

The Compassionate Servants

SSMI

Sr. Krystyna Mroczek
Provincial Superior

Rev. Walter H. Jenne
Spiritual Advisor

Board of Trustees

Mr. John Bednarski
Sr. Barbara Bugala
Sr. Carol Carne
Mr. Arthur Cerio
Mr. Michael Collins
Mr. John L. Dogger
Sr. Anna Kaszuba
Sr. Krystyna Mroczek
Sr. Ce Ann Sambor
Mr. Eugene Trela

Advisory Board

Mr. Richard Abramczyk
Mrs. Joanne Abramczyk
Mr. Eugene Bak
Ms. Karen Bukovac
Mrs. Kathy Dogger
Mr. Lawrence S. Duda
Mr. Thomas G. Farrell
Mrs. Emily Gasiorek
Mr. Hank Gasiorek
Mrs. Marie Gerace
Ms. Margot Klima
Mr. David Konopinski
Mrs. Lisa Mackin
Mr. Michael Mackin
Mr. Robert Sadlowski
Mr. Robert Wing

The Compassionate Servants is a semiannual publication of the SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska.

Editor & Designer:

 **Lisa Mackin**
Public Relations

Contributing Writers:

Sr. Anna Kaszuba
Margot Klima
Sr. Ce Ann Sambor

Published by:

Minuteman Press

SSMI

Box 25072
Cleveland, OH 44125
Office: 216-441-5402
Fax: 216-441-4510

SSMIendowment@hotmail.com
SSMIendowment.org

Fall 2008 – Issue 6

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 32nd 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 2008. 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 pre-addressed envelope is enclosed should you be able to make a tax-deductible contribution by December 31, 2008.

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*

Seventh Annual Dinner Dance Benefits Endowment Fund

The Seventh Annual "Stars on Broadway" Dinner Dance & Silent Auction was held on September 20, 2008, at the Alliance of Poles Hall in Slavic Village with a sell-out crowd of more than 225 attendees. The event raised funds to benefit the SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sister Amelia Kuska which allows 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 and live music from The Standard Thyme Band.

Several raffles highlighted the evening with prizes such as a wheelbarrow full of wine and liquor, door prizes and cash giveaways. Congratulations to all of the winners!

The next Dinner Dance is already scheduled for September 19, 2009, so mark your new calendars now!

Leaving a Legacy

The SSMI Endowment Fund, started in Memory of Sister Amelia Kuska in now accepting Planned Gifts to allow the Sisters to continue their mission of serving the elderly throughout Cleveland. If you are thinking of placing the Sisters in your will or have already done, so please contact Sister Ce Ann Sambor.

Meet Julia Podzinek



Seated in front of one of her many paintings, Julia Podzinek and Sister Barbara Bugala.

Julia Podzinek was a very special person, always with a smile on her face, a welcoming and compassionate heart and time for others. A native of Yugoslavia, she came to live in the Slavic Village neighborhood in 1949. For many years, she was a caregiver of a dear friend whom she took into her own home.

Julia was well educated, painting and writing poetry, often gifting her work to others. She spoke six languages, but very little English.

When her neighborhood began to deteriorate, Julia began to fear for her life and her belongings, having been robbed several times and a target for vandals who would bang on her doors and spray graffiti on her house. She was virtually a prisoner in her own home, spending most of her days sleeping so she could stay awake at night to safeguard her possessions. With the encouragement of the Sisters, Julia moved to Lourexis – a senior housing apartment still in the neighborhood. The Sisters helped Julia to adjust, visiting her, arranging for Meals on Wheels and providing translation and interpretation services as well as spiritual encouragement.

When Julia's health began to deteriorate, the Sisters were there for her, helping her when she had eye surgery and broke her arm and wrist.

Julia passed away at the Hospice of the Western Reserve at the age of 96. The Sisters followed her in death as well, attending her funeral along with her friends from the Church of the Nazarene in Akron, where she belonged for many years.

Cleveland, OH 44125

Box 25072

SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska



2008 Calendar of Events

September 19, 2009 – Eighth Annual Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate Dinner Dance and Silent Auction to benefit the SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska.

Alliance of Poles of America
6966 Broadway Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44105
6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.



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.