

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility
C'est la Vie Apartments
Newsletter ~ August 2017
A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross

Completion of New Roof and Facade

The construction project in the area of the original two wings is now complete. This part of the facility was built in the 1960s with a flat roof. The roof served us well for many years but was in need of major repairs. After considering many options, it was decided that the best thing to do was to put up steel trusses and pitch a new roof on top of the existing flat roof. The original entrance to the nursing home was also repaired and the exterior area refurbished. Now the entire exterior has a similar roof structure and facade.

Congratulations on a job well done!



Celebrating Birthdays in August

<i>R. Beagh</i>	8/14
<i>F. Breaux</i>	8/02
<i>Sr. M. Cervantes</i>	8/26
<i>J. Dupre</i>	8/08
<i>A. Fontenot</i>	8/11
<i>M. Landry</i>	8/30
<i>M. Lazaro</i>	8/07
<i>Sr. N. Ledoux</i>	8/14
<i>L. Norton</i>	8/31
<i>M. Robert</i>	8/08
<i>I. Speyrer</i>	8/16
<i>L. Theriot</i>	8/03
<i>A. Williams</i>	8/17

When Mom or Dad is forgetting...

Memory loss is not a normal part of the aging process. As we age, we may have moments of forgetting but sustained and progressive loss of memory may be a sign of Dementia.

Dementia is a syndrome, usually of a chronic or progressive nature, in which there is deterioration in cognitive function (i.e. the ability to process thought) beyond what might be expected from normal aging. It affects memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language, and judgement. The impairment in cognitive function is commonly accompanied, and occasionally preceded, by deterioration in emotional control, social behavior, or motivation. However, the person's consciousness is not affected.

Dementia is caused by a variety of diseases and injuries that primarily or secondarily affect the brain, such as Alzheimer's disease or stroke. It is one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people worldwide. It is overwhelming not only for the people who have it, but also for their care givers and families. There is often a lack of awareness and understanding of Dementia, resulting in stigmatization and barriers to diagnosis and care. The impact of dementia on care givers, family members and societies includes physical, psychological, social and economic issues.

Signs and symptoms

Dementia affects each person in different ways, depending upon the impact of the disease and the person's personality before becoming ill. The signs and symptoms linked to Dementia can be understood in three stages.

Early Stage: The early stage of Dementia is often overlooked, because the onset is gradual. Common symptoms of the early stage include: forgetfulness, losing track of the time, becoming lost in familiar places.

Middle Stage: As Dementia progresses to the middle stage, the signs and symptoms become clearer and more restricting. These include: becoming forgetful of recent events and people's names, becoming lost at home, having increasing difficulty with communication, needing help with personal care, experiencing behavior changes, wandering and repeated questioning.

Late Stage: The late stage of Dementia is one of near total dependence and inactivity. Memory disturbances are serious and the physical signs and symptoms become very obvious. Symptoms include: becoming unaware of the time and place, having difficulty recognizing relatives and friends, having an increasing need for assisted self-care, having difficulty walking, experiencing behavior changes that may escalate and include aggression.

Types of Dementia: There are many different forms, or causes, of Dementia. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of Dementia and may contribute to 60–70% of cases. Other major forms include vascular Dementia, Dementia with Lewy bodies (abnormal aggregates of protein that develop inside nerve cells), and a group of diseases that contribute to frontal-temporal Dementia (degeneration of the frontal lobe of the brain). The boundaries between different forms of Dementia are indistinct and mixed forms of dementia often co-exist.

Treatment: Currently there is no treatment available to cure Dementia or to alter its progressive course. However, numerous new treatments are being investigated in various stages of clinical trials. In the meantime, much can be offered to support and improve the lives of people with Dementia and their care givers and families.

Goals of Care: The principal goals for Dementia care are early diagnosis in order to promote optimal management; optimizing physical health, cognition, activity and well-being; identifying and treating accompanying physical illness; detecting and treating challenging behavioral and psychological symptoms; providing information and long-term support to care givers.

Resources: World Health Organization; Alzheimer's Association

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