



Our Friend and Protector

In the final month of a year devastated by the global pandemic, Pope Francis declared December 8, 2020, through December 8, 2021, would be the Year of St. Joseph. This special liturgical year marks the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the universal church.

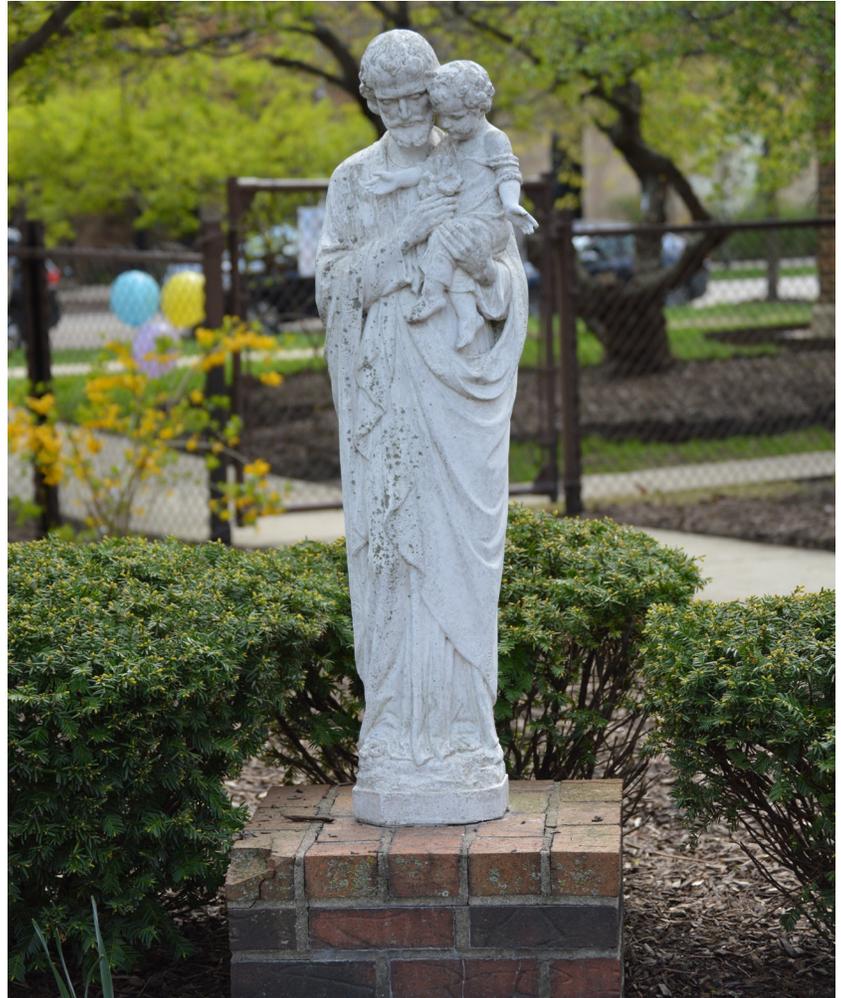
In his apostolic letter, *Patris Corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), the Pope informs us that his desire to focus on St. Joseph “increased during these months of the pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked.”

The Pope tells us we can discover in this simple man who goes unnoticed “an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.” In times like these, St. Joseph stands as a reminder that “those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Our foundress St. Jeanne Jugan instilled in her Little Sisters a profound devotion to St. Joseph, also known as “St. Joseph the Worker,” who supported Mary and Jesus, providing them with the practical, mundane, and yet vital things they needed in life. Her sincere confidence in St. Joseph inspired Jeanne to turn to him in her times of need as she began and continued her work with the elderly poor. She saw in him the likeness of our Heavenly Father, whose gracious Providence watches over the little ones.

During the challenging and uncertain months, many prayers were offered to our friend and protector St. Joseph to help provide for our Residents. Without fail, he answered our petitions with a host of caring supporters. The amount of food, supplies, and funds received was generous. The kindness of the ordinary people among us was extraordinary.

During this year dedicated to him, we thank St. Joseph for our many benefactors and pray he blesses them, for they are vital to our mission of caring for our elders in great need.



PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

POPE FRANCIS

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
In you Mary placed her trust;
With you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
Show yourself a father
And guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
And defend us from every evil.*

Amen.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



In January 2021, Pope Francis established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to take place each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. This year, July 25 marked the first observance of this day to honor the bonds between elders and youth, grandparents and grandchildren.

Its theme, taken from the Gospel of St. Matthew, was “I am with you always.” Himself an elderly person, the Pope reassures his contemporaries “the whole Church is close to you—to us—and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!”

A key and continuous priority for the Pontiff, the elderly “remind us that old age is a gift, and that grandparents are the link between the different generations to pass on to the young the experience of life.” The elderly are the roots, the trees that bear fruit in the form of hopes and dreams, experiences and stories. “Grandparents dream when their grandchildren go forward,” Pope Francis has observed, “and grandchildren have that courage when they take their roots from their grandparents.”

Here at St. Mary’s Home, our day included a special Mass, followed by a lively party prepared by the Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ). No party is complete

without music, and the AJJ planned a euphonious treat. Gifted violinists Lina Yamin and husband Nelson Mendoza, recent DePaul University graduates, performed several duets, with a charming, heartwarming rendition of “I Can’t Help Falling in Love with You” bringing grateful smiles to our Residents.

During the performance, AJJ members, assisted by our Life Enrichment staff, served Residents an assortment of wine, cheeses, and mouthwatering treats. All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable summer afternoon, a perfect day to celebrate our grandparents and elders.

MAGICAL CHEZ STE. MARIE



The return of Chez Ste. Marie—A Taste of France was simply magical. On September 9, on a picture-perfect late summer’s evening, the garden at St. Mary’s Home was transformed into an enticing Parisian jardin that welcomed supporters and friends, both the wine enthusiast and the wine novice.

Because of the pandemic, it had been two long years since the last wine-tasting fundraiser. This year, with COVID-19 still an issue, face masks may have been de rigueur, but their presence could not dampen the

excitement, muffle the laughter, or diminish the infectious bonhomie.

Thanks to The House of Glunz, the evening featured curated vin from various regions of France as well as handpicked international wines to celebrate the work of the Little Sisters around the world.

As our nearly 180 attendees sampled rosé, rouge, and blanc, they enjoyed handcrafted, French-inspired hors d’oeuvres. The wondrously rich display of charcuterie, fromages assortis, pain tranché, fruit frais, and more was a feast for the eye;

What's Cookin'?

Ask anyone who works at, lives, or volunteers with the Little Sisters, and he or she would tell you St. Mary's Home is one big family. Our kitchen staff know better than most because 365 days a year, three meals a day, our kitchen hums with activity to keep our Residents fed and happy. Our Dietary Manager Arthur Greenwald said it best: "I've been invited into the Residents' home to cook for them, so I do my best to serve them a meal they'll genuinely enjoy."

Our kitchen staff truly do their best to cater to any preferences Residents may have, and they go above and beyond to serve wonderful home-cooked food for every meal. According to Sr. Paul, "We make sure they feel that they can ask for whatever they want."

All of the food served to our Residents is prepared the day it is served and tailored to each of their preferences and needs. One highlight is no doubt the mashed potatoes, which are made from scratch. This



is no small feat, since 15 pounds of potatoes are peeled each day.

One amazing fact about our kitchen is that many of our ingredients are donated from local food vendors, some of whom have been supporting our Home for over 40 years.

Due to the generosity of our community, our kitchen operates very differently from other healthcare dining facilities. We strive to use

all food that is given to us and that requires a lot of creativity. Any excess food is shared with charities in the community to make sure our food waste is nominal.

We are truly fortunate to have such wonderful friends and supporters of our mission that allow our Residents to have a truly special dining experience each and every meal.

the delectables, a feast for the appetite. Few could refrain from the scrumptious desserts that beckoned. We are fortunate and grateful volunteers from the Association Jeanne Jugan plied their skills as chefs to prepare so many irresistible delights.

Early in the evening, a number of Residents and Little Sisters appeared in the windows of the second floor of the Home. With colorful signs and a wave of hands, they expressed well wishes and their gratitude for the breathtaking attendance and overwhelming support.

As dusk descended and fairy

lights gradually took full effect, our garden became a place of enchantment and uncommon beauty. Yet more senses were charmed as a talented string quartet from DePaul University serenaded listeners, and as a crescent moon dangled in the night sky, the sounds seemed to turn ever sweeter.

The event this year enjoyed the largest attendance and raised the most funds ever since its inception in 2010. Chez Ste. Marie in 2021 was indeed magical, with many departing guests eager for its return next year.



Serving the elderly poor in Chicago since 1876.

An Integral Part of the Family

Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, created a family for the elderly in her care. It came to include people from all walks of life who somehow contributed to making their lives happier. Your support enables us to continue this tradition of family love.

Our employees, too, are an integral part of our family. In August we recognized those who are retiring and those who are marking milestone anniversaries. Everyone enjoyed a great meal in our auditorium, social distancing being respected. Even more, they enjoyed being together and celebrating their years of service to the elderly of our Home. A total of twenty were recognized, including two who have been here for over forty years. We were very touched by the obvious joy of many of them to see their coworkers being honored.

Day in and day out our staff serves our Residents, and during this past year some of their efforts could only be described as heroic. I feel privileged to be part of the family here at St. Mary's Home, and I thank God for all of you who help us in our mission with such passion and commitment! Gratefully,

Sr. Charles Patricia, l.s.p.



THANK YOU
for contributing to

amazon

smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Our Charitable Giving List is updated regularly so make sure to check back!

Fund-A-Need



From time to time we have special needs that fall outside of our regular budget. These may be items, supplies, or services that help maintain quality care and enhance the comfort, well-being, and satisfaction of our Residents. To support a featured need, go to:

www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org.

Thank you!