

Monday Volunteers Help Lasata Residents Attend Mass

Thanks to priests and volunteers in our community, Mass is celebrated at Lasata nursing home on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Priests from Cedarburg, Grafton and Saukville preside at the Mass on a rotating basis.

Mary Anne Canales coordinates the Monday volunteers who prepare the altar for Mass and bring residents down from their rooms to the chapel. After Mass, volunteers direct the priest to rooms of residents who wish to receive communion, but who are unable to attend the Mass.

Every three months, there is a special service, with two priests, to give the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. One priest anoints those who are able to come to the chapel. The other anoints residents who are confined to their rooms.

According to Mary Anne, there are 6-8 regular volunteers for this ministry. Others come when they can. "We can always use more volunteers," she added.

Mary Anne has been involved in the Monday ministry at Lasata for about 20 years. She volunteered because she wanted to be of help to the elderly -- as others were helpful to her parents, who lived quite a distance away. She had seen a notice in the bulletin that Lasata needed some volunteer help and eventually was directed to Ann Lynch, a longtime member (now deceased) of St. Francis Borgia, who started the Lasata Mass ministry.

With a laugh, Mary Anne recalled that first conversation with Ann. "When I told her I'd like to help, she said something like 'Oh, glory be to God! The Holy Spirit answered my prayers!'" Mary Anne began helping with various aspects of the volunteer ministry for a couple of years before becoming the coordinator.

-Written by Linda Fehl for the *Messenger* parish newsletter, Summer 2003.