

www.stcolumbanshome.org

# St. Columban's *Today*

St. Columban's On The Lake Retirement Home

Spring 2010



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# A Hallmark Celebration

By Sr. Corona Colleary,  
Administrator

Celebrations are a time-honored tradition for us to acknowledge special events or milestones in our lives.



This year we have immense reason to celebrate: May 1st 2010 marks the 40th Anniversary of St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home. In the spring of 1970, a dream became reality for the Columban Sisters as St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home officially opened its doors and welcomed its first residents to their new home. To date, over 700 elderly men and women have called St. Columban's on the Lake home. Our mission has guided us in our journey to offer a homelike atmosphere where elderly men and women of all faiths can pursue their individual interests, while receiving unparalleled services from a dedicated staff. Our mission statement "Until everyone lives in dignity... none of us can live in peace" is the hallmark of St. Columban's on the Lake. This issue highlights our history, our present day and our dreams for the future.

# Festival Time Is Just Around The Corner

Sunday June 6, 2010 will mark the 54th Annual Columban Sisters Spring Festival. Beginning at noon and featuring a large array of booths and tasty treats, this annual event is the main fundraiser for the Columban Sisters worldwide missions.

Plans have been underway during the past year to incorporate some new and exciting dimensions to this year's experience. Circle the date on your calendar and come out and enjoy the fun with family and friends. Try your luck on some of many of the games of chance, enjoy a delicious Chiavetta's Chicken Barbeque with all the trimmings and take home some delicious homemade baked goods. The 54th Annual Columban Sisters Spring Festival has something for everyone!

This year the proceeds will support the missionary efforts of the Columban Sisters around the globe. The needy men, women and children in Chile, China/Hong Kong, Pakistan, Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, England, Scotland and the United States will benefit from your support. The day will culminate with our annual raffle and over \$5,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. So plan on being part of the tradition and enjoy an early kick off to the summer season!

*Each issue of St. Columban's Today features a special insert which highlights an area where the Columban Sisters minister and gives you a firsthand glimpse of how your support helps those less fortunate.*



## 54<sup>th</sup> Spring Festival

**Sunday, June 6, 2010, Noon-6pm**

\* **\$5000 in cash prizes**  
\* **Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ**  
\* **Children's activities & games**  
\* **Gift & craft booths**  
\* **Classic Cars Cruise**

To benefit the  
Columban Sisters  
worldwide  
missions

Rte 5, Three Miles West of  
Silver Creek, New York  
716-934-4515  
[www.stecolumbanhome.org](http://www.stecolumbanhome.org)

**St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home**

► On the Cover: Sr. Corona Colleary (l) joins in greeting two of the first residents to St. Columban's home in the spring of 1970.

# 40th Anniversary Celebration Underway

## Year-long celebration features kickoff of Anniversary Fund Drive

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home. The year long celebration kicked off with a Mass on New Year's Day. Plans have been underway way since last year to give this milestone in our history some pizzazz.

Our logo has a new look for this anniversary year and will be incorporated into all advertisements and mailings. Celebrations will include a Special Volunteer Appreciation Day to acknowledge all the countless hours of dedicated support offered to the home and the Columban Sisters.

In early May, we will gather for a Mass of Celebration followed by a

reception and special meal. Memory boards now fill the home with views of our past and all the accomplishments we hold so dear. Throughout the summer our anniversary will be celebrated in all our functions and events including the 54th Annual Columban Sisters Spring Festival, Family and Thank You Picnic and numerous other seasonal happenings.

As part of the celebration, we will kick off a 40th Anniversary Fund Drive to help us meet our goals for the future by raising one million dollars. A special mailing will highlight this portion of

our celebration, allowing all to be part of the future of St. Columban's on the Lake.



▶ Historical memory boards line the first floor hallway.



▶ In the late 1920s, seminary students sit beneath the original sign at St. Columban's Preparatory Seminary, later to become St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home.

▶ The current sign is a welcome greeting to visitors at the entrance to St. Columban's on the Lake.

# Our Family Past And Present

Saluting the members of our community of care



During the past 40 years, St. Columban's has embraced thousands of people – the Sisters, residents and their families, staff members, volunteers, retired clergy and scores of friends and benefactors from the surrounding communities and around the globe. No matter how far reaching its influence, however, St. Columban's remains very much a close knit family.

An atmosphere of mutual caring and concern is the way of life at St. Columban's. The Sisters, supported by a dedicated staff, provide the necessary administrative, health care and social services, never forgetting the personal touch, thus allowing each member of our family the opportunity to pursue individual interests and goals in an environment of dignity and respect.

St. Columban's group of loyal

volunteers make possible many of the activities enjoyed by the residents including games, movies, musical entertainment, special events, exercise programs, shopping and outings to local points of interest.

Our resident families enjoy the opportunity to visit with family members throughout the year and at special yearly events such as the annual Spring Festival and Summer Family Picnic and numerous other special events and activities held all through the year.

The Columban Fathers serve as chaplains, assist at religious services and share their wide-ranging experiences with others at the home. A vast array of friends and benefactors support the home with monetary donations

and in-kind services.

In touch with the community through active involvement in the Wholeness and Wellness Program, our resident family is an integral part of community partnership programs.

The St. Columban's choir can be seen as well as heard entertaining residents at local health care facilities and adult

services venues. Our numerous social events are excellent opportunities for seniors in our community to socialize and reminisce.

The extended family of St. Columban's on the Lake has paved the way for our future through their talents and support in the present and the past. To all those special men and women, families, residents and benefactors we are extremely thankful!



# Four Decades Of Outstanding Care For The Elderly



# Through The Years

## St. Columban's keeps apace of changing times

In 1926, St. Columban's on the Lake was opened as a Junior Seminary for young men studying for a vocation as missionary priests. The Columban Sisters joined the Columban Fathers shortly after the seminary was opened and assisted in many of the day-to-day duties associated with running the school. In the late 1960's, as the number of young men entering the priesthood began to decline, the Columban Fathers transferred ownership of the building and grounds to the Columban Sisters who renovated the building into a retirement home which began operation on May 1, 1970.

Classrooms were transformed into resident rooms; the original chapel became the residents' lounge with the sacristy transformed into a coffee shop; and the unique Chinese Room became an elegant living room. These

▶ The Chinese Room at St. Columban's, 1926. All the décor and furnishings in this room were brought from China by the Columban Fathers who established missions there.



were just some of the original renovations. As we grew and our resident family changed, St. Columban's on the Lake changed with the times.

As the need for additional comforts and benefits associated with a retirement lifestyle became part of the day-to-day norm, St. Columban's

secured funding and support from numerous individuals and organizations to make the needed renovations and improvements to the home. Today, St. Columban's has a unique competency in Western New York as a retirement home for the well elderly, not only meeting, but exceeding the needs of our resident family. Our home is equipped with central air conditioning, safe and secure grounds

where residents can stroll on garden walkways and enjoy beautiful manicured gardens, a tranquil waterfall and fountain, scenic vistas of Lake Erie and the ability to socialize or relax with friends at the lakeside gazebo.

Our Wholeness and Wellness Program, now in its ninth year, meets the needs of the men and women of St. Columban's offering them the opportunity to pursue individual interests in a myriad of activities and venues including physical exercise, spirituality, and socialization, as well as the intellectual, vocational and emotional aspects of their lives. Come visit us and experience all that makes St. Columban's a home for so many special men and women in our community.

1970-2010 **40** ST. COLUMBAN'S  
On the Lake  
*Celebrating 40 years of service to the elderly*



▶ The Chinese Room today retains its unique charm while serving residents as an elegant living room.



▶ The original chapel, 1926. This chapel served the seminarians before the current chapel was built.



▶ After the current chapel was built, the original chapel became the residents' lounge, shown here during a social gathering in 2004.

# A Winning Combination

## Dorie & Rachel personify the ageless volunteer spirit at St. Columban's

Doris (Dorie) Manning and Rachel Hoff are a winning combination. As part of our volunteer family, they demonstrate the ageless spirit of generosity through their volunteer activities at the home.

### Dorie Manning

Dorie came to volunteer at St. Columbans in 2007 when she became acquainted with the home while visiting a friend. This year Dorie and her husband, Don will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. They have been blessed with two grandchildren, Matthew and Tonya and a great grandson, Noah. As a volunteer, Dorie's exuberance and genuine passion for helping make a difference in the lives of our resident family. Her caring and comforting personality enables her to assist in a myriad of activities and programs, including helping with picnics and special holiday meals, hosting entertainment, calling bingo and visiting residents to name just a few. Her love of woodworking produces extraordinary works of art. She has shared two of her creations with us for use in our holiday décor; a whimsical hand-carved miniature sleigh with tiny reindeer and elves for our main floor and a traditional hand-carved nativity scene.

### Rachel Hoff

Rachel Hoff is an extraordinary, youthful volunteer. She is from Niagara Falls and is currently a graduate student majoring in English Literature at Fredonia State College. She enjoys writing, reading, crocheting and playing a hand of poker. During an American Studies Class, Rachel was introduced to St. Columban's while participating in a General Community Services Program. Rachel grew to love the residents and the homelike atmosphere of St. Columbans, so she inquired about becoming a volunteer. Her enthusiasm and love for the elderly was contagious. She initially began as a visiting volunteer and soon found herself participating and contributing to our summer picnics, holiday activities, programs and entertainments. Her organizational skills proved to be a tremendous asset



▶ Dorie Manning offers a cookie to a judge during the annual Employee Cookie Bake Off.



▶ Rachel Hoff (l) and resident, Evelyn Martin share a laugh after an enjoyable time using the Wii.

to the home. She was an integral part in helping to organize and decorate our entry in the annual Silver Creek Festival of Grapes Parade last September. Currently, she is introducing the residents to the new Wii system that was given as a Christmas gift from Lynn and Bob Palyszeski, the daughter and son-in-law of resident, Margaret Huff.

We are truly grateful for the gift that Dorie and Rachel bring to St. Columban's. In addition we offer a sincere "Thank You!" for the immeasurable gifts of time and talent offered by our dedicated volunteer family during the past 40 years!



▶ Retirement at St. Columban's has sweet rewards!



**ST. COLUMBAN'S**  
*On the Lake*  
RETIREMENT HOME

*St. Columban's on the Lake Retirement Home was established in 1970 by the Columban Sisters whose experience and dedication in caring for people is well-known in the health, education and social work fields. St. Columban's offers retirement living for senior singles and couples of all faiths, private rooms in a beautiful, lakeside setting and accommodations to suit a variety of budget needs.*

*To add a name to our newsletter mailing list, call 716-934-4515. For more information, visit [www.stcolumbanshome.org](http://www.stcolumbanshome.org).*



**ST. COLUMBAN'S**  
*On the Lake*

*St. Columban's on the Lake  
Retirement Home  
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