

The Compassionate Servants

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SSMI Celebrate 30th Year in Cleveland Diocese

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI) invite the community to celebrate its 30 years of ministering to the elderly in Slavic Village and neighboring communities on Saturday, May 6, 2006, at 4 p.m. Mass to be celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 6700 Lansing Avenue, Cleveland. Light refreshments will be served in the parish hall following Mass.

Since 1976, at the request of former Bishop of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, James A. Hickey, the Sisters, a Polish order of nuns, developed their Special Ministry to the Aged, providing care to nearly 100 homebound elderly each month. Following up on referrals from local hospitals, parish churches, relatives or police, the four Polish-speaking sisters of the present-day ministry form a case management team to help older adults live independently in their own homes as long as possible.

Since January 2005, the Sisters expanded their ministry to provide pastoral care to residents and their families at the Holy Family Home in Parma.

Healing Mass Held March 19, 2006

A bilingual Mass, with anointing of the sick for the elderly and homebound, was celebrated on Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 6700 Lansing Avenue, to honor St. Joseph with the Anointing of the Sick.

Those who are ill or have a constant physical ailment or stressful condition were in attendance, along with their family and friends.

After the Mass, everyone was invited for coffee and refreshments in the Parish Hall.

2006 Calendar of Events

April 15 – Blessing of Traditional Easter Meals by Fr. Walter Jenne

May 6 – SSMI 30th Anniversary Mass

September 23 – Fifth Annual Dinner Dance & Silent Auction

October 15 – Special Mass for the Elderly Honoring the Blessed Mother of the Rosary



2005 Dinner Dance Raises \$35,000 for Endowment

On Saturday, September 25, 2005, almost 250 friends of the Sisters Servants came together at the Alliance of Poles Hall in Slavic Village to attend the Fourth Annual Dinner Dance & Silent Auction. Delightful musical entertainment by The Standard Thyme Band, a marvelous sit-down dinner catered by Novotny Catering and a Silent Auction featuring dozens of wonderful items to bid on completed the evening.

The event raised more than \$35,000 to support the ongoing development of the SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska. More importantly, it brought together board members, old friends and new friends to celebrate the ministry and work the Sisters have done for almost 30 years in The Diocese of Cleveland.

Thank you to everyone who made this evening such a wonderful success.

Mark Your Calendars NOW!

The Fifth Annual Dinner Dance to benefit the SSMI Endowment in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska will be **September 23, 2006**.

We Need You!

As you know the success of any event involves countless numbers of people. If you have the time, talent or resources, your help could be used at the next Dinner Dance in the following areas:

- Donate a Silent Auction gift
- Create a Silent Auction basket
- Help decorate the hall on the morning of the event
- Solicit gift certificates from stores or restaurants
- Help the night of the event by selling raffle tickets

If you would like to volunteer your skills, please contact us by phone at (216) 441-5402 or by email at SSMIendowment@hotmail.com.

“Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it to me.”

Matthew 25:40

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 email at SSMIendowment@hotmail.com or through our website at www.SSMIendowment.org.

The Legacy of Sister M. Amelia Kuska

Sister M. Amelia Kuska, SSMI, was born in Poland on June 20, 1931. She was assigned to the American Province of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Catonsville, Maryland, in 1961. There, she served in various leadership capacities, including the Community's Director of Novices and Administrator of St. Joseph's Nursing Home.

In 1976, the Sisters were invited to minister to the elderly on Cleveland's southeast side, known as Slavic Village. Sr. Amelia served as the first director of the Special Ministry to the Aged program from its inception in 1976 to 1993.

Under her guidance, various corporal and spiritual programs were established in which the mission of mercy and care to many of the poor, sick, forgotten and frail elderly took root and continues to expand to this day.

Sr. Amelia was tireless in her energies and unlimited in the love she poured out to the elderly and many homebound shut-ins. She was equally relentless in persuading others to lend their energies and resources to help expand the ministry.

An endowment fund to receive tax-deductible contributions has been established to contribute to the work of serving the elderly.



SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska
Box 25072
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SSMI Endowment Fund in Memory of Sr. Amelia Kuska

The endowment fund will provide for the Special Ministry so that the Sisters may continue serving the needs of the elderly in Northeast Ohio, regardless of nationality, religion or race.

The funding of the endowment may be derived from cash and stock gifts, charitable bequests, remainder interests of trusts, life insurance proceeds, residual gift annuities and memorial gifts.

The income of the fund ensures the ministry begun by Sr. Amelia may continue serving the needs of the elderly. While current income is required to support the day-to-day operations of the Sisters' ministry, tax-deductible contributions to the endowment are invested and closely monitored. The fund's earnings will be used to provide for the future operating needs of the ministry.