



Ave Maria Village

SMP Health System

VILLAGE VOICE

Vol. 3 No. 2 Summer 2015



Ave Maria community thanks Deacon Tom for his service and friendship

By Tim Burchill

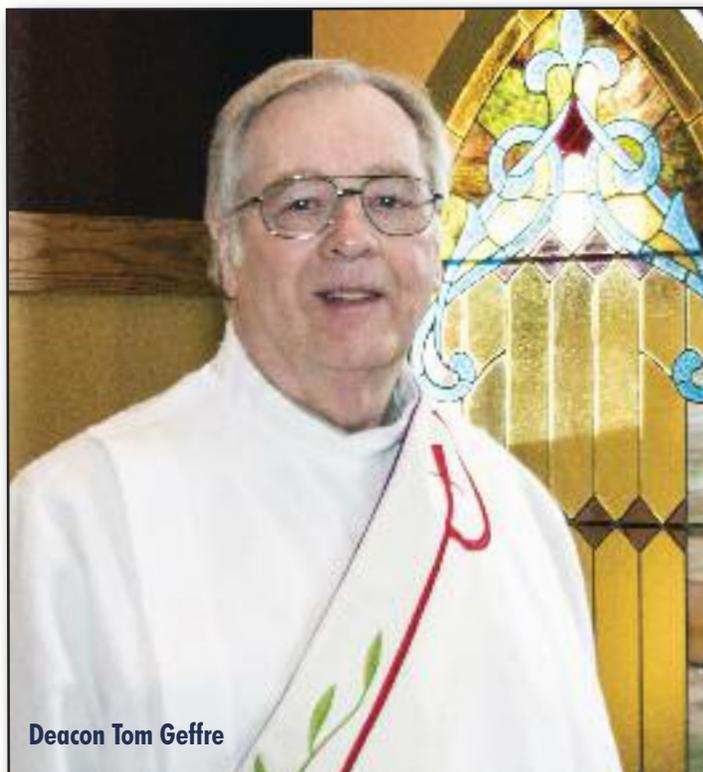
Deacon Tom Geffre, Ave Maria Village chaplain, will retire effective July 17. Tom was initially hired for one year on a part-time basis at AMV. He has served Ave Maria on a full-time basis since 2009.

After more than 40 years in the education field, teaching music and psychology at the high school and college levels, Tom felt he was being called into a different type of ministry. This would be a big paradigm change for him, going from working with mostly younger people to ministering to mostly elderly people in a long-term care facility. To his great credit, Tom made the shift very successfully.

Deacon Tom grew up in a large family in Napoleon, North Dakota, the eldest of 11 children. He received a bachelor's degree in music education from Minot State College. He later received his Master of Music Education from the University of South Dakota and a doctorate in the same field from the University of Northern Colorado. Tom's last 25 years in education was spent as an instructor and department head at Mayville State University. Some years ago, Tom felt a call to become an ordained Catholic deacon. Tom and his wife Mary went through the six year process, and Tom was ordained as a deacon in the Diocese of Fargo by Bishop Samuel Aquila in 2003.

Deacon Tom has the ability to relate with, and minister to, residents of all faiths, and to meet them right where they are, spiritually speaking. His friendship and reassuring presence has been a blessing to hundreds of residents and their families over the seven years he served at Ave Maria. Besides coordinating spiritual care at AMV, Tom led Bible studies, worship services, and special observances and events, and has been a liaison with many area clergy, working together with them in the spiritual care of their parishioners who are nursing home residents. He has officiated at the funerals of many residents who passed away.

Another thing that has set Tom apart through the years has been his willingness to be a part of the life of AMV and the Heritage Centre in other ways that were not necessarily spiritual. He was always the first to volunteer to



Deacon Tom Geffre

help with picnics, special breakfasts, parades, Relay for Life, and a host of other special events. It doesn't matter what is going on, if there is work to be done or time and effort to be expended, Tom is right there. His talents even extend to such things as planting trees and woodworking. In fact, the altar and much of the furniture and fixtures in AMV's new Good Shepherd Chapel were modified and finished by Tom.

Tom and his wife Mary are the parents of eight children, and grandparents to 24. They plan to stay in Jamestown, where Tom will be busy in retirement, continuing to serve at St. James Basilica Catholic parish in Jamestown, working with the Daily Bread program, which he was instrumental in starting, and spending time with family. We thank Deacon Tom for his dedicated service, and especially his friendship, and wish him many long and happy years of retirement!



Jan Barnes
Development Director

Ave Maria Village hums with volunteer, community efforts to fund projects to make life even better for our residents

We have been extremely busy for the last couple months in Ave Maria Village’s Development Office, and it doesn’t seem it’s going to slow down in the foreseeable future!

Our Sundae Social in March raised \$1,520 toward our campaign goal, with a \$760 matching gift. The ice cream, too, put smiles on everyone’s faces.

In May, we enjoyed Betty Brosz’s Annual Tea Time, always fun for everyone. Betty’s theme this year was birds. A birdhouse crafted from seed packets graced every table, and every plate was accented with an edible bird nest. Guests could even purchase their own bird houses and feeders to take home. Thanks to Betty’s talents, along with other volunteers who helped, the event proceeds totaled \$2,160.

Then, in June, we hosted our pulled-pork sandwich fundraiser for businesses and earned \$2,738! When the special sandwiches were served to employees in the cafe, we sold another \$267 – bringing the two-day total to \$3,005. Employees and friends have a second chance to dine on more delicious sandwiches July 9, bringing the grand total even higher.

I felt so blessed, on behalf of our community, when one of our volunteers gave us a \$250 credit card from Thrivent Financial. We used it to purchase much of what we needed for those pulled-pork sandwiches.

Reister’s Meats and Catering sold the pork for our sandwiches at and even below cost ... while one of our Capital Campaign members and his wife bought all we needed! With 20 dozen cookies donated by Casey’s General Store and a \$50 gift certificate from Cashwise, we were all set: Every cent of the sandwiches you bought at our event represented pure profit for our cause.

I also must thank the six volunteers who each baked four dozen cookies and six more who helped serve during the fundraiser.

I hope all who made it possible and every one of you who attended are as proud of what we accomplished as I am of you.

As you can see on the back page, the Ave Maria community has even more special occasions coming up over the next few months, including pie, a fun walk and a night of clean, family-friendly entertainment featuring a top national comedian. I hope you will join us to be a part of these special times together.

As we move forward with these fun opportunities to support Ave Maria Village’s work, I also want to remind you of how important your memorials are. Every gift you give in memory or in tribute to a loved one or a friend is very, very special.

We all appreciate those who have been taking advantage of making a mark on our facility with gifts recognized through naming opportunities. We have named three more art works for friends who have donated \$500 to our community. We’ve also “planted” 17 new commemorate pavers in our courtyard, each representing a \$1,000 gift. Several families have added their late loved ones’ names on our Memorial Board through \$250 contributions.

If you’d like to follow in their footsteps, take a look at the naming opportunities that still remain. You can find a list on our webpage, avemariavillage.org, under the Development tab. Or just email me: jan.barnes@smphs.org.

Finally, our endeavor to complete the capital campaign funding the new chapel, hospice room and transport center continues to draw closer and closer to its goal. We are just \$127,000 away. With your help and involvement, I know we will reach it!

— Jan Barnes, Development Director

Capital Campaign

**Ave Maria Village’s
Capital Campaign is
on track!**

**Now we are just
\$127,000 from our
campaign goal of
\$1,325,000.**

Please consider including a bequest to Ave Maria Village in your will.



Melvin Gahner: 'The food is good here & there's always something to do'

After living much of his life in Eldridge, North Dakota, moving to Jamestown marked a big change for Melvin Gahner. He has come to love his new homes, first the Heritage Centre and, more recently, Ave Maria Village.

"The Heritage Centre is a wonderful place!" Melvin asserts. "There is always something to do, like playing cards in the evening, games, and visiting and having coffee."

"Although I can't say I exactly want to come to Ave Maria Village, the people here are so nice, and there is always someone around to help you."

Melvin was born in Jud, North Dakota, where both his parents and grandparents lived. Soon after, his parents, Jacob & Johanna Gahner, bought a farm five miles west of Millarton. "That's where I spent most of my early life," he says.

World War II was a big landmark in the young man's life, though events conspired to keep him in the United States. Drafted near war's end in 1945, he was sent to Fort Snelling in Minnesota for training and assigned to Air Force ground forces. He was all ready to take off for Germany when his father called him home to help on the farm. "I would really have liked to go to Germany," he recalls. "I was ready to go."

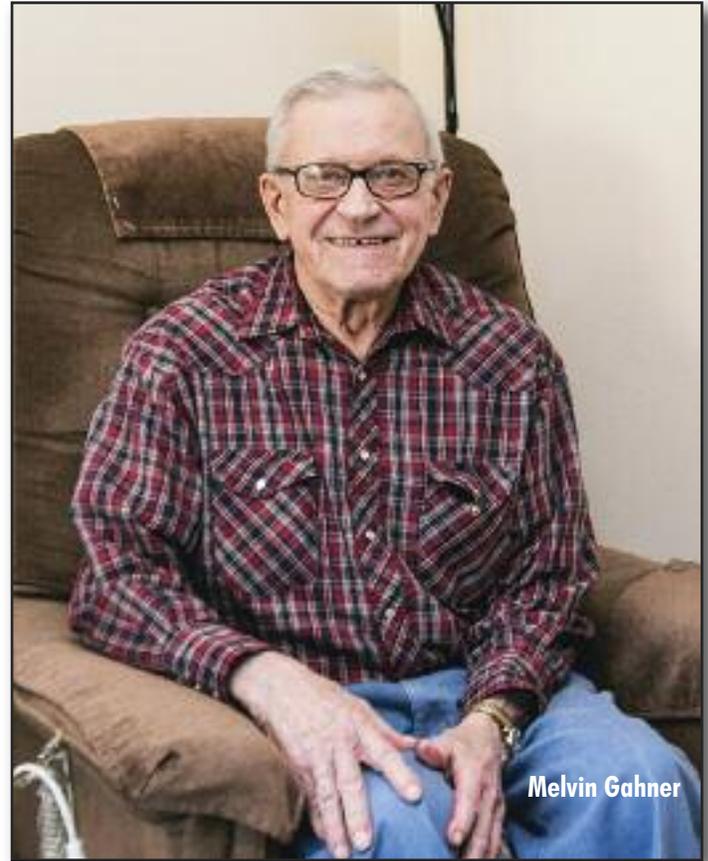
Back at home, the young farmer spotted Eleanor Schrenk, the woman of his dreams, one day as he drove down a Jamestown street. The Windsor, North Dakota, girl was walking home from her job at the Chinese café. "I stopped to talk to her," he remembers. "Then I went to the café many times just to see her." He smiles and adds, "I didn't really like Chinese food, though. Just Eleanor."

The two dated for several years before getting married on Feb. 13, 1949, in the living room of her parents, Julius and Christina Schrenk.

The newlyweds first lived on the farm with Eleanor's family, then returned to his parents' place. Eventually they bought five lots of their own in Eldridge.

Christina worked as a cook and bus driver at the Eldridge school. Melvin himself got a job as a mechanic with McDonald's Trucking, then later took to the highway as a driver, a job he held for 16 years. "It was a strain to be on the road all the time, though," he admits, so he went to work at the Eldridge Elevator. He was there nine years, until his retirement.

"We loved living in Eldridge," Melvin reminisces. "We raised a garden. We loved to go to dances in Eldridge and at the VFW." He loved fishing, too. I had a small boat. My buddy Ron Rosemore and I did a lot of fishing near Woodworth, Cleveland and anywhere around the area where there were big sloughs."



Melvin Gahner

The Gahners were married 63 years. Eleanor passed away in 2011. After her passing, he moved to a house on Highway 281 and then, eventually, to the Heritage Center.

The Gahners raised four sons. Gregory, a Marine veteran, lives in Reno, Nevada, where he works in a computer business. Thomas lives in Jamestown and works at O'Reilly Auto Parts as a delivery man.

Mark and his wife Cindy live in McClusky, North Dakota, where he's employed by the grain elevator. The youngest, Darrin, a Fargo resident, works as information systems administrator for the North Dakota Coalition for the Homeless.

Melvin's life is full here at Ave Maria Village. "Over here, I go to Bingo, men's club, Happy Hour, church, play some games and whatever else I am interested in. I am also a member of Temple Baptist Church. I have a guardian angel here, Lisa Wagner, who is also from my church. She visits and sends me emails."

Melvin adds, "The food is good here, and I really can't complain about anything. I am all settled in, and I have my room the way I want it."

"It is a great place for people who need help. It is surprising how many people work here, and they are all helpful. Life is good at Ave Maria."



Ave Maria Village Gifts & Tributes

March 1 – May 31, 2015

Capital Campaign

Anonymous
Atonement Lutheran Church
Women
First Community Credit Union
Gordon Larson Foundation
Sharon Hatlewick
G. Sodawasser Family
Infinity Building Services
Loren Kopseng
KSJB/KISS 93.3 Radio
Alan & Genny Lindberg
Bette Parsons
Mike & Marilyn Smyth

In Memory of:

Ilean Backer
Gloria Bartlett
Allan & Dianne Zerr
David Bultema
Darold & Claudia Soupir
Billie Chapin
Reuben & Clarice Liechty
Colleen Conley
Jim & Sue Matthiesen
Gene Gossett
David & Elaine Hanson
Gene Gossett Family
Mary Ann Hanson
Patti DeBuck

Ray Heupel

Ardelle Loose
Jeremy Orn
Brad & Jan Barnes
Lois Peterson
Bonnie Bartsch
John Pierson
Marilyn Lobsinger
Blanche Readell
Gloria Bartlett
Doris Rode
Norm & DeLette Winkelman
Marlys Sjostrom
Carol Arnold
Ken & Janna Cumber
Don & Laura Eberhardt
Jim Suko
James River Speech Staff
Selma Tag
Brad & Jan Barnes
Friends of Selma Tag
Rodney Tramel
Patti DeBuck
Ethel Yetterboe
Helen Burleson
Marlyn Domek

In Honor of:
Martha[†] Stadel's Birthday
Ervin Stadel

Chapel Fund

In Memory of:
Lillian Jacobson
Mark & Claudia Jacobson
Elaine LeFevre
Don & Melida Schwehr
Lillian Schlecht
Wanda Walker
Ed Schlosser
Donald & Marie Olson
Martha Tag
Alice Alexander Family Trust
Selma Tag
Alice Alexander Family Trust
Mike Tryba
Don & Melida Schwehr
Ethel Yetterboe
Family of Ethel Yetterboe

In Honor of:

Neldae Frank
Rod & Barb Monson

Hour Club

Jan Barnes
Kay Benson
Roberta Bohl
Pam Boomgaarden
Jodi Bunde
Jane Christensen

Give a Gift in Honor or in Memory of a Friend or Loved One

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to Ave Maria Village.

Your name and address:

_____ in Memory of: _____
(Name of person to be memorialized)
_____ in Honor of: _____
(Name of person to be honored)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please send an acknowledgement to the family or person we/I am honoring:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Mail this request form and your gift to:

Attention: Jan Barnes
Ave Maria Village
501 19th St. NE
Jamestown, ND 58401



Doraine Keller

International company honors Ave Maria resident Doraine Keller

There's a big story behind the bright orange Bobcat blanket and Bobcat loader replicas that Ave Maria Village's Doraine Keller proudly displays in her residence.

Doraine's late husband, Louis Keller, was the inventor of the front-end loader known around the world today as the Bobcat. He passed away in 2010 after 22 years of marriage.

Louis, who was born in Rothsay, Minnesota, designed and built his first invention in 1948, a ribbon-auger tractor-mounted snowblower. He followed it up with a walk-behind variation the next year, manufacturing and selling his inventions himself. By 1953, as his business grew, he was joined by his brother Cyril.

Together the Kellers designed and fabricated another invention during the winter of 1956-57, the "Keller Self-Propelled Loader" — the precursor of the Bobcat. They sold their manufacturing rights to Melroe Manufacturing of Gwinner, N.D., in 1958.

The brothers both worked for Melroe and continued to improve their loader through three more evolutions. Now known as the Bobcat Skidsteer Loader, the famous machine reached a milestone in 2014 — the sale of its one-millionth unit worldwide. When Doraine was unable to attend the festivities in person, officials presented her with the mementos she shows off here at Ave Maria Village.

- Diana Elhard
- Lisa Entzminger
- Sarah Eppen
- Barb Erickson
- Sarah Frieze
- Linda Fuchs
- Sharyln Geerdes
- Tom Geffre
- Kristi Gerszewski
- Cecelia Glinz
- Missy Hase
- Darlene Hass
- Becky Heglund
- Claudia Holm
- Linda Johnson
- Sue Johnson
- Shannon Just
- Debra Koebernick
- Gary Koebernick
- Whitney Krebs
- Laurie Krebsbach
- Marilyn Lobsinger
- Michele Lunder
- Paula Moore
- Rob Moseng
- Robyn Nething
- Heather Olson
- Shirleen Pettet
- Sue Purdy

- Kim Ryan
- Jeanine Schmidt
- Caroline Scholand
- Raelene Schuh
- Amie Schultz
- Christian Senyoni
- Deb Steckler
- Annie Strickland
- Peter Vondal
- Paulette Webb
- Donna Wiberg

In-Kind Gifts

- Lift Chair*
Dr. Larry & Bev Hoffman
Ethel Yetterboe Family

McCoy Family Hospice Suite

- In Memory of:*
Lillian Schlecht
Betty Brosz
- Gene Gossett**
Ken & Pam Daugs
- Emil & Gertrude Guenther**
Gerald Guenther

- Daboldt Ketterling, Jr.**
Brian[†] & Debbie Clemens
- Wade Williams**
Brian[†] & Debbie Clemens

Resident Memorial Plaque

- In Memory of:*
Lucille Hettich
Doug & Kris Hettich
- Shirley Stevens**
Dawn Lausch
Shirley Stevens Family

Transport Center

- In Memory of:*
Ilean Backer
Brad & Jan Barnes
- Watson, beloved dog of Sue Johnson**
Brad & Jan Barnes
- Larry Matthiesen**
Brad & Jan Barnes
- Vernon Matthiesen**
Brad & Jan Barnes
- Ethel Yetterboe**
Alex & Annie (Hanson) Strickland



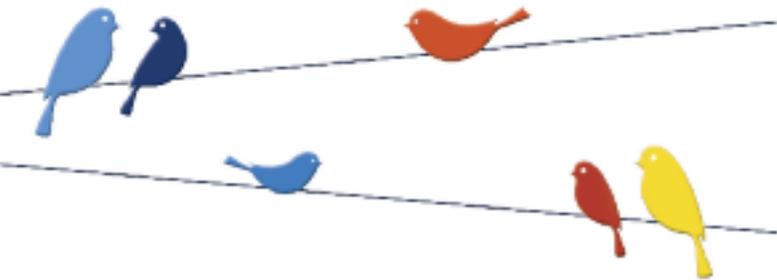
Ave Maria Village

SMP Health System

501 19th St. NW
Jamestown, ND 58401

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Volunteer Pie Social July 22, 2–4 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship and delicious pie ... and help complete our chapel.

Barthel Room, Ave Maria Village
Pie and Ice Cream
Coffee, Tea or Water
\$5

Whole pies will be available after 3:30 p.m.



Family and Friends of Ave Maria Our First Fun Walk August 1, 9 a.m.

Join us ... just for the health of it!

Walk the one-mile route once, twice or three times! Guests of all ages and capabilities are welcome to join us!

\$15 per person.

The first 12 registrants receive a \$15 Road ID gift card. Sign up to win a free Spa Day (\$185 value) from Top Designers Salon and Spa.

Early Bird Special – \$10 per person.
(Entries must be postmarked by July 24.)
Children 10 and under are free.



Laugh with C. Willi Myles September 27, 7 p.m.

University of Jamestown
Reiland Fine Arts Center
Tickets \$20.00

Join the Ave Maria Village family and friends for a benefit performance by a truly hilarious, family-friendly comedian. He has performed across America and abroad, appearing on national TV and at New York's legendary Apollo Theater.

"America's Everyday Comedian" — will tickle you with a hilarious, down-to-earth performance guaranteed free from bad language and off-color humor.

Comedy at its best!