

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center**  
**C'est la Vie Apartments**  
**Newsletter ~ September 2017**  
**A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross**

**Anniversary Awards – September 14<sup>th</sup>**

On the feast of Holy Cross, a day very dear to the Marianites of Holy Cross, we are honoring some of our long term employees who are marking major milestones in their tenure with us.

The following staff from various departments will be recognized:

Christopher Brown	10 years
Bernadette Compton	10 years
Sheila Daigle, LPN	10 years
Chezwynn Davis, CNA	10 years
Janessa Derousselle, LPN	10 years
Georgia Ford, LPN	10 years
Jennifer Owens, CNA	10 years
Mary Richard	10 years
Louanna Sam	10 years
Shahanna Stoute	10 years
Shampella Stoute	10 years
Michaela Sylvester, RN	10 years
Leanna Givs, RN	15 years
Toni Willingham, LPN	20 years
Alisha Gradnigo, CNA	20 years
Betrinia Roberts, CNA	20 years

***Congratulations to each of you!***

***Your dedication is a gift to us all!***

**U Celebrating Birthdays in September U**

R Botts	9/02
L Bourque	9/12
L Chapman	9/04
M Chautin	9/14
A Douget	9/28
A Fontenot	9/18
C Guillory	9/07
Sr. D Hecker	9/23
C Lavergne	9/13
F Reinert	9/06
N Saizon	9/16
I Tweedel	9/15

**Communication with Persons with Dementia**

Dementia is a progressive illness that, over time, will affect a person's ability to remember and understand basic everyday facts, such as names, dates and places. It will gradually affect the

way a person communicates.

Their ability to present rational ideas and to reason clearly will change.

Some changes you might notice in the person with Dementia include: difficulty in finding a word – a related word might be given instead of one they cannot remember; the use of speech that does not make sense; an inability to understand what you are saying or the ability to only grasp a part of what you are saying; writing and reading skills that have deteriorated; loss of the normal social conventions of conversation – such as an increasing tendency to interrupt, ignore a speaker or fail to respond when spoken to; difficulty in expressing emotions appropriately.

While losing the ability to communicate can be frustrating and very difficult for people with Dementia, positive communication can help the person maintain their dignity and self-esteem. A caring attitude, use of appropriate body language and maintaining the right environment are all very important aspects of quality communication.

Meaningful communication with persons with Dementia requires patience, understanding and good listening skills.

People with Dementia retain their feelings and emotions even though they may not understand what is being said. To assist them, be flexible and allow plenty of time for a response. Where appropriate, use touch to keep the persons attention and to communicate feelings of warmth and affection. Remember, communication is made up of three parts:

*55% is body language which is the message we give out by our facial expression, posture and gestures; 38% is the tone and pitch of our voice; 7% is the actual words we use.*

The general strategies listed below may help both you and the person with Dementia understand each other better.

1. Avoid talking with the person in a high noise area which can overstimulate and confuse the person. Establish a quiet environment; diminish sounds from radio and television.
2. Always approach from the front; make eye contact and identify yourself.
3. Remain in the direct line of vision of the person. Touch an arm or shoulder gently to get or keep attention. Sustain eye contact by sitting at eye level with the person.
4. Speak slowly and clearly using short simple sentences. Do not expect a quick response.
5. Give the person time to process the information. Sometimes it takes 20 seconds for a person with Dementia to process a simple statement.
6. If it is necessary to repeat statements, use the same words. Do not rephrase sentences or use different words.
7. The tone of your voice and facial expressions are as important as what you say. Use a soft tone of voice and a calm manner. Persons with Dementia are sensitive to body language as well as tone of voice even if they can't understand what is being said.
8. Present only one idea at a time. Do not give too much information in one sentence.
9. Use non-threatening gestures and visual clues or aids to convey your messages. Try using more than one of these senses to communicate, such as touching as well as talking.
10. Avoid questions which quiz the person on names of family members. Not knowing the answers embarrasses the person. It is helpful to cue the person with the necessary information, such as supplying the names.
11. Offer simple choices. If a resident refuses give them some space & try again later. DO

NOT insist that they agree with you. Avoid arguing; if the person says something you don't agree with, let it be.

12. Discuss only concrete actions and objects. They are no longer able to grasp abstract ideas.
13. Understand that the person with Dementia may say one word and mean another. You may have to guess at the correct meaning. Make sure you clarify your guess with the person; you could be wrong.
14. Communicate with the person as much as possible. It is OK to smile and find humor. Sometimes humor lightens the mood and makes communication easier.
15. Be sensitive to their feelings. Don't pull away or withdraw; your friendship and support are important!

For more information, contact Sr. Mary Kay Kinberger, Assistant Administrator at 337-948-3634, extension 227.

**— Recently Deceased Residents —**

Sr. Marietta Welsh, MSC 6/30/17

Ellen Jane Ortego 7/9/17

Wilma Venable 7/18/17

Bernice Walkowiak 7/29/17

Carl Babineaux 7/30/17

Larry Douglas 8/6/17

Joyce Dupre 8/3/17

Sr. Eulalia Boudreaux, MSC 8/10/17

**May they rejoice in the peace and joy of the Lord!**

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**[www.promptsuccor.com](http://www.promptsuccor.com)**

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