



Spiritual Care Notes – August 2017

August begins the season of harvest. When we look at the fruits of the season, we do not always think about all of the work that is required.

The gospel readings from Matthew over the past few weeks have focused on the parables of the seed and the sower. Jesus is cast as the sower. The Word of God is the seed and we are the soil. All the seed is good, but is our soil rich enough to support a healthy harvest? May we hear God's Words and may these Words be understood and may the seeds bear a bountiful harvest.

What are your talents? What is your vocation? What are the fruits of your labor? How do you bring joy to others? I witness many fruits provided by those who work at Maristhill.

At Maristhill, we each individually and together provide an enriching soil where our residents can flourish in their particular situation. We can each provide a listening ear to our residents. Activities keep our residents' minds engaged. Our kitchen staff nourishes the bodies of our residents with warm and hearty meals. Our maintenance and housekeeping staff keeps the environment clean (of weeds and rocks). Our nursing, physical therapy staff and caregivers comfort, relieve pain, strengthen, and promote healing. Administrators at all levels make the "Maristhill Machine" operate efficiently so as to yield a healthy harvest. How do we see ourselves, how do we interact with God and interact with others? If we are living the mission of Maristhill and Covenant, then we are providing a richness that nurtures the whole person, without regard to our religion, our condition or our background.

Mass, the Eucharist and the Sacrament of the Sick strengthen our minds, bodies and souls. As part of our mission, we are blessed to be able to celebrate Daily Mass Sunday through Friday because of dedicated priests and devout volunteers. Chaplain Agnes Lugira offers a Eucharistic Prayer Services on Saturday on both B & C floors. Eucharistic Ministers bring the Eucharist to those that prefer Communion in their rooms. Numerous others help in the chapel or with transport.

Our Priests have been on the move! In June, we said goodbye to Father Walsh who retired from his working retirement and will spend more leisure time at the Campion Center. Father Gilbert Ezeugnu from Nigeria, joined us in July and is helping out with Mass weekly while he pursues an advanced degree at Boston College and resides at St. Mary's in Waltham. We welcomed back Father Joseph Kayongo who filled in for Father Walsh in July but will be returning to Uganda in August. In August, we welcome back Father Roland Guilmain who spent July on vacation. Father John "Jack" Siberski returns on July 31 after spending the past ten months in Slovenia. Father Bob Regan has been saying Mass on Sunday and Tuesday for years and will be taking a day or two off soon – he reports! Father Thibodeau is a regular for Thursday Mass. I am so grateful to each priest that has helped us celebrate the Eucharist here at Maristhill and I feel blessed by their generous hearts.

Blessings to all of you, whether you sow seed, bear fruit, enrich the soil or enjoy the harvest!

Janet Hutchison, Chaplain –Director of Mission and Spiritual Care