

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor
in Chicago since 1876.*



Winter, 2018
ST. MARY'S HOME
2325 N. Lakewood Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614

ST. MARY'S HOME

Celebrating our Family Continuing our Tradition

This year, we join with our Little Sisters throughout the country to celebrate our Congregation's 150th anniversary in the United States. It was in 1868, three years after the Civil War ended, that the first home was founded in Brooklyn, New York.

The Little Sisters immigrated to these shores with no resources other than the desire to imitate St. Jeanne Jugan, who began the ministry in Saint-Servan, France, by giving her own bed to a blind, paralyzed widow during the winter of 1839. They were welcomed in their respective communities by generous benefactors who provided the resources needed to fulfill this single purpose.

"For me, I was the little beggar. I asked, I held out my hand, and our kind benefactors gave to the Lord's poor ones."

-St. Jeanne Jugan.

Begging for our Residents' daily needs remains a hallmark of St. Jeanne Jugan's spirit – her confidence in God's Providence to "give us our daily bread" is our lodestar. Just as she walked the roads of her village, our begging is at the heart of our charism and worldwide mission today.



Sr. Christine and Sr. Julianna at the produce market.

Carrying on our tradition is Sr. Christine Mary Jeanne, who shares our mission with local parishes, businesses as well as wholesale produce and meat markets.

Born to Chinese parents in the Muslim country of Brunei, in Southeast Asia, Sr. Christine was raised Buddhist. She decided to pursue religious life when she started attending Catholic junior high. The principal, who was a Franciscan Missionary, also named Sr. Christine, was her sponsor when she was baptized and confirmed Catholic.

After her former principal moved to Albany, she invited Sr. Christine to come visit her community to discern religious life. Sr. Christine, who was living with her family in Hawaii, left for New York, got an apartment and applied for a job with the Little Sisters of the Poor nearby. "Six



Sr. Christine, Sr. Julianna check in with Nick Gaglione Dietz & Kolodenko owner.

months after working as a nurse's aide at the Little Sisters, I entered the Congregation," Sr. Christine said.

Sr. Christine loves being the beggar but admits that "it is humbling to ask people for our needs, but our benefactors are always so generous to us," she said.

SAVE THE DATE



Travinia

8th Annual Trivia Night

Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Register at

www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org

Sunshine was her name Charity was her life

By Sr. Dorothy, I.s.p.

Sunshine? What kind of name is that, one asks? From the time of her birth, her family called her “Sunshine” because she exhibited the beauty of life. To all of her relatives — from her parents to her great nieces and nephews — she was known as “Sunshine.” But to us she was known as Sister Emmanuel — Emmanuel meaning “God is with Us.” Both names suited this Little Sister, and she lived out both of them.

Her smile was contagious and her love for God was ever in her heart and in the twinkle of her eyes. It didn’t have to be Advent for her to blurt out the hymn “Hurry, the Lord is Near.” She wanted all to know her God was with her and she wanted to share him with everyone.

Sr. Emmanuel was preparing to celebrate 60 years of Religious life. The Little Sisters celebrate with family and friends for the 25th and 50th Jubilees, while other milestones are celebrated just with the community. However, Sr. Emmanuel

wanted her 60 years to be bigger and better; she wanted all her family to be present. She selected special songs and expressed her desire to have one of the Little Sisters come and play her favorite Marian hymns on the violin.

“Sister,” we would say, “your jubilee will be a little more subdued.” With her smile and her faith in God she continued to ask for a big party for all.

October 15th was the day we would all gather as a community to celebrate Sr. Emmanuel’s 60 years of consecrated life, and we did celebrate with gusto! However, it wasn’t as she planned. On October 11th Sister’s health took a turn and without warning, she was having difficulty breathing, and her condition became grave. Very quickly her Little Sisters realized she was in trouble and had her transported to the hospital; her family was immediately notified. After several hours in the hospital, the doctors informed us there was nothing medically they could do to treat her. Her family flew to Chicago and joined us as we kept vigil with her

around the clock. Fortunately, Sr. Mary Gerard, the violinist, lived nearby so she came to the hospital with her violin and played those beautiful Marian hymns Sr. Emmanuel had requested. Shortly thereafter with her family and Little Sisters present, Sr. Emmanuel left this world to celebrate her Jubilee in heaven with “Emmanuel, God is with us”, his Mother Mary and all the angels and saints.

October 15th, the date Sr. Emmanuel was to celebrate her Jubilee now became the day of her funeral, and, at her request, all her family, along with her entire community of Little Sisters plus some who joined us from our homes in Palatine and St. Louis, and the violinist were all present. We opened her funeral Mass singing her special request of “Like a Sunflower that follows every moment of the sun, so I turn toward You, to follow You my God.”

Certainly, “Emmanuel” was with her celebrating her 60th Jubilee as she requested, and she left us for her eternal home in heaven. May she rest in peace.

AN EVERYDAY ANGEL

An “angel” making St. Mary’s so special is our Jugan Terrace Apartment manager appropriately named Veronica “Angelica” Salinas. Angie as she prefers to be called has been serving the Terrace Residents for the past 7 years.

When asked what she loves most about her job she emphatically responds “the people!”

Angie grew up in the Gage Park neighborhood on the southwest side of Chicago. A single mother of three boys, her eldest son Isaiah is a college freshman studying nursing. Nursing seems to be an interest that runs in the family.

“I heard about the opening (for the manager’s position)



Angie in the middle of Jugan Terrace Residents
Gary Goad and Essie Nickens.



Resident Profile

Jacob Stein

By Sr. Dorothy, I.S.P.

Meeting Jacob Stein in person on December 14th was the highlight of my day. I enjoyed speaking with him and learning about his life. Why did I want to meet Jacob? Well, I saw him almost every day in the halls, dining areas, units, etc. in his wheel chair with a large brown paper bag. I often wondered what that bag contained, since he had it with him every time I saw him. I figured the best way to find out was to go meet the man himself.

So, I moseyed to his area and found his room (No. 105), knocked on the door and was welcomed by Jacob. He was listening to classical music. I really didn't want to disturb him, since I know how precious classical music can be to its lover. Jacob waved me in and politely turned off his music, and asked me to sit down.

I explained I wanted to learn more about him and would be doing a little story about him for our next newsletter. He seemed delighted.

Jacob was born on August 27, 1928 which makes him 90 years old. He moved into St. Mary's Home on April 7, 2010, and has been in the same room since he came here. His mother was Julia Taylor and his father, Solomon Stein. Jacob's sister, Eva was also in the Home but sadly passed away



Jacob with his bag of goodies.

two years ago. Jacob never married, but he had a girlfriend by the name of Chari who, we understand, was responsible for Jacob's being here. Another interesting tidbit about Jacob's family is that he is a distant cousin of St. Edith Stein.

Jacob is a native of Chicago and boasts of being an amateur artist. "So," I said "besides wanting a little background of your life Jacob, I really want to know about that large brown paper bag you carry in your wheel chair." He responded, "The bag has candy in it, and I give it out to people."

When asked why he does this, Jacob said, "I like the people here and because they help me." "How long have you been doing this?" I asked, and Jacob told me "Oh, for about a year or more." "And, to whom do you give the candy?" I asked Jacob, and he said, "to the nurses, CNAs and to some Residents, and most people say 'thank you'."

I was delighted to learn of Jacob's kindness. He can be seen with his large, brown paper bag giving out candy to those who are interested, and he does it because he loves them. Thank you Jacob!

from my cousin Sara (Lozada) who is a nurse here," Angie explained. "I was working for a real estate title company but wanted to switch to healthcare and attend night school to pursue a career in nursing." Although working for the Little Sisters is a joy, she has decided that nursing is not for her.

Since she started in August 2011, Angie has helped 43 new Residents move into the Terrace. She has both the professional and personal skills to be a wonderful manager. Her role includes being responsible for

the daily operations of the 50 unit building, interviews new candidates, show apartments, oversees renovations, handles complaints and requests of the Residents, collects rents, and responds to any situation related to the apartments. Angie cheerfully goes above and beyond to fulfill the Little Sisters' ideal to make the Residents happy. Making time to as she says, "just listen, and then sometimes offering words of encouragement."

Angie assists applicants to get extra help from the Department of Aging

and Catholic Charities so they can maintain their independence living in their own apartment. She coordinates with the DePaul nursing student volunteers to create engaging and healthy activities for the Residents. She facilitates other social gatherings like pot luck parties and movie nights to foster a sense of community.

Sr. Ann oversees the Jugan Terrace and says "Angie is the perfect extension of the hands of a Little Sister and the mission of St. Jeanne Jugan.

Mother's Message A Surprise to Everyone

By: Mother Marcel Joseph



Reading the beautiful Christmas story found in Scripture, I am amazed at the Father's "plan of action" for his Son, our Savior! One would think the Father would have planned that Jesus be born in an immaculate palace, with Kings and Princes coming to be the first to welcome and adore him. But to the surprise of everyone, the Father called in first-century Palestinian shepherds, those who were considered to be the lowest in society, to welcome Jesus to earth and then to tell the story. Yes! Shepherds! And they were to tell the greatest story ever told — Jesus Christ! Born in a stable amidst animals!

We Little Sisters are to relive daily the experience of those early shepherds who were called to welcome Jesus. As daughters of Jeanne Jugan, our vision clearly recognizes the face of Jesus on the beautiful wrinkled faces of the Elderly.

The story doesn't end there. You, our benefactors relive the Three Kings' search for Jesus! You too have seen His face shining on the faces of our Aged and you have offered your gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, through your donations.

This grace of God is amazing. This is Jesus' gift to all of us! It just doesn't get any better than this! God's incredible Gift to us! Jesus!

We hope your Christmas season was filled with gifts coming straight from the Heart of Jesus, along with his Peace. Happy New Year!

News in Jugan . . .

By Angie Salinas, Jugan Terrace manager

It's been an exciting time here at the Terrace. Just as the seasons changed, we said goodbye to the wonderful DePaul University students who fulfilled their Community Based Service Hours here to enhance the lives of our Residents. Fortunately some of the activities that they instituted will carry on through the next semester in January when we hope to welcome ten or more students to carry on this dynamic program. Through their support we have been able to offer a lot of new activities, from exercise classes, spa and movie nights, and our inaugural Wine & Cheese party.

We are still renovating the units and common areas to make our home comfortable and inviting. The newest addition is a beautiful statue of St. Jeanne Jugan that has been given a place of honor to greet Residents and guests alike as they enter our driveway.

Our annual Christmas party is everyone's favorite way to celebrate family,



DePaul Nursing Students pose with new St. Jeanne Jugan statue.

friends and neighbors. This year the Residents wanted to be more involved so they decided to contribute to a potluck meal. Some of the Residents were up early decorating the lobby and cooking favorite recipes that we all have come to enjoy. The Sisters love attending the party too as they bring gifts for every Resident, just as they do for those who live in St. Mary's home. It's a beautiful time to remind our Residents that they are loved!



St. Mary's Home Giving

Dear Sisters,

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____ to support your important projects to benefit the deserving Residents of St. Mary's Home.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

- Please send me information on remembering the Little Sisters in my will or estate.
- Please send me information on volunteering at St. Mary's Home.
- Please send me information on discerning a vocation as a Little Sister.
- Please send me your quarterly Serenity magazine.

Donations can also be made online at
www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org and click "donate."