



Bienvenue! ¡Bienvenido! Welcome!

On December 2, a gloriously sunny and unseasonably warm day, we rolled out the red carpet to welcome a truly special guest: Mother General María del Monte Auxiliadora.

The iconic flag of Chicago, featuring its two sky-blue bars and four unique six-pointed red stars, could be found both inside and out. Chicago pride, like our excitement, was on full display.

Mother María, a native of Seville, Spain, has been the Superior General of our Congregation since 2015, guiding the Little Sisters worldwide from our motherhouse, La Tour St. Joseph, in Brittany, France. This was her first visit to Chicago, and joining her was Mother Assistant Joseph Christine, who hails from Scotland. For her, this too

was her first visit to the Windy City.

Many enthusiastic embraces and animated salutations greeted our distinguished visitors, who were accompanied by Mother Provincial Julie Marie, her assistant Sr. Therese Marie de la Croix, and Sr. Mary Sylvia from our St. Joseph's Home in Palatine.

Representatives for the Residents of St. Mary's Home and Jugan Terrace, for the staff, for the Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ), and for the advisory council each presented Mother María with flowers, cards, or other mementos to celebrate the occasion.

One souvenir didn't make it to the carry-on bag, however. Mother María and Mother Joseph quickly discarded mundane surgical masks and readily

donned special ones sporting the Chicago flag!

After Mass, celebrated by the Most Reverend Mark Bartosic, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, Mother General was eager to meet our Residents. During lunch she visited them, going around from table to table, presenting to each her own small gift and offering words of prayerful encouragement. With a tender touch of the hand, a thoughtful nod, and a smile in her eyes, she brought infectious energy, cheer, and bonhomie.

As grateful as our Residents were, Mother María and Mother Joseph Christine were even more thankful to be in their presence. This was indeed an exciting and most joyous occasion!

The Flood

In the wee hours of Tuesday, October 26, the fire alarm sounded at St. Mary's Home, startling staff, disturbing Residents, and waking the Little Sisters, who bolted out of their beds and scrambled to attend to the alarm, ruining their shoes in the streams, puddles, and pools of water, some rusty brown, all swelling by the minute.

A sprinkler head had burst in an office hallway on the third floor, spraying water everywhere. The Sisters immediately called the fire department, which cut off the water supply. But not soon enough.

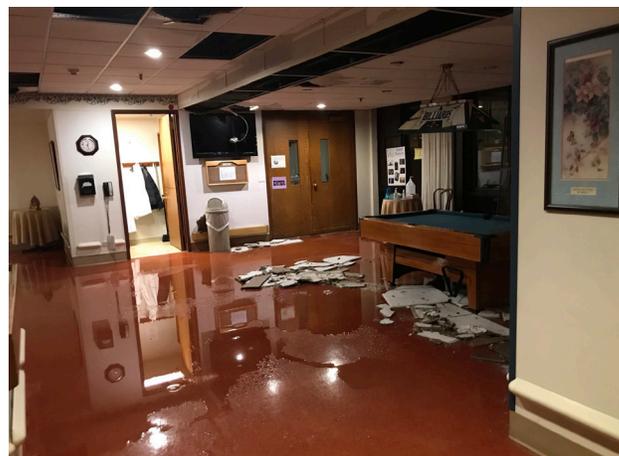
Who knew one little sprinkler could wreak so much havoc?

Fortunately, no Resident areas were affected, but consequential damage was done nonetheless. Numerous ceiling tiles fell on floors and in hallways were inundated with pools or streams of water. Many other ceiling tiles still remained overhead, broken, wet, and stained. The lower floors of the building suffered considerable flooding as water worked its way downward. Carpets were soaked. Walls were streaked by rivulets of water. Drywall was ruined. Several office spaces, computers, bookcases, files, and furniture were damaged. The entrance to the dining area was especially hard hit, forcing Residents to eat meals in the auditorium during the day.

The entire rhythm of the day was disrupted for both Residents and staff. Nothing was routine on this Tuesday. But together, as a family, everyone at St. Mary's Home pulled together to manage the inconvenience.

This disaster made the local evening news on Tuesday. By Wednesday, many concerned individuals were calling St. Mary's Home to offer financial assistance and more.

As we continue to face repairs, restoration, and remediation—all of which are running into the tens of thousands of dollars—we are encouraged and inspired by our benefactors, many caring and generous friends to the elderly in need.



HANUKKAH, FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

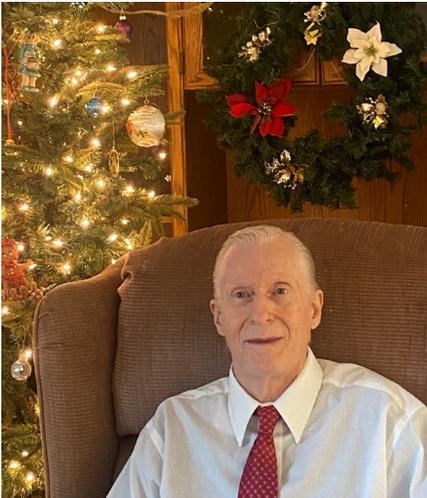
The Little Sisters of the Poor provide a loving home to needy seniors of all religions, races, and backgrounds. Residents can come from various denominations and creeds, and we celebrate with them in their expressions of faith and devotion.

This year, as in years past at Jugan Terrace, a number of Residents gathered to honor Hanukkah, which is Hebrew for "dedication." Commonly referred to as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish celebration that begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar and usually falls in November or December.

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Jews over the Syrian-Greek army and the subsequent miracle of rededicating the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and restoring its menorah, or lamp.

The miracle of Hanukkah is that only one vial of oil was found with just enough oil to illuminate the Temple lamp for a single day. And yet it lasted for eight full days.

Like many holidays, Hanukkah is celebrated with traditional foods, games, and gifts. But at the heart of this festival is the nightly lighting of the menorah, the special candelabra with eight branches plus



Picture It: A Photo to Remember

About this time of year, many of us take time to catch up with family members and friends, especially those we have not seen in a long while. We send out the Christmas card or the holiday newsletter, often including a photograph of our family as part of a year-end update.

Stepping into a room of a Resident, one sees right away the personal mementos, knickknacks, and, of course, photographs. These photographs often capture that moment: the graduation, the wedding, the composed family portrait, the special occasion—or perhaps even the unremarkable moment, one in which someone with a camera thought quickly enough to snap a picture “for posterity.”

Interestingly, relatively few of our Residents have up-to-date photographs of themselves.

Over the past several weeks, postulants for the Conventual Franciscan Friars have been helping us with a number of projects and activities with our Residents. Recognizing this dearth of current photographs, these young men devised a simple project to help our Residents send out something special for the holidays. They offered to take photographs of those Residents in St. Mary's Home and in Jugan Terrace who wanted to send a current photograph of themselves for the holidays to loved ones.

They set up a Christmas tree, replete

with perfectly coordinated ornaments, baubles, and lights in a festive and stylish scheme. They arranged the lighting and set the scene. With attention to detail, they sought to create that perfect “Hallmark moment” for our Residents.

After the examination of several proofs, the ideal shots were selected and printed. Some Residents included their photographs in Christmas cards; others set them in frames and mailed to loved ones.

We are grateful to these young men who have given so generously of themselves. They helped make this holiday season a little more special for our Residents and their loved ones this year.

a holder for the shamash (“servant”) candle used to light the other candles.

This year, sundown on November 28th marked the first day of Hanukkah. Jugan Residents, both Jewish and Christian, assembled in the lobby to light the first candle of the menorah. On the second night of the festival, a special meal was provided by a generous donor. Plates were laden with such traditional fare as latke (potato pancake), sufganiyat (jam-filled donut), and kugel (noodle casserole). A glass of kosher wine complemented the food.

The miracle story of Hanukkah was

recounted over the course of the eight days as the lighting of the menorah continued. The spiritual significance of this holiday is that, like their forbears who dedicated themselves to restoring the Temple more than 2,000 years ago, Jewish people today also take time during Hanukkah to reflect on who they really are and to rededicate themselves to their faith.

The story, traditions, and beauty of Hanukkah remind us of God's wonderful miracles and invite us, with our Jewish brethren, to rededicate ourselves to our own faith.



A SIMPLE NOTE



As we gaze at the Infant with Mary and Joseph, we are struck by the nearness of our God who has taken on human flesh and has come to live among us — as one of us. This tiny, helpless Baby is the greatest “Gift” ever given. It is Jesus who comes.

Again and again Jesus comes to us through the kindness of those who desire to assist us in the care of our Residents. 2021 has been a difficult year. Despite the challenges we have faced, we continue to be able to give our Residents a loving Home where they are surrounded with respect, affection, and care. Your support reflects the love that Jesus brings to our world, so in need of tenderness and compassion.

Know of our grateful prayers for you and your loved ones this Christmas. May Jesus, God-with-us, fill you with the deep peace that He alone can give.

Your Little Sisters

WAYS TO GIVE

We are grateful to the many benefactors who support us. Through your generosity, the Little Sisters of the Poor are able to provide the neediest elderly a loving, comfortable home. We humbly ask for your continued support that makes our mission and work possible.

Recurring Gifts: If you donate online, you can choose to schedule donations to repeat automatically at a frequency that works best for you.

Matching Gift: To make your donation go even further, check to see if your employer has a matching gift program.

AmazonSmile: Sign up for AmazonSmile and designate Little Sisters of the Poor of Chicago as your charity, and a portion of your purchases will be donated to us.

Gifts of Stocks, Bonds, and Other Contact dvchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org for information on how to make a transfer.

Planned Giving: Consider leaving a legacy of providing for the elderly by choosing Little Sisters of the Poor of Chicago as a beneficiary of your will or trust.

Honorariums or Memorials: Give a donation to honor a special person in your life, to recognize a significant achievement or anniversary, or to remember a loved one.

For more information, contact
dvchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

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