

Care Team

Ministry **NEWSLETTER**

August
2026

Sharing summer warmth, friendly smiles, and a helping hand—welcome to your August Care Team update!

As August's warm, sun-filled days encourage us to relax and enjoy the last moments of summer, we naturally look toward the simple pleasures of community, cheerful smiles, and genuine companionship.

This month feels especially special as we come together to celebrate a wonderful milestone—the 25th Anniversary of the Care Team at Queen of Apostles, a beautiful reminder of putting Christ's love into action. We also joyfully mark the 2nd Anniversary of Stella Maris' Care Team.

For years and beyond, both teams have fulfilled '*The Servant Song*' promise: supporting each other through challenges, helping in need, and sharing happiness and sorrow.

Guided by prayer, wrapped in the gentle grace of August's devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and inspired by the generous spirit of our community, we continue to bring comfort, presence, and light to every home we visit.

In this issue, you'll find—

- 25 Years of the Queen of Apostles Care Team
- *Monthly Reflection* on the Solemnity of the Assumption
- 21 conversation starters
- The *Hymn of the Servant* Lyrics and Song



CONGRATULATIONS!

HAPPY 2ND ANNIVERSARY, STELLA MARIS CARE TEAM!

Thank you to our wonderful Care Team volunteers across Christ the King, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St Patrick Catholic Churches for the countless hours of time, care, and listening ears you share so generously.

Your dedication truly enriches the lives of others, serving as the hands and feet of Christ in your parish and communities.

We are so deeply grateful for your ministry!

ANNUAL RETREAT

September 22

St Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Church

August is National Dog Month



Owning a dog [enhances](#) physical health, mental well-being, and social connections for older adults!



According to the [University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging](#), it's wonderful to see that 83% of pet owners aged 50 and older feel that their pets bring them [a sense of purpose](#).

CARE TEAM ANNIVERSARY SPOTLIGHT– QUEEN OF APOSTLES

Celebrating **25 Years** of Putting Christ's Love into Action

For 25 remarkable years, the Queen of Apostles Care Team has been beautifully guided by prayer and worship, seeking and reflecting God's holy presence in every daily interaction.

Through their steadfast dedication, these devoted Care Team Members have spent a quarter of a century offering humble service, compassionate companionship, and the living love of Christ to those facing life's challenges.

We extend our deepest, most heartfelt gratitude to you for 25 years of faithful and inspiring service!

**“Like good stewards
of the manifold
grace of God, serve
one another with
whatever gift each of
you has received.”**
— 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY RETREAT

Are you...

- living with mental health challenges
- helping a friend or family member
- volunteering in your church or community
- working as a mental health professional
- wanting to better understand mental health
- curious about Mental Health Ministry

This retreat is for you!



Keynote Speaker: Scott Weeman,
Founder of Catholic in Recovery
Remarks: Bishop Donald Hying,
Bishop of Diocese of Madison

SATURDAY

19

SEPT, 2026

CAMP GRAY

E10213 SHADY LANE RD
REEDSBURG, WI 53959

9am to 6pm

Bilingual Mass at 5pm

Breakfast and lunch included.

Register Today!
Free to attend



Questions? Call 608-821-3050 or email apd@madisondiocese.org



AUGUST REFLECTION: THE BEAUTY OF THE DORMITION

How Mary's Assumption provides a sure hope for the resurrection of all the faithful.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

What it is

The Solemnity of the Assumption celebrates the Virgin Mary, who, having completed the course of her earthly life, was [assumed](#) body and soul into heavenly glory. It highlights her unique participation in her Son's Resurrection and anticipates the final resurrection of all the faithful.

Brief history

- What we now recognize as the [Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) was *originally* referred to as the [Dormition of the Mother of God](#), or the "Falling Asleep" in the Eastern Christian tradition.
- It was widely celebrated across both the East and West by the 6th century.
- Pope Pius XII defined the Dormition as an infallible dogma of the Catholic Church on November 1, 1950, in his Apostolic Constitution [Munificentissimus Deus](#).

When it is

- The Solemnity of the Assumption is celebrated every year on [August 15th](#) and remains a Holy Day of Obligation in many parts of the world.
- "...because the Solemnity of the Assumption falls on a Saturday this year, the obligation to attend Mass is officially [abrogated](#)." ([USCCB 2026 Liturgical Calendar](#)).





21 CONVERSATION STARTERS



Late Summer Nostalgia & Sensory Memories

1. Did you grow up eating fresh tomatoes right off the vine or sweet corn dripping with butter? What was your absolute favorite late-summer meal or treat?
2. When August temperatures soared before modern air conditioning, how did you and your friends stay cool? Did you sit under a giant shade tree, sleep on a screened-in porch, or run through the garden sprinkler?
3. Do you remember the sound of crickets and cicadas singing outside your window at night, or the glow of catching lightning bugs in a jar?
4. Did you ever attend a local county fair or summer carnival when you were younger? What did you look forward to most—the livestock displays, the Ferris wheel, or the cotton candy?
5. If you could sit out on the porch right now with a freezing cold drink, what would it be? Homemade lemonade, sweet iced tea, or a classic root beer float?
6. Did you or your family spend August canning garden vegetables, picking wild berries, or putting up jam for the winter months?

Lighthearted & Imaginative Fun

7. If you could pack a picnic basket and instantly travel to any beautiful location in the world for lunch today, where would you go?
8. If tomorrow suddenly had 25 hours instead of 24, how would you spend that bonus hour of daylight?
9. What was your favorite game to play outside with neighborhood kids until the streetlights came on? Kick the can, hopscotch, or baseball?
10. Describe your ideal summer day—is it a quiet morning watching the birds with a cup of coffee, or a lively afternoon surrounded by family?
11. Do you remember the classic summer outfits or shoes you loved wearing as a kid (like canvas sneakers or sandals), and the pure joy of kicking them off to go barefoot?
12. If you could turn on a radio right now and hear any song from your teenage years, what melody would instantly make you smile?



21 CONVERSATION STARTERS



August Themes: Faith and Reflection

13. August 15th marks the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. When you look up at a beautiful, clear blue August sky, does it ever bring to mind the peaceful glory of Mary being taken up into heaven?
14. Is there someone in your life whose pure, patient, and unconditional love always reminds you of the Blessed Mother?
15. Did your childhood parish ever host a big summer festival, bazaar, or outdoor picnic in August? What are your favorite memories of the food, games, and fellowship there?
16. The Assumption has ancient roots, and traditionally herbs and summer flowers are blessed on this day. If you could gather a fresh summer bouquet to place before a statue of Mary today, what kinds of flowers would you choose?
17. As August brings the first hints of harvest, what is one spiritual "fruit" or blessing you have seen grow in your life during this summer season?



Refreshing "This or That?" Quick-Fire Round

18. When eating a slice of fresh summer watermelon, do you prefer it with a sprinkle of salt, completely plain, or do you just enjoy a classic seed-spitting contest?
19. Homemade vanilla or rich chocolate? What is your all-time favorite ice cream topping?
20. Which do you find more breathtaking: a brilliant, golden August sunrise over a quiet morning cup of coffee, or a deep pink and purple summer sunset?
21. When spending time outdoors on a beautiful August afternoon, are you someone who loves to soak up the warm sunshine, or do you head straight for the coolest spot under the shade?

"THE SERVANT SONG"

BY RICHARD GILLARD

"The Servant Song" by Richard Gillard (1977) beautifully embodies the Christian call to community and friendship, emphasizing selfless service and mutual support. This hymn encapsulates the very essence of the Care Team's heart and soul, as each visit to a Care Partner's home brings its themes to life.. Thank you for being Christ's hands and feet.

Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on a journey
Fellow travelers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the nighttime of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

When we sing to God in heaven
We will find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony

Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too

**CLICK TO
LISTEN**

HOW TO FIND OUR CARE TEAM MINISTRY PAGE ONLINE

If you ever want to visit our webpage to look up resources, news, or see our updates, you can safely find it by following these three simple steps:

Step 1: Open the Main Website

First, open your internet browser and type in our main website address:

catholiccharitiesofmadison.org.

(Note: If you're reading this on a computer, tablet, or smartphone, click or tap the underlined words above, and your device will automatically open the webpage.)

Step 2: Find Your Program Options (Depending on Your Device)

Once the main homepage opens, what you look for next depends on your screen type.

- If you are using a Desktop or laptop computer, look near the top of your screen for a section labeled "*Get Help.*" Move your mouse arrow over those words.
- If you are using a Smartphone or tablet, look for a drop-down menu labeled "*I need help with...*" Tap that box with your finger to open up your options.

Step 3: Look for Aging & Memory Care

Under those menus, you will see a heading that says "*Aging & Memory Care.*"

Although this title isn't a clickable button, it indicates you're in the right area.

Step 4: Select Care Team Ministry

Right under that aging section, look for the words "*Care Team Ministry.*" Click or tap on the words to quickly and safely go to our dedicated page!

A Helpful Shortcut:

Type or click this direct link to save time and go straight there without navigating menus: catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/care-teams.