



SEARCH

- [Home](#)
- [Around the diocese](#)
- [Regional](#)
- [Youth >](#)
- [People](#)
- [Nation - World](#)
- [Book Reviews](#)
- [From the Editor](#)
- [From the Bishop](#)
- [Calendar](#)

- [Contact](#)
- [About](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

SPECIAL INTERESTS

The Frankfort Franciscan Sisters plans to hold "Intimacy with God: Growing as People of Prayer," a breakfast presentation, from 9-11 a.m. March 3. For more information or reservations 815-464-3886

St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville plans to hold its annual St. Patrick's Day party from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. March 4. For more information 630-922-9909.

Incoming freshman and their parents are expected to be welcomed for a special Mass at 10 a.m. March 4 at **St. Francis**

[home](#) > [the face of aging](#)

Seniors remain vital in community

By **KATHRYNNE SKONICKI**

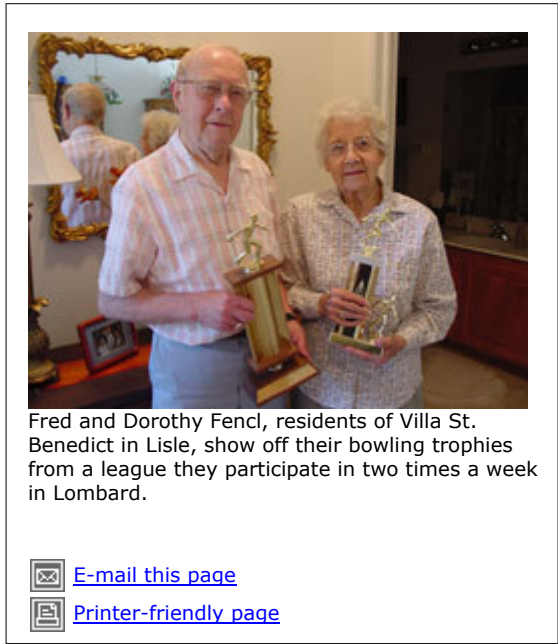
LISLE—A happily married couple, Fred and Dorothy Fencel have no complaints about life. The 90-year-old man and his 88-year-old wife reside at Villa St. Benedict in Lisle and remain as active as they ever were. They bowl in a league twice a week, workout at the villa's Activities of Daily Living Performance Enhancement Center three times a week and volunteer at their faith community, Calvary United Methodist Church in Villa Park.

Fred underwent heart valve replacement surgery six years ago and still experiences a twinge of pain occasionally from his sciatic nerve. Nevertheless, he considers himself quite healthy. Dorothy had rotator cuff surgery two years ago and suffers from arthritis, but she doesn't let that stop her from hosting the couple's 15 family members for holiday dinners.

"We sort of think young. We've always been around younger people," said Dorothy as she reflected on her healthy lifestyle during a July 18 interview with the Catholic Explorer. While sitting in the living room of their villa, the Lisle couple shared their positive outlook on aging. Fred, who's known for his inline skating demonstration at his 80th birthday party, chimed in, "I've never thought of myself as being old."

Pointing to family pictures and memorabilia, Dorothy credited her seven grandchildren with keeping her young over the last two decades. A breast cancer survivor, Dorothy said she was proud of the fact that she was able to provide part-time care for each of her grandchildren in their first years of life. She didn't take on the responsibility full time, but certainly there are many seniors who are assuming that role for their children's offspring. According to the U.S. Census Bureau data, grandparents assume the responsibility for daycare for 21 percent of preschoolers whose parents are at work.

Pointing to a framed picture of an advertising billboard for his old business in the couple's office/den, Fred discussed how he retired at age 70. Fred worked beyond the age of typical retirement, like many senior citizens in the country do these days. In fact, over 5 million Americans over 65 were employed in 2005, according to U.S. Census data.



[E-mail this page](#)

[Printer-friendly page](#)

Paul Laporte, economist for the U. S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, pointed out that 14.5 percent of Americans over 65 are employed. He listed three main reasons for the prevalence of employment: older employees are still healthy, they didn't plan for retirement or they might just be

planned afterward. For more information 630-668-5800 ext. 120.

The Office of Ministry Formation for the Diocese of Joliet plans to hold programs for lay ministers, clergy and religious at St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center in Romeoville. The schedule is as follows: A session on Vatican II theologians is planned from 8:30-10:30 a.m. March 6 and is expected to explore the work of Hans Kung. The cost is \$15 per person. "Healing From Your Life Transitions, Losses and Grief" with Amy Florian, a liturgy and bereavement consultant, is slated from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 15. The cost is \$35 per person. "Working Compassionately with Difficult People" with Michele Mauro, a clinical psychologist, is slated from 7-9 p.m. March 20. The cost is \$10 person. "Journaling as a Way to Pray" is planned from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. April 12. The cost is \$35 per person. Registration is required for all of these programs and workshops. For more details or to register 815-834-4003.

The Joliet Area Vocation Association plans to sponsor a "Marian Day," a day-long event for girls in grades seventh through eighth to explore religious life, starting at 10 a.m. March 10 at Loretto Convent in Wheaton. For more information 815-834-4004 or 630-868-2904.

Joliet Catholic Academy plans to showcase the work of its students during an art show from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. March 14-31 in the

school library. For more information 815-741-0500.

St. Mary's Franciscan Monastery in Lemont plans to hold an evening of recollection from 6:15-9:15 p.m. March 16. For more information 847-966-1369.

The Center for Family Ministry of the Joliet Diocese plans to hold the annual conference for the divorced and widowed, and those who minister to them, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 24 at St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center in Romeoville. The cost is \$35 per person. For more information 815-838-5334.

Guardian Angel Community Services in Joliet plans to hold its annual "Celebrate Angelica," a benefit dinner dance, from 6-11:30 p.m. March 24 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Joliet. The cost is \$100 per person and \$1,000 per table of 10 people. For more information or reservations 815-729-0930 ext. 423.

PARISH MISSIONS

St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensenville plans to hold a Lenten mission, entitled "What's So Special About Being Catholic?" at 7:30 p.m. March 4-6. For more information 630-766-8822.

St. Mary Immaculate Parish in Plainfield plans to hold its Lenten mission, entitled "Encounter Our Living God," at 7 p.m. March 5-7. For more information 815-436-7874.

Notre Dame Parish in Clarendon Hills plans to hold a parish mission, dubbed "The Symphony of

Faith," at 7 p.m. March 4-8. The series is expected to explore the harmony among the parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. For more information 630-654-3365.

St. Mary Parish in Mokena plans to hold its Lenten parish mission, dubbed "Pilgrimage of the Heart: Rediscovering Hope," at 7:30 p.m. March 18-20. Refreshments are planned afterward. For more information 708-326-9300.

[More Calendar Events](#)