

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



*Serving the elderly poor
in Chicago since 1891.*



Spring, 2012

ST. MARY'S HOME
2325 N. Lakewood Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614



ST. MARY'S HOME



SAVE THE DATE

Habits on the Green – Golf Outing

Monday, June 11, 2012

Chez Ste. Marie – Wine Tasting

Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012

Spring Break 2012

Little Sisters Welcome University Students

According to MTV, this year's "Top 10" choice of Spring break destinations includes exotic locales like Cancun, Mexico and the usual favorites such as Miami's South Beach. None of which could ever hold a place in our recent visitors' hearts.

Five college students, three men and two women, from University of Nebraska Lincoln came here seeking a different experience – something more than relaxing on a beach. So they headed out on a 500 mile trip to spend their break at St. Mary's Home in Chicago.

There was no hanging around a pool for this group. They painted doorframes, set up our St. Joseph's Day banquet, assisted with a humongous rummage sale, cleaned windows and wheelchairs and served the Residents during meals. They went with the begging Sisters on their church collection and accompanied

*"Most
important was
...enjoying the
presence of
Christ in those
around us,"
Rob Cargill,
UNL Senior.*

them on their early morning trips to the markets. They also attended daily Mass with the Residents and joined the Sisters for prayers.

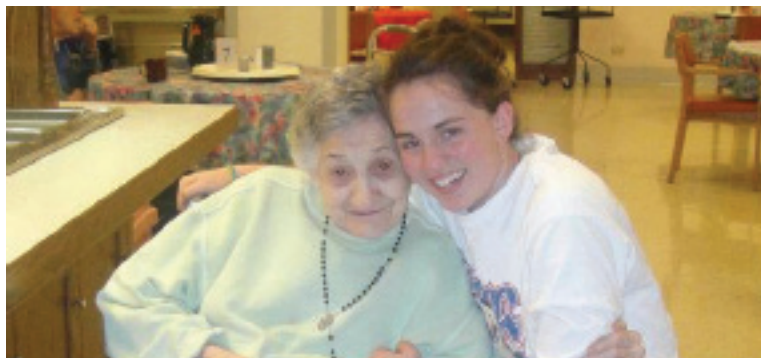
It wasn't all work. Mother Patricia made sure that there was fun too. The Sisters treated them to a special lunch featuring Sister Emma's delicious home-made pizzas. They also checked

out some of Chicago landmarks – including a stop for our famous hot dogs.

They had no expectations except to serve but found that they were served in a far greater way. They remarked on the love and spirit they found here and said it will change their lives forever.



"Spring breakers" (l. to r.) Robert Cargill, Helen Li, Tessa Klein, Zach Watson and David Cargill stop at Lake Michigan en route to Navy Pier.



New found friends Resident Martha Voiovich and Tessa Klein spend some time after lunch.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Called Home

God's Honored Through Vows Fulfilled

In the past few months, two Little Sisters were called home to the Lord in our community of St. Mary's Home. Advanced in years, Sr. Joseph Marie de La Croix was 97 years of age and Sr. Marie Alphonsine de Lourdes had just reached her 80th year. They came from two different parts of the world, Sr. Joseph from a farming town in Michigan and Sr. Marie Alphonsine from Shanghai, China. They were both born in October on very special days. Sr. Joseph on the feast day of St. Teresa of Avila in 1914 and Sr. Marie Alphonsine on the feast day of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1931.

They arrived at their vocations from distinct paths.

Sr. Joseph first heard about religious life in 8th grade when her teacher advised the class to ask God what vocation to follow. Sr. Joseph complied although it seemed mysterious. While in public high school, Sr. Joseph stopped praying as she had in parochial school. Until one day the thought, "What was she doing with her vocation?" entered her mind. She resumed prayer and remembered hearing about former schoolmates who reported being happy serving the elderly as Little Sisters. She asked her father to drive her 60 miles to Detroit to visit the closest Home. She entered the congregation when she turned 17 in 1931 – the year Sr. Marie Alphonsine was born.

As a young girl, Sr. Marie Alphonsine wanted to become a Chinese opera singer. Devoted to her grandmother, she remained in Shanghai to care for her when her family fled the Chinese Communists in 1948 to go to Hong Kong. Ten years later, she received her calling and joined the Little Sisters.

Both had special personalities. Sr. Joseph was serene and happy and Sr. Marie Alphonsine was spunky and joyful. Their unity came through their vocation and dedication to the elderly. Each used her talents during their combined 121 years in religious life as hospitalier and occupational therapy and as beggar, cook and gardener. Both were dedicated to God and to those He sent – living to make Residents happy serving them with love, respect and kindness.

Sr. Joseph once said, "Our life is very beautiful," when she was asked her advice for young novices.

Our concern for the spiritual and physical well-being of the elderly includes our presence at the bedside of those who are dying. It is a privilege that we cherish but is quite poignant when we accompany our Sisters in a special way toward the Kingdom. This is a cause for celebration as we wait with them on the threshold of eternity. It was difficult to say goodbye but we have confidence in the Resurrection. They are dearly missed but we look forward to reuniting with them in the eternal life.

Sr. Marie Alphonsine's handwritten vows, her promise to Christ.

Toasting Wedding Vows

Residents Bob and Ellen Gantner were delighted when the Sisters surprised them with an impromptu toast to their 62nd anniversary.

One of their secrets for a successful union is to marry the right person. Bob credits Our Lady of Perpetual Help for helping him find Ellen. They remain each other's best friend. Both professionally accomplished, they said raising their family of seven children was the best part.

Bob added, "The Sisters really go out of their way to accommodate the Residents. There is a lovely Spirit of Christ here."





Upper left: Sisters serenade '11 honorees Dr. and Mrs. James Burden.

Lower left: 2012 Honorees - Nondorf family.



Above: Sr. Michael offers some putting tips.

Resident's Reflections

Nancy Hommes, Resident

By way of introduction, I'm Nancy Hommes, a.k.a. Nancy HoneyBEAR cheerleader as I've been an avid, diehard Chicago Bears fan for 50 years! Come April 25th, I'll have been a Resident of St. Mary's Home for 3 years. It is a tremendous honor as well as blessing for me to reside here. I have a motor neurological disease called Primary Lateral Sclerosis. I am unable to speak and need assistance with most things. I've had this disease for almost 20 years and it's been quite a journey . . . then along came St. Mary's Home.

St. Mary's is truly a special place. There are many things about living here that I am grateful for. Attending daily Mass in our chapel; going to physical therapy as often as possible; and participating in activities such as bingo. Both of my daughters live nearby so I am able to spend quality time with them and see them quite often.

The aides provide me with compassionate quality care for which I am grateful, as well as the daily presence of the Little Sisters. I have a nice room with a beautiful view of the grotto. I love looking at the trees and birds outside my window as I'm a nature and bird lover. The neighborhood and grounds of St. Mary's Home are very lovely.

There were many things I took for granted most of my life but not anymore. Now I give thanks in prayer everyday for ALL the BLESSINGS in my life, including being a resident of St. Mary's Home.

Thank you Jesus!!! --- Thank you God!!!

Love & prayers,
Nancy Hommes
aka Nancy HoneyBEAR

Nancy with her daughter Linda.



Habits on the Green An Un-Convent-ional Event

Little Sisters will host their 11th Annual Habits on the Green fundraiser at historic Midlothian Country Club on Monday, June 11. The course offers challenging greens and beautiful scenery. This is truly an event the whole family can enjoy. Several of the returning guests even bring along more than one generation to join in the fun.

The day starts with registration at 10:30 a.m. followed by a welcome barbeque luncheon for golfers. After having some time to fuel up, the tournament begins at 12 noon with a shotgun start. After finishing their rounds, golfers will join dinner guests to mingle over cocktails. The competition continues during the silent and live auctions featuring great items. Rounding out the event is a fabulous buffet and live entertainment.

Peter Longo, golf professional, trick-shot performer, and consummate entertainer will be back again to emcee. There will be chances to try and beat his

puts as well as the Sisters who will "be on the greens."

This year's honorees are Jim and Eunie Nondorf and their family. "There is something very captivating about them, which is inspiring, it is something that we want to tribute," explained Mother Patricia.

"St. Mary's Home fosters a family experience and it's important to recognize the significance of that bond." She added that Pope John Paul II shared his reflections on the importance of what he refers to as the "domestic church" this way "the future of humanity passes by way of the family."

Habits on the Green is St. Mary's Home's signature event and largest fundraiser. There are opportunities still available to play or sponsor this exciting tournament. Please contact the development office at 773-935-9600 X 303 or register online at www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org.

Mother's Message

By: Mother Patricia Mary



“Christ is Risen, Alleluia!” “He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!” Christians have greeted one another with this joyous phrase on Easter morning for nearly 2,000 years. It reminds us of the faith and hope in the Good News of God’s great love of mankind, a love that conquers death – a profound truth that is hard to understand. Nonetheless these words encourage us to persevere in difficult times, enjoy carefree times and celebrate happy times.

We see reflections of this eternal love in the devotion of married couples, the affection of parents for their children, the vocation of consecrated religious, and the dedication of countless others whose lives testify to their commitment to something greater than themselves.

Love is expressed in a myriad of ways. We see it daily – in our dedicated employees, cheerful volunteers, loyal benefactors, generous donors, and faithful supporters. We see it in the families who entrust their loved ones to our care. We see it in the grateful eyes of our beloved Residents.

Easter is a time of new life, a wonderful time to start fresh with renewed energy. This is the inspiration for our updated newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy this new design.

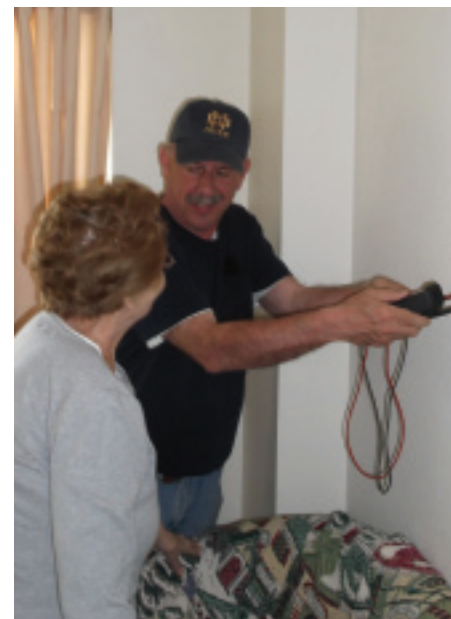
Our foundress St. Jeanne Jugan encouraged the Little Sisters to “always sing the glories of the Risen Jesus!” And it is with this joyful spirit that I wish you a very happy Spring.

Urgent Matters

The generosity of our benefactors is amazing. Without them, the Sisters would not be able to provide the quality of care that our Residents deserve.

“We have three large projects slated for 2012 estimated to cost more than \$1 million. We need to retrofit our sprinkler system to comply with national safety codes. The second critical project is to add individual heat pump units to Residents’ rooms. Third is to replace our nurse-call system which is in disrepair,” said Steve Bushor, director of maintenance.

“The Sisters have a great devotion to St. Joseph to intercede on their behalf. It’s quite comforting to rely on their confidence in his aid to help with these major improvements,” he added.



Steve inspects new Resident Bev Hossa's temperature control unit for her room.

Upcoming Events



Habits on the Green

Benefiting the Little Sisters of the Poor of Chicago



June 11, 2012 Midlothian Country Club

Sister, I'd like to support Habits on the Green

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

___ Dinner Tickets @ \$125 before May 11, \$150 after May 11

___ Individual Golfer including Lunch & Dinner @ \$500
before May 11, \$550 after May 11

___ I cannot attend but I am enclosing a donation of \$ _____.