

Care Team Ministry **NEWSLETTER**



June 2026

Warm greetings, Care Team!

With the warmth of summer just around the corner and signs of life blooming all around us, we are reminded of God's wonderful gift of creation and renewal.

As the long, sun-filled days arrive, it is the perfect time to find quiet moments of peace, reflection, and spiritual refreshment. In this spirit of gratitude, we share this newsletter with you.

SAVE THE DATE!
September 22
Annual Retreat



In this issue, you'll find:

- *☀️ An overview of our Parish Social Ministries structure
- *☀️ An 'articlet' celebrating Great Outdoors Month this June
- *☀️ 21 summer-themed conversation starters for your visits
- *☀️... and a book suggestion for your summer reading

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

— James 1:17 (NIV)

With Deepest Gratitude—

Thank you for your compassion, time, and care. Your presence enriches lives and is a beautiful sign of hope in action.

Parish Social Ministries

Parish Social Ministries mobilizes parish volunteers across the 11 counties of the Diocese of Madison to serve neighbors in need close to home. Working through trained teams rooted in local faith communities, Parish Social Ministries connects people with food, companionship, and resources in the communities where they already live.



Our Mission

Catholic Charities of Madison demonstrates Christ's love and justice by caring in faith for the human family. We do this through programs that serve people experiencing poverty, homelessness, addiction, food insecurity, and immigration challenges, along with adults and families navigating aging and disability.

Care Team Ministry

Care Team Ministry is a collaboration between Catholic Charities, Oakwood Foundation, and congregation-based volunteer teams. Trained volunteers make regular social visits to older adults who are isolated in their homes or care facilities, offering companionship, presence, and connection to their faith and broader community. Support is social, non-medical, and non-proselytizing. All volunteers complete background checks and training in confidentiality, boundaries, active listening, dementia care, emergency response, and communication.

Mobile Food Pantries

In partnership with Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, Catholic Charities coordinates mobile food pantries in rural communities across the Diocese of Madison where hunger relief options are limited.

Pantries operate monthly in Boscobel, Fort Atkinson, Highland, Janesville, Monroe, Patch Grove, Platteville, and Columbia County, staffed by volunteers from local parish partners.

Walking with Moms in Need

Walking with Moms is a parish-based program that accompanies women through pregnancy and early motherhood, connecting them with the care, resources, and community they need. No mother should have to navigate this journey alone.

Join us in supporting moms, dads, and families by forming a Walking with Moms team in your parish.

HOW TO HELP

Contact Melissa Kelley at mkelley@ccmadison.org or (608) 826-8003 to learn about how Catholic Charities can form a WWMIN or Care Team with you in your local faith community.




GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

Celebrating the Gift of Creation in June

The arrival of June brings *Great Outdoors Month*—a wonderful reminder of the physical, mental, and spiritual importance of stepping outside to experience nature.


Spending time outdoors has been shown to lower stress, improve mood, and boost physical well-being. For our wisest generations and every soul in between, a breath of fresh air and a view of God's green earth can be incredibly restorative.


As we continue to be blessed with warmer weather, there are plenty of accessible ways to safely enjoy nature together with your Care Partner at either their home *or* long-term care facility, such as:

-  Enjoying a shaded conversation on a porch, patio, or outdoor common area.
-  Taking a short, gentle stroll along a paved path or sidewalk.
-  Watching birds or identifying local summer flowers during a stroll or while seated.



Local Resource Tip:

 Did you know that Wisconsin offers a fantastic opportunity for our older adults to enjoy the great outdoors?

 Wisconsin residents 65+ can get a discounted Senior Vehicle Sticker for state parks and recreation areas, providing an affordable way to enjoy scenic outings.

FUN FACT!

**WISCONSIN HAS
50 DESIGNATED
STATE PARKS!**

CARE PARTNER CONVERSATION STARTERS

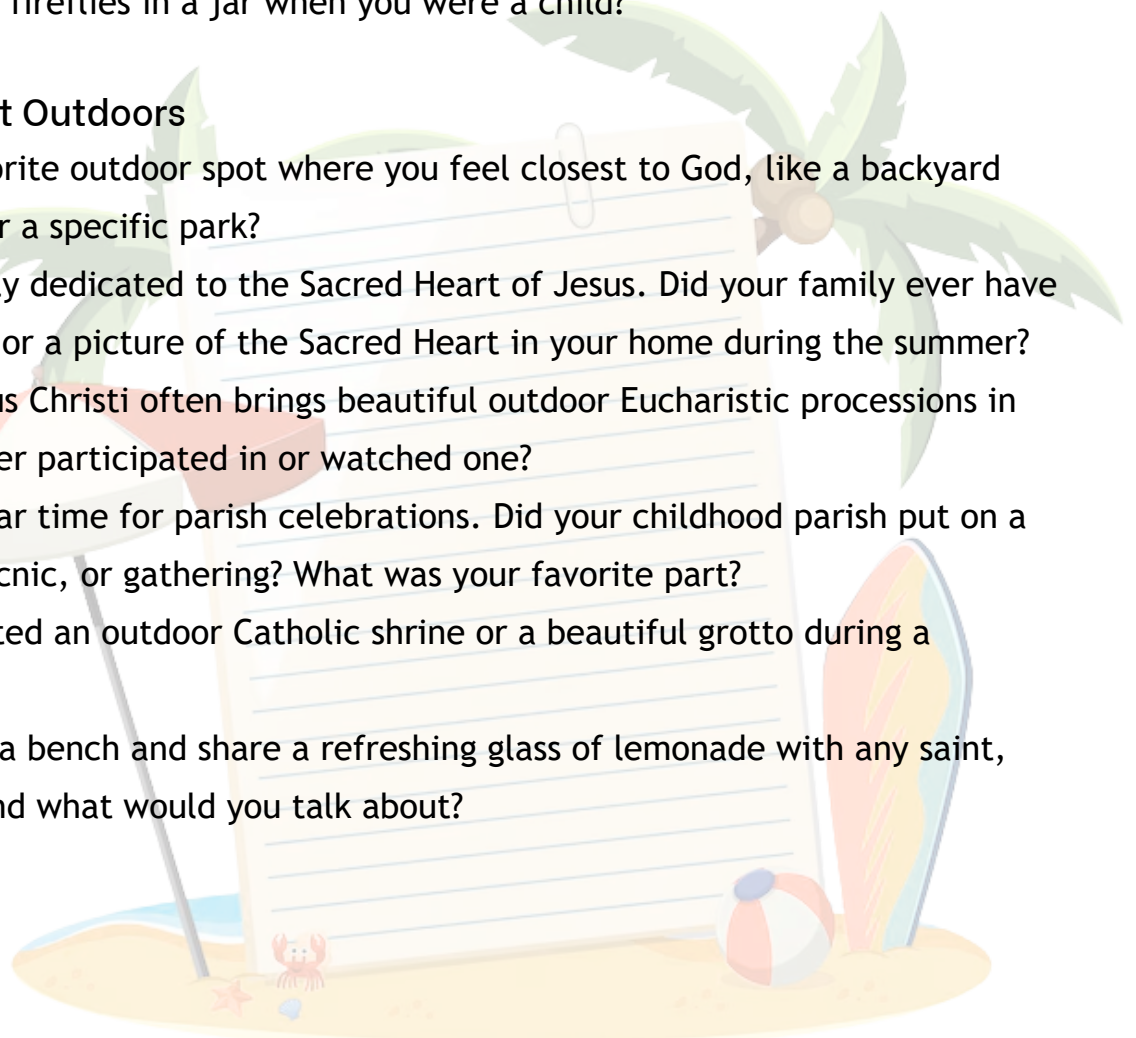
21 lighthearted and faithful prompts to spark joyful conversations during your visits this summer!

Summer Nostalgia & Treats

1. What was your favorite thing to do on a hot summer afternoon when you were growing up?
2. If you could create your ultimate ice cream sundae, what flavors and toppings would you choose?
3. Did your family have a favorite lake, park, or vacation spot you visited during the warmer months?
4. What is your favorite summer sound? (e.g., cicadas in the evening, a passing thunderstorm, waves at the beach, or baseball on the radio?)
5. Did you ever catch fireflies in a jar when you were a child?

Faith in the Great Outdoors

6. Do you have a favorite outdoor spot where you feel closest to God, like a backyard garden, a porch, or a specific park?
7. June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Did your family ever have a special devotion or a picture of the Sacred Heart in your home during the summer?
8. The Feast of Corpus Christi often brings beautiful outdoor Eucharistic processions in June. Have you ever participated in or watched one?
9. Summer is a popular time for parish celebrations. Did your childhood parish put on a summer bazaar, picnic, or gathering? What was your favorite part?
10. Have you ever visited an outdoor Catholic shrine or a beautiful grotto during a summer road trip?
11. If you could sit on a bench and share a refreshing glass of lemonade with any saint, who would it be and what would you talk about?



CARE PARTNER CONVERSATION STARTERS

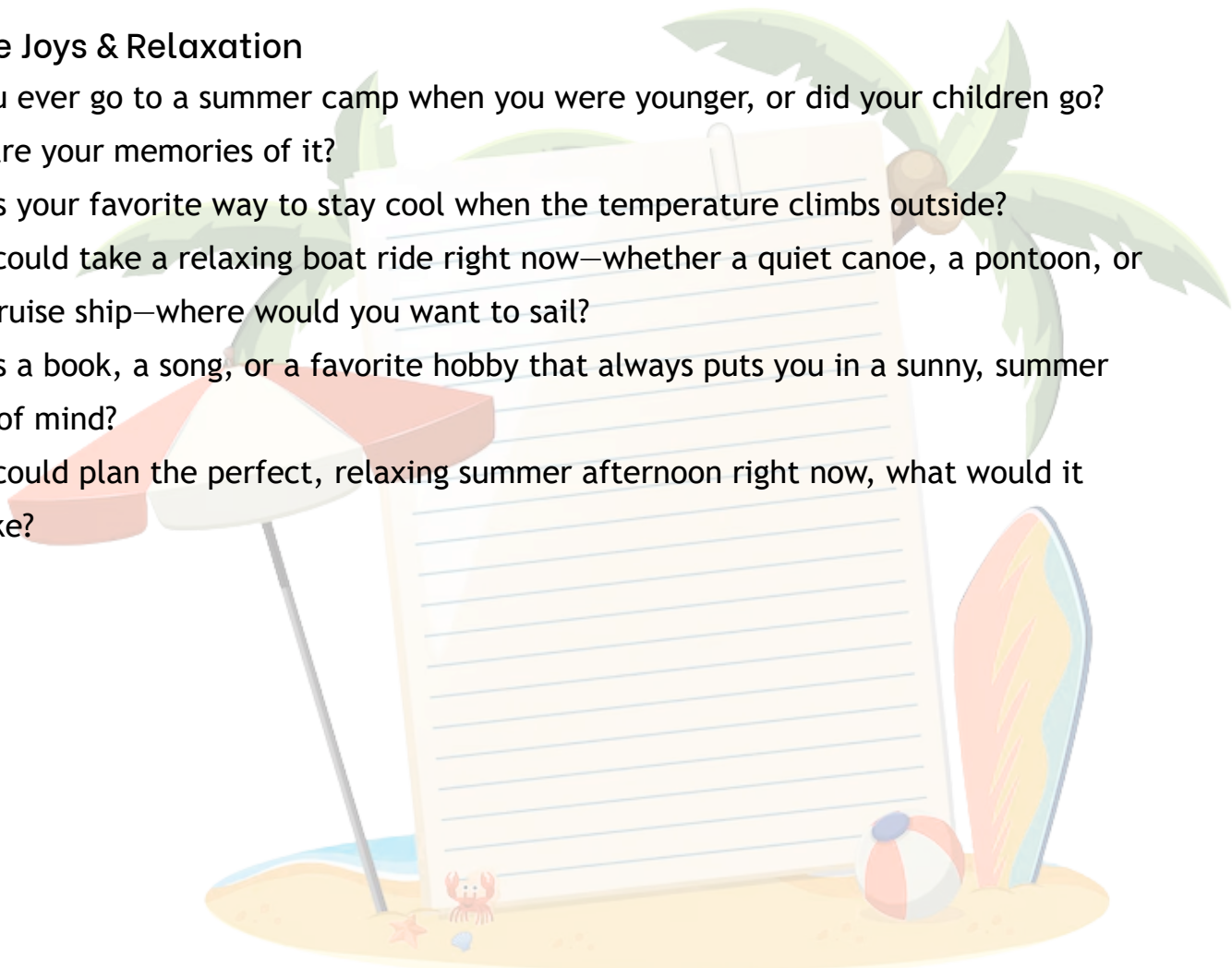
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Food, Gardens, & Sunsets

12. What is your absolute favorite summer food or fresh produce that you look forward to all year?
13. Do you have a green thumb? What is your favorite flower or vegetable to see growing in the summertime?
14. What is the most beautiful sunset you can remember watching?
15. Did your family ever pack up a big picnic basket for an afternoon outing? What did you usually bring to eat?
16. Do you prefer the quiet calm of an early summer morning or the warm breeze of a summer evening?

Simple Joys & Relaxation

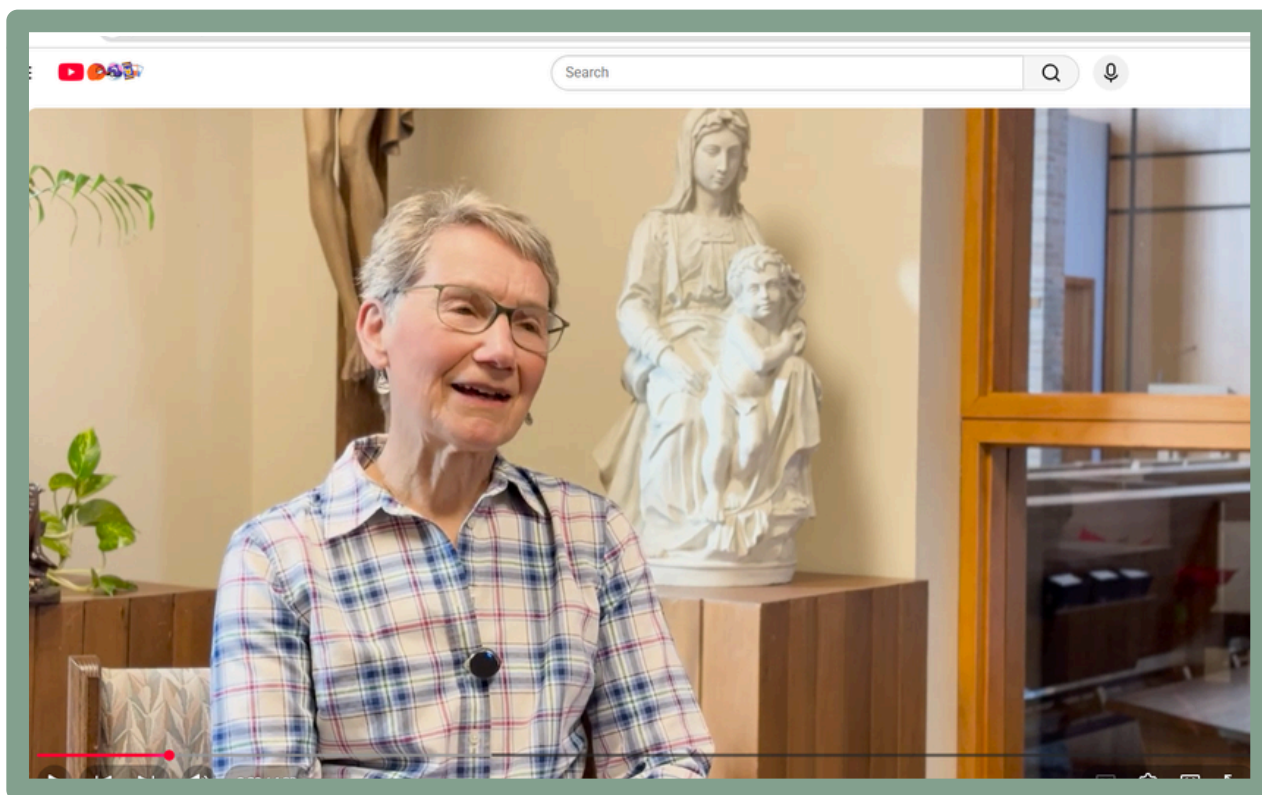
17. Did you ever go to a summer camp when you were younger, or did your children go? What are your memories of it?
18. What is your favorite way to stay cool when the temperature climbs outside?
19. If you could take a relaxing boat ride right now—whether a quiet canoe, a pontoon, or a big cruise ship—where would you want to sail?
20. What is a book, a song, or a favorite hobby that always puts you in a sunny, summer frame of mind?
21. If you could plan the perfect, relaxing summer afternoon right now, what would it look like?



SHINING A LIGHT ON CARE TEAM

Just like a warm summer breeze, a simple 'hello' can bring instant joy and a smile to someone's day...

We invite and ask you to please share our amazing Care Team video! It's a wonderful resource for showcasing our ministry at your parish and can really inspire others to join our efforts. If you're curious about how to get involved, just let us know – we're happy to help you get started!



[CLICK HERE](#)