



Quarterly

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Matthew J. O'Shea

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Jim Brett discovers a renewed sense of community in his new home at Mercy Circle

To say that Mercy Circle resident Jim Brett has roots on Chicago's Southwest Side is something of an understatement.

Born and raised on the Southwest side in the Little Flowers parish, Brett and Patricia, his wife for 65 years, raised 10 children in their home near 103rd and Kedzie. Later, they moved to Palos Heights where they lived for 20 years. Today, he has 33 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, and the entire family still lives in the Chicago area, with eight of his children raising their children on the Southwest Side.

After their children grew up, Brett and Patricia started attending Mass at Mercy Circle and got to know the community. So, when

Patricia passed away two years ago, Brett sold his home to one of his children and moved to the continuing care retirement community. The move allowed him to stay near the neighborhood he loved and remain connected to a religious community that he really appreciates. Yet, the move felt like a significant change.

"There always are many things to do at Mercy Circle. It is nice to have people

around for a conversation," he says reflecting on his new home's friendly atmosphere. "Age can slow down daily life, but the nature of the people here keeps things moving."

He also enjoys participating in the MACs with Mercy events, working with Mother McAuley students on projects to benefit Pat's Pantry. The monthly gatherings are especially nice for Brett because his youngest granddaughter, Lizzie, who attends Mother McAuley, often participates.

For many years, Brett worked in human resources for BorgWarner. Meeting the smart, ambitious students from Mother McAuley reminds him



(from left) Edith Herman-Lopez, Isabella Braschi and Elizabeth Brett with Elizabeth's grandfather and Mercy Circle resident Jim Brett.

of those days. "During our most recent event, two of the girls at my table said they hoped to become doctors and two or three of the others were exploring careers in science," he says. "It was wonderful! I found myself using my human resources skills to learn more about what interested them and what they hoped to do."

Brett spent a lifetime building a network of friends and neighbors. With the move to Mercy Circle, he has a new sort of community to enjoy.

"If a friend were interested in Mercy Circle, I would encourage him or her to visit for a meeting, activity or Mass to get a feeling for our community," says Brett. "There is an interesting mix of retired people here including many teachers, principals, healthcare professionals and leaders of religious orders from across the country."

For more information or to schedule a private appointment, please call 773-253-3600 or visit MercyCircle.org.



MACs with Mercy was extra special for (from left) Mercy Circle resident Jim Brett and McAuley senior Elizabeth Brett. Jim is Elizabeth's grandfather!

ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

**MONDAY,
MARCH 11, 2024
12:00 P.M.**

115 Bourbon Street
3359 W. 115th St.

\$5 Admission includes
family style luncheon

Cash bar available

Open to 19th Ward Residents Only

Space is limited, reservations required
773-238-8776 or margie@the19thward.com

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