It was a pleasure to host them! Thank you, Mr. Anderson and the Knights of Columbus for everything you do; the Knights will always be welcome at Villa Guadalupe!



Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson (center), and his wife, Dorian (left), with Mother Rosario, Sister Mary William, and fellow Knights in the Chapel at Villa Guadalupe.

Come One, Come All!

Young missionaries bless our Home with their gift of service

It is that time of year again when Villa Guadalupe is blessed with the assistance of many faithful missionary groups from around the country ranging from high school to college students. We always love when the Home is full of missionaries because it becomes flooded with youthful energy and abundant joy. While they are here, the missionaries put on activities for the Residents, cook and serve meals, and help with yardwork and other maintenance projects around the Home. We are so grateful for their willingness to serve and we look forward to welcoming many more groups this summer!



Focus Missionaries cooking up a storm!



Young Missionaries from College Mission Company, Louisiana, and from Focus Ministries serving with a smile.



Mother's Message

Dear Friends,

This year, we are looking forward to celebrating the 150th anniversary of our Congregation's arrival in the United States. In addition, our Home, Villa Guadalupe, is anticipating its 35th anniversary of caring for Gallup's elderly in need. We are very grateful to our friends and benefactors, like you, who continuously help and support us. You make it possible for us to continue our mission of serving Christ in the person of the elderly. It is, therefore, with great sincerity that I thank all of you for helping us reach this milestone. You truly play an important role in our mission of hospitality and we could not have made it without your support. It is through you that our Lord manifests His providential love and care for us here at Villa Guadalupe. Your prayers, donations, and time are gifts which unite us all in this mission as we respond to Christ's call to look after His little ones. In his new exhortation on holiness, Pope Francis states that "living or working alongside others is surely a path of spiritual growth" (Gaudete et Exsultate 141). That is why the work each of us does to further the mission of caring for the elderly draws us together as one body in Christ provides a witness to His mercy and love in the world.

In the words of our Holy Father, my prayer for each one of you is that you experience the "joy lived in communion, which shares and is shared, since 'there is more happiness in giving than in receiving'" (Gaudete et Exsultate 128). As we have been drawn together in this mission to witness to Christ's love for the elderly in need, we are brought closer to holiness by making our lives a gift to God and to our neighbor. In aiding our mission, you are blessing us with the gift of yourselves. I know that in all your generosity you will receive abundant blessings from the Lord. Thank you for sharing in and believing in our mission! Once we set the date, we hope that you will be able to

join in our celebration of thanksgiving on these momentous anniversaries. May the Lord bless and reward you in a way only He can.

Ar. Prospera Flor, ISP



The Power of a "Yes" Your kindness touched our hearts

We want to extend a warm thank you to all who responded to our Easter Wish List from our last newsletter! We were overwhelmed by your generous response. We know the great love that accompanies the items you sent and we are extremely grateful for that.

One group in particular responded in a unique way. A few days before Easter, one of the Little Sisters received an email from a woman by the name of Cindi Heffner who had received our previous newsletter and said she felt "compelled to help in some way besides sending a donation check." In her openness to this call on her heart, she, her husband, and other members of Ha'aheo O Hawai'i dance group responded by donating their time and talents to our Residents on Easter Sunday. Their talents in demonstrating the startling beauty of the Hawaiian culture through songs and dances was amazing.

One of our volunteers, who was so overjoyed at their special performance, commented that the song and dance: "truly relate to Easter where one's soul could be lifted up to Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, with true happiness and joy." Indeed, we are beyond appreciative to each and every one of them.

Thank you very much - Mahalo nui loa - to all of you who responded generously to our newsletter appeal. Know that every bit counts. May the blessings of our Lord be always with you and your loved ones!

