

Hello Care Teams,
Hard to believe it's already May 1!

In this newsletter, you'll find conversation starters on the topic of Memorial Day, as well as an article by Diane Farsetta on fostering relationships in long-term care facilities. Those of you who joined us for the Dementia Toolkit event last year will recognize Diane. We're also sharing information about two important events coming up in May: the Saint Margaret sensory-friendly Adoration and Mass and an Emmaus Ministry event. Please share both as appropriate.

Marisa is taking over the newsletter, so please keep an eye out each month for an email from her account: mthiel@ccmadison.org.

We look forward to seeing you at your meetings in May, but in the meantime, please let us know if there's anything we can do for you.

Thank you for the many ways you show up—visiting others and caring with compassion. Your ministry matters more than you know!



HAPPY
Anniversary!

Epiphany of the Lord	2011
St Cletus	2008
St Thomas Aquinas	2005

SAVE
THE
DATE

September 22
for our annual retreat

"She loves these visits! When you get to that age, all of your friends are gone or are only people you talk to on the phone. So these visits – to have a friend come to see her - has been really special." Family caregiver quote



1. What do you remember Memorial Day being like when you were a child or young adult?
2. Did your family have any special Memorial Day traditions or routines?
3. Do you recall attending Memorial Day parades or ceremonies in your hometown?
4. Were there people you remember honoring on Memorial Day when you were growing up?
5. How was Memorial Day typically explained or talked about in your family or community?
6. Do you remember any songs, marches, or music associated with Memorial Day events?
7. What kinds of gatherings or meals were common for Memorial Day in your younger years?
8. Did Memorial Day feel different during certain decades of your life? In what ways?
9. Do you remember decorating graves or visiting cemeteries on Memorial Day?
10. Were there friends or relatives who served in the military that you think of on Memorial Day?
11. How did schools or churches observe Memorial Day when you were younger?
12. Have you ever taken part in a Memorial Day parade?
13. Do you recall wearing specific clothing, uniforms, or symbols for Memorial Day?
14. How did Memorial Day mark the start of summer in earlier years for you?
15. Are there particular stories or moments from a Memorial Day that stand out in your memory?
16. What was your favorite part of Memorial Day parades or activities?
17. Have you taken part in community service or volunteer activities connected to Memorial Day?
18. What smells, sounds, or sights most remind you of Memorial Day from long ago?
19. Is there someone you like to remember quietly each Memorial Day?
20. What do you hope younger generations understand about the purpose of Memorial Day?



Fostering Relationships in Long-Term Care by Diane Farsetta

What is the difference between the medical model of care and person-centered care?

For Tonya Roberts, RN, PhD, it's all about the relationships.

"Person-centered care is part of this culture change movement, which is a systematic transformation of the entire nature and philosophy of long-term care," explains Roberts, who is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Nursing.

"Historically, long-term care is institutional, medically driven, task focused types of care. Person-centered care is focused on the quality of life that an individual has, what makes them a person, and organizes care around the individual rather than the task."

Roberts previously worked as an assistant director of nursing, nursing supervisor and CNA, all in nursing home settings. She learned about person-centered care during her graduate studies at UW–Madison.

Tonya Roberts "I knew person-centered care was what the long-term care field needed," she says.

Roberts' research focuses on effective ways to deliver person-centered care in nursing homes. She's found that relationships—between staff and residents and among the residents themselves—are key.

For her doctoral dissertation, "I tried to understand the process by which residents and staff develop close relationships. Relationships are considered the fundamental building block to person-centered care, but that's not well defined," says Roberts. "What is a close relationship? How do you foster them?"

In a small pilot study, Roberts asked nursing home residents about the caregiving staff with whom they interacted. Residents had different approaches to talking to staff about their care. Some people knew what they wanted and asked for it. Others knew what they wanted but didn't ask for it. Other people weren't sure what they wanted and so didn't say anything.

Roberts was surprised to find that the residents who shared their care preferences with staff weren't necessarily the same people who had close relationships with staff. She thinks that might change if long-term care residents have tools that help them communicate with staff.

Diane Farsetta CARE Manager

Center for Aging Research and Education
CARE at the UW-Madison School of Nursing



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While much of the attention to relationship building in person-centered care focuses on the dynamic between staff and residents, Roberts says fostering relationships among residents is also incredibly important.

While a busy, varied activities calendar is often considered an indicator of nursing home quality, it can unintentionally make it more difficult for residents to get to know each other.

"You're rolled in at the start of this structured activity," says Roberts. "Whether it's singing or music or bingo or whatever, you get involved in that activity immediately. You don't have the opportunity to interact with the people around you. As soon as the activity's over, there's an effort by staff to get everyone out of the room and back to where they came from."

Roberts remembers exactly what one nursing home resident told her years ago: "You don't even have time to look somebody up."

In addition to giving residents time for free-form discussion, it's helpful to have common space in the facility "just for people to get together and be together," suggests Roberts.

Meals provide another relationship-building opportunity. "Residents form connections with the people who they sit with around a table," says Roberts.

Getting resident input on mealtime seating arrangements can help foster relationships, as well as not changing seating "once residents have established a regular table, unless it's absolutely necessary." What seems like a small seating switch to staff "can end a relationship that's really important to someone," warns Roberts.

Room and roommate decisions, which are often based on health needs, space constraints and other logistics, also impact residents' ability to form and maintain meaningful relationships with their peers.

"If a resident is moved down the hall, or moved to another unit because maybe there's an infection control issue or maybe they had a fall, that may end a relationship," says Roberts. "Because of the limited functional capacity that many nursing home residents have, they're no longer able to get to the person who they used to talk to and share things with."

Likewise, roommate decisions are best made with resident input, considering the compatibility of two people's schedules, interests and health needs.

"One resident said to me, 'The staff here just don't get it. They can go home after work and have a glass of wine and forget about their day. But I can't leave. I can't even get out of my bed,'" says Roberts. "It's profound knowledge that some people are captive. They need control over who's brought into their space."

Roberts sees the goal of both her research and teaching as "bringing that human aspect forward. The people in nursing homes are valuable individuals who deserve dignity, respect and care. They've had triumphs and tragedies and achievements and a lifetime of work, meaning and purpose. If we can keep that at the forefront of our minds, it would make a tremendous difference."

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

Diocese of Madison
St. Margaret
Sensory
Friendly
Adoration and
Mass

with Bishop Hying



*St. Margaret of Castello,
pray for us!*

SUNDAY, MAY 3
9 AM - ADORATION
10 AM - MASS

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

HOLY NAME ORATORY
702 S. HIGH POINT RD.,
MADISON

**Sponsored by the Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities -
Diocese of Madison. Please RSVP by April 24 to
APD@madisondiocese.org or 608-821-3050**

What does Sensory Friendly mean?

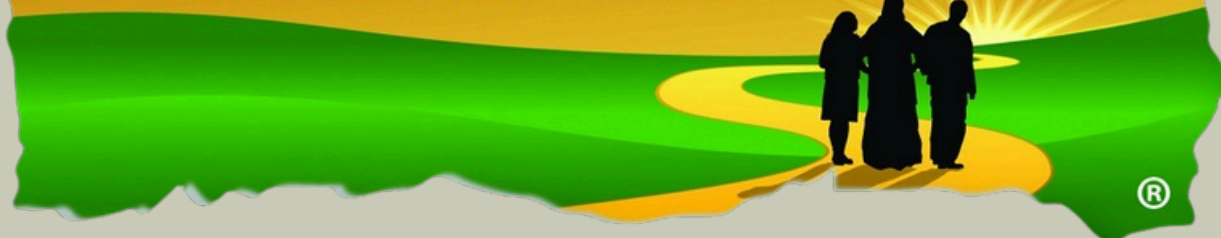
We will have softer music, dimmer lighting, and pictorial resources for those with accommodation needs. Families are encouraged to bring materials that can assist with comfort during the liturgy: noise cancelling headphones, wiggle seats, fidgets, etc. For this Mass, we will have some of these available for use as well. We understand there are people who may need to move or make sounds throughout. All are welcome to this Mass.

Please request any additional accommodations and

note any allergies or dietary restrictions when you make your reservation.

The Emmaus Ministry

FOR GRIEVING PARENTS



ARE YOU GRIEVING THE LOSS OF YOUR CHILD?

Join other parents for a one-day spiritual retreat.

Emmaus Ministry serves the spiritual needs of parents whose children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago.

May 30, 2026

9AM-7PM

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH

280 HABERDALE DR.

FOOTVILLE, WI 53537

To register, scan the QR code or go to www.emfgp.org. A free-will offering covers lunch, dinner, and retreat materials.



Questions? Call Sharon at 608-492-2221 or email StCletusmw@gmail.com. Email apd@madisondiocese.org to request retreat accommodations (sign language, large-print, closed captioning, ramp access, dietary needs, etc.)



DIOCESE of
MADISON

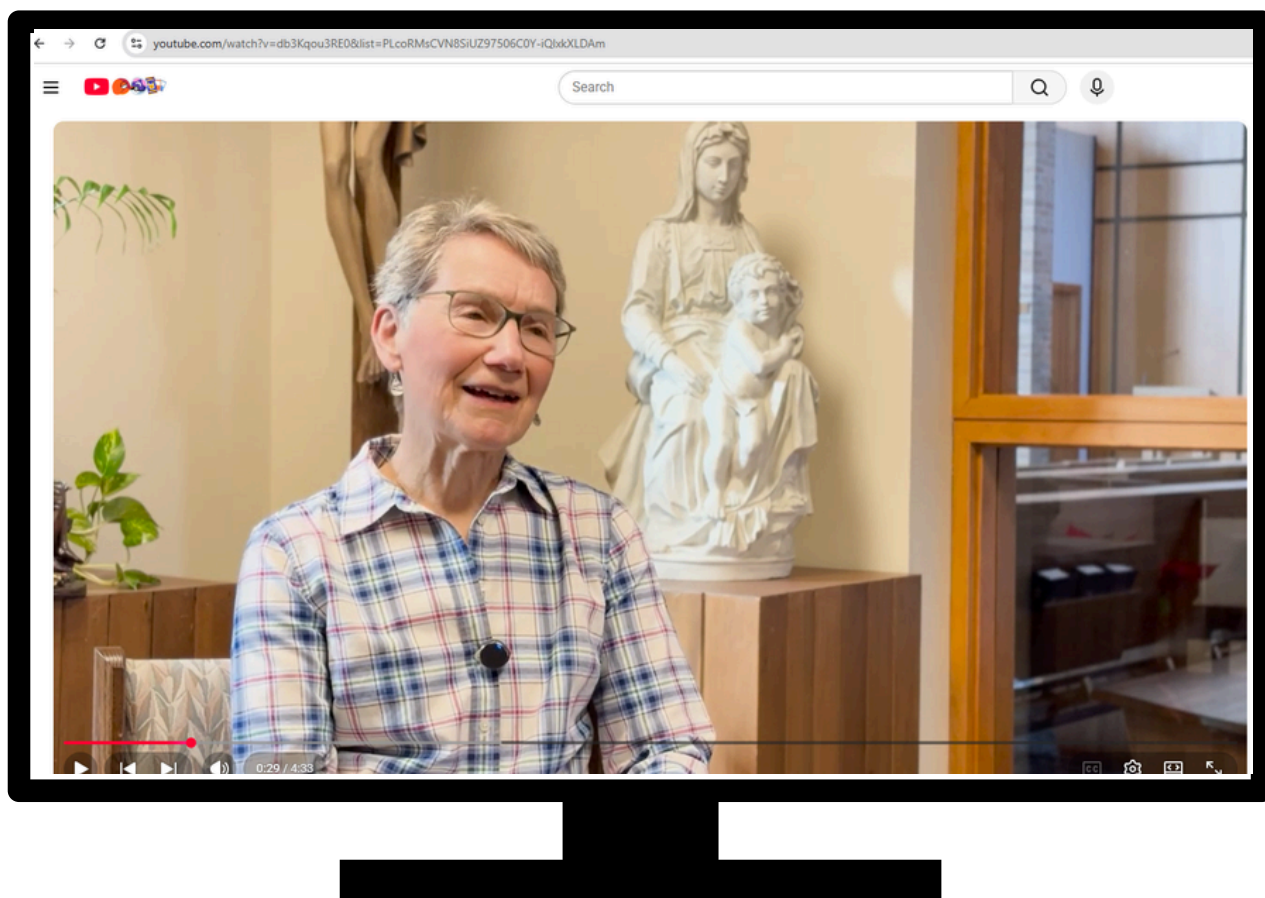


APOSTOLATE FOR
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES



MENTAL
HEALTH
MINISTRY

Remember to share our wonderful Care Team video. This resource is perfect for use in your parish to highlight our ministry and inspire others to join our efforts. If you're interested, just ask us how to get started!



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