

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

SAINT MARY'S HOME



*Serving the elderly poor
in Chicago since 1891.*



ST. MARY'S HOME

Spring Break at St. Mary's

They came to serve found new friends and a renewal of faith



SAVE THE DATE

**Habits on the Green –
Golf Outing**

Monday, June 10

**Chez Ste. Marie –
Wine Tasting**

Thursday, Aug. 22

When six students from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln loaded their van and headed for Chicago to spend spring break at St. Mary's Home, they weren't certain what they should expect.

The group of three men and three women are all members of the Newman Center, the Catholic Church on campus, but they really didn't know each other well. The students came to serve the Residents and strengthen their own faith, continuing a Little Sisters' tradition of hosting students from Newman.

"We knew this was going to be a week of building relationships with each other, but we never really thought that we would build strong relationships with the Sisters and the Residents," observed Paige Ahart, a senior studying athletic medicine.

For seven days, the Nebraska students became part of the Home. They served at meals, visited with Residents and escorted them to outside medical appointments. They watched the Sisters and nursing staff care for Residents with love and respect. And

they shared stories of life and faith with Residents and each other.

Cory Nordhues, a senior and psychology major, summed up the week's experience this way. "The trip was a clear reminder of how much joy can be found in the simple things." When he returned to school, Cory immediately noticed how everything was focused on "the me" – what he must do to keep grades up and what he would gain from certain activities. At St. Mary's, he had found himself focusing on the needs of others, and he "felt happier and more at peace" because of it.

Sophomore Kayla Kresak says the trip "ignited a flame" when she returned to campus, and gave her the drive to attend Mass daily for the first time in her life. "It's amazing how God puts strategic events in our lives when we need them most."

Echoing the sentiments of the entire Nebraska group, Paige noted, "This has been an irreplaceable experience, and a spring break none of us will ever forget."



"New friends" (l. to. r.) Brian Minchow, Laura Foley, Kayla Kresak, Paige Ahart, Cody Nordhues and David Beauclair pose in front of Chicago's famous skyline.



Sisters send off students with fond adieu.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Sr. Malia says goodbye to Jugan Terrace Resident Marion Poltrock.



Resident Martha Buffin and CNA Lisa Sanders wish Sr. Malia farewell.

Sr. Malia's Journey of Faith

By Sr. Michael Teresa, I.s.p.

In June, Sr. Malia Cecilia will make her first vows of profession. For the Little Sisters, this comes at the end of a two-year postulancy as we consecrate our lives to Christ by vowing to live according to the virtues of chastity, poverty, obedience and hospitality.

We had the privilege of getting to know Sr. Malia during her recent six-week visit to our Home. Sr. Malia Cecilia, a second-year novice in our Congregation, came here as part of her formation. It was a special treat for the Residents to have a novice with us. They enjoyed her energy, enthusiasm and joyfulness. We all loved having her here.

We were even able to squeeze in a little time to show her around our great city. One of the first stops on our tour was the new Mother Cabrini Shrine on our way to see downtown. Of course, we invited her to join us on our morning visits to obtain provisions from our benefactors at Chicago International Produce and the Fulton Meat Markets.

Sr. Malia began her journey to religious life on the island of Tonga, known as the Friendly Islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Our closest Little Sister Home is 552 miles away on the island nation of Samoa.

Originally, Sr. Malia thought God wanted her to marry and have a family. Then she attended World Youth Day in Sydney Australia in 2008. She was among one million young people from 200 countries who attended the first event of its kind in Oceania. There she started hearing God's call to consecrated life. The seeds were definitely planted. After she returned home, Sr. Malia heard a story that dramatically changed her life direction. She recounted a story that her best friend told her about a Little Sister presentation

the friend had attended in Samoa. This powerful testimony, shared by her close friend, was all that Sr. Malia needed to make the decision to live her life as a Little Sister.

Even though she knew nothing more about the Little Sisters than the story her friend had told, Sr. Malia realized that

“What happiness for us, to be a Little Sister of the Poor!”

– St. Jeanne Jugan

serving our Lord by helping the elderly poor would be the key to her happiness. She spoke with her parents and parish priest who suggested that she travel to Sydney. From there she went to New Zealand and finally came here to the United States. For now, our St. Ann's Novitiate in Queens, New York is where she calls home. After she and her fellow novices make their vows, she could be sent anywhere, and she is looking forward to this new phase of her life.

Our prayers will go with Sr. Malia and the other novices when they begin their journeys as Little Sisters.

The Sweetest Delivery: A Brownie brings more than cookies

Lily Hirt, an 8-year-old Brownie Scout, made her biggest sale of Girl Scout cookies to a family friend, with special instructions to distribute the \$200 order to the elderly. She and Mother Patricia went from room to room delivering a box of cookies, a smile and a note to each St. Mary's Resident.

Her mom says Lily was scared at first, but during the car ride home she asked, “Can we please go back? Pleassssseeee?”



More than a Job A Loving Reminder of Grandma



Quaunisha greets Resident Ana Maria Ortiz during her break.

This month, Quaunisha Street celebrates her one-year anniversary as a dietary aide and dish room employee for Little Sisters of the Poor, thanks to a friend who told her about St. Mary's.

Working in the kitchen is no easy task. Every day the staff prepares nearly 700 meals for the Residents, and washes more than 200 loads of dishes. Quaunisha enjoys interacting with the Residents and takes pride in being attentive to their needs, anticipating what each one is going to ask for.

She thinks the Sisters spoil the Residents, and she's only too happy to help. "They have had their difficulties already and deserve to be spoiled," she explains. Her joyful and friendly attitude is something she strives to share with everyone. "Even when I am having a bad day, someone else may be having a

worse day. When I can bring a smile to their faces, I feel better, too."

Quaunisha's love for the elderly came in a special way from caring for her grandmother. For the last year, her family has taken turns caring for grandma, adjusting their schedules to make sure she is never alone. She says the Residents at St. Mary's Home are a reminder of her grandmother.

Her care-giving experience at home and her interactions with Residents at St. Mary's have inspired Quaunisha to begin studying to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA). She has no intention of leaving after she obtains her CNA, either. She plans to continue working in the kitchen while waiting for an opening on the Home's direct care team.

"I can't just abandon them for another job. We are a family."



Hard at work.

"Think Pink"

Our gift shop is blooming in pink to celebrate Spring!

Be sure to stop in during your next visit to St. Mary's to find that perfect birthday, anniversary, shower, wedding or housewarming gift.

Supporting the Missions Guilt Free Shopping

The Little Sisters have 30 Homes and a novitiate in the United States; and the Congregation is presently caring for the elderly poor in 30 countries as well. Our great trust in Divine Providence to provide reassures us that there will always be a way to care for our Residents. In the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan, each of the Little Sisters of the Poor Homes relies on the support of local businesses and individuals to provide for our day-to-day needs so that each Resident can be treated with the dignity, care, and respect they deserve.

At the same time, a wonderful spirit of sharing exists between our Homes, so that those who have more share with our Homes in the missions. Our Province assists our domestic mission Home in Gallup, New Mexico, and St. Mary's Home assists our Home in Tunja, Colombia.

Each Home has special ways to collect money for the Little Sisters' mission Homes. St. Mary's provides support through the funds raised in our country store, rummage sales, and our three special Sunday collections. The rummage sale and country store are always reasonably priced, ensuring that anyone can shop and make a difference.

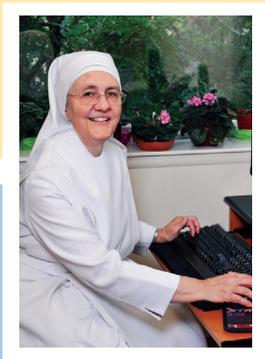
Our volunteer staff runs the country store by supplying handmade knitted garments, repairing gently used items in need of a little attention, and donating items that are no longer needed. The store is always stocked with a wide variety of goods, especially tailored to the current season. Residents, staff and visitors alike enjoy browsing the always interesting assortment of cards, clothing, toys, household goods and gifts. And they know that their purchases will be helping Little Sisters in their efforts to support the missions.



Resident Eva Stein admires Sr. Emma's newest creation.

Mother's Message

By Mother Patricia Mary



Greetings to you dear friends and benefactors!

This year, Easter was particularly early. We celebrate this holy time when Christ makes all things new, as we watch with joy the beginning of life all around. In the budding trees, blooming flowers and singing birds, nature gives testimony to the beauty and endurance of new life.

For St. Mary's Home, the season's messages of renewal and newness take on special meaning this year as we have been blessed with a number of wonderful firsts and new beginnings.

When Pope Francis was formally installed as Bishop of Rome and Pope on the feast of St. Joseph, he touched our hearts with his message of protecting with tenderness and his call to care for the vulnerable. That is the very message we put into practice every day, caring for our Residents, welcoming guests and following the example of our Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan in supporting those who need a little extra help.

Another first will be when St. Mary's welcomes a group of Stanford University alumni to help us plant our Enabling Garden this month. This project is part of a worldwide volunteer day where graduates come together to make a difference in their respective communities. The event is named "Beyond the Farm" because Stanford is known as the Farm. We are excited that they chose us as their first philanthropic partner for the city of Chicago. Our garden has raised beds and containers for plants and flowers, which provide for our guests and Residents, including those in wheelchairs, access to nature.

We give prayerful thanks to a wonderful benefactor who will make it possible for us to give our Residents the comfort of individually controlled heat and air conditioning in their rooms. The renovations to our HVAC system come at a time when government cuts in funding would have made it impossible for us to achieve these changes.

In so many ways, this Easter and spring have been a special time of renewal and reflection for us. As we remember Pope Francis' exhortation to protect all things with tenderness, we ask the intercession of St. Joseph to help us achieve this in our daily lives.

May God's peace keep you safe as you enjoy the flowering of spring into summer!

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org

12th Annual Habits on the Green An Unconventional Event

This year the Little Sisters will host their 12th Annual Habits on the Green fundraiser at historic Midlothian Country Club on Monday, June 10. Renowned for being one of the first golf clubs in the country, it was founded 115 years ago and named after Midlothian in Scotland, where golf was first played. The course's 208 acres offers golfers extremely challenging greens in a beautiful setting of mature lawns and rolling hills.

"As St. Mary's Home's largest fundraiser, the Sisters rely on the proceeds from the golf outing to help fund critical needs," explained Richard Tufo, golf committee chair. "Opportunities are still available to play or sponsor this exciting event."

The 2013 honorees are John and Margaret Mary Conley. "Each year, the Sisters select those individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to the Residents. It's a small way to show appreciation for their dedication."

The day opens with a 10:30 a.m. registration followed by a welcome luncheon and noon shotgun start. The evening features cocktails, silent and live auctions, buffet dinner and a dance band.

To find out how you can help make this year's event a success, please contact the development office at 773-935-9600 x 303 or register online at www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org.

Upcoming Events



June 10, 2013 Midlothian Country Club

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

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ Dinner Ticket @ \$150/each

_____ Individual Golfer including Lunch & Dinner @ \$500
before May 24, \$550 after May 24

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