

# The Compassionate Servants

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Dear Supporters of SSMI:

On Thanksgiving Day and every day, we count you, our friends and generous benefactors, as one of God's blessings to us.

This year marked the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our work in the Cleveland area. In this time, your support and faithfulness to us and our mission to care for the homebound elderly has remained steadfast.

SSMI has provided direct multiple services to over 200 homebound elderly in 2007. These services are the ones they are often unable to access by themselves. The Sisters provide a vital role in either linking the people with the necessary resources or by helping them directly with whatever help they may need. A few highlights of the year included the semiannual Healing Mass held in March and October, where (combined) more than 400 elders came together to experience God's healing through attending mass, receiving the anointing of the sick and sharing in the Eucharist.

With the holidays fast approaching, we will be arranging for our homebound elderly to receive a hot Thanksgiving meal. We will also be planning a Christmas party for them. (Please let us know if you would like to participate in these events by volunteering a few hours of your time.)

During these final weeks of the year, you may be reflecting on all of the blessings you have received and are trying to decide how you could return a blessing to those who are less fortunate. If possible, we humbly ask that you remember our ministry in your year-end charitable giving. A preaddressed envelope is enclosed should you be able to make a tax-deductible contribution by December 31, 2007.

Thank you for being one of our most generous and cherished blessings. May God continue to keep you in His loving care and know that you are remembered in the prayers and good works of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate/Special Ministry to the Aged.

God Bless You & Happy Thanksgiving!

*Sisters Anna, Barbara, Ce Ann & Marianna*

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate



## Sixth Annual Dinner Dance Benefits Endowment Fund



The Sixth Annual "Stars on Broadway" Dinner Dance & Silent Auction was held on September 22, 2007, at the Alliance of Poles Hall in Slavic Village with a sell-out crowd of more than 250 attendees. The event raised funds to benefit the SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sister Amelia Kuska which will allow the Sisters to continue their mission of serving the elderly throughout Cleveland.

Channels 19 & 43 Reporter Paul Orlousky acted as the event's emcee and representatives from SSMI's Baltimore provincial house were in attendance, including Provincial Superior Sr. Krystyna Mroczek. The event also included dinner by Novotny Catering, live music from The Standard Thyme Band and jewelry by A.B. Jewelers.

Several raffles highlighted the evening with prizes such as a wheelbarrow full of wine, cash, door prizes, a digital camera and two high-definition televisions. Congratulations to all of the winners!

**The next Dinner Dance is already scheduled for September 20, 2008, so mark your new calendars now!**

## Spread the Word

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving this publication or learning more about the SSMI Ministry, contact us by phone at (216) 441-5402, by e-mail at SSMIendowment@hotmail.com or through our website at www.SSMIendowment.org.

## Meet Sister Barbara Bugala

Sister Barbara joined the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate community in her native Poland in 1964. After completing her formation and professing final vows in August 1971, she was assigned to the American Province in Catonsville, Maryland. During her time in the Province, she worked in various assignments at the nursing home and attended Villa Julie College in Stevenson, Maryland, where she obtained an associate in arts degree.

In 1976 Sr. Barbara was assigned in helping to establish the new ministry in Cleveland to the homebound elderly called "The Special Ministry to the Aged." During this time, she further pursued her college studies. In 1981 she obtained her bachelor of arts degree in Theology from St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan, and finished a coporal pastoral care program at St. Louis University in Missouri. After her studies, she once again returned to Cleveland and worked as a case manger for Catholic Charities Special Ministry to the Aged.

Sister Barbara Bugala was elected by her community members and became provincial superior, where she served in this role from 1987 thru 1996 in Catonsville, Maryland. In 1996, after her term expired as provincial superior, Sr. Barbara returned to Cleveland and began serving once again as a case manager with the Special Ministry. She also joined the pastoral staff at Holy Family Home in Parma in 2004.

Sr. Barbara's life is reflected in her generous self giving to those who are most vulnerable and in her service to those who are in the winter seasons of their lives.



Sister Barbara Bugala

SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska  
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## 2007/2008 Calendar of Events

**November 21, 2007** – Thanksgiving Lunch for Volunteers and delivery of Thanksgiving meals.

**March 22, 2008** – Blessing of Easter food "Swieconka" by Rev. Walter Jenny at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and delivery of meals.

**September 20, 2008** – Seventh Annual Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate Dinner Dance and Silent Auction to benefit the SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska.