



In the Footsteps of St. Jeanne Jugan

The Little Sisters of the Poor are united closely with each other throughout the world. We have one work, one mission in the Church: to care for the Elderly in need and to create a loving home for them. We were founded by St. Jeanne Jugan in 1839; the first actual step in beginning our Congregation was Jeanne carrying a blind, paralyzed elderly woman from a hovel and placing her in her own bed. Word spread quickly, and more and more elderly in need turned to Jeanne. Young women began to join her. They cared for the elderly, prayed with them and offered them a life of peaceful security.

In order to support the work Jeanne turned to any and all who would help her; she knocked on doors, approached businesses, farmers, pastors and families; she tirelessly walked throughout the countryside with her begging basket on her arm; it was said that she prayed with all her soul and collected with all her heart. Her benefactors became part of the spiritual family of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

We as Jeanne's followers strive to do the same, and our benefactors truly become part of our spiritual family as they help us in manifold ways to care for our elderly Residents. And much like our foundress, we take to heart all of the special intentions that our donors confide to our prayers. Each day, several times a day,



Sr. Michael, Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Ann and Sr. Marie Cecilia with some of the many prayer intentions that we receive each day.

the Sisters gather for prayer, and our benefactors are always remembered in those prayers. Many send us prayer requests and we take them very seriously. The Little Sisters read each one: families struggling, people facing difficult situations, or those who ask for prayerful support as they strive to live good Christian lives. Whatever it is, we take it seriously and we place those petitions in a basket in our Chapel in front of an image of St. Jeanne Jugan as a reminder that we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all who support our work.



Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our MISSION is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

Highlights of the Holidays



This holiday season, St. Mary's Home was blessed with visits from students from nearby elementary schools, who brought goodie bags stuffed with homemade cards, warm winter necessities and holiday cheer for our Residents. Pictured, all smiles, is Sr. Mary of the Holy Spirit receiving her perfectly packaged present with students from Oscar Mayer Magnet School.



There's no place like Home for the holidays! While eating a steaming hot breakfast, Residents were delighted with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus who brought with them a sleigh full of gifts. Pictured (L to R) is Resident Liz Funchion, Mother Margaret Charles, Cathy Uliasz, and Sr. Christina.



Resident Dorothy French shows off her new hat gifted to her by the children of Oscar Mayer Magnet School.



The Briggs Sisters got both Residents and Sisters alike movin' and shakin' during this year's New Year's Eve party. These sisters boogied down to songs like "We Are Family," "Gangnam Style," and closed out the night with "So Long, Farewell" from the Sound of Music. A fan favorite, "Love Train," got the whole room grooving with a conga line! We are truly blessed to have the talented Briggs Sisters ring in the new year with us every year. In the right photo (L to R): Buffy, Charmin, Jenny, and Jackie.

Resident Bob Kustusch excitedly displays his Christmas present from Santa — a new tie with his two favorite colors!



◆ Dressed in their best and most festive clothes, Residents like Joe Capri, escorted by friend of the Home, Marge Schugt, were invited to a beautiful Christmas dinner complete with festive music and handcrafted cocktails! Everyone who attended agreed that it was truly a night to remember!



ST. JEANNE JUGAN'S SPIRIT IN OUR RESIDENTS

Quotes from Our Foundress



“Making the elderly happy – that is what counts!”



“We must be faithful in little things, because it is in little things that our love is proved.”



“Love God very much, so that you can look after the aged well, for it is Jesus whom you care for in them.”



“Love is not proved by grand deeds, but by little attentions.”



Our Annual Sweet Sweepstakes is here!

Suggested donation: \$25 for 1 ticket, \$100 for 5 tickets

No purchase is necessary to enter or win, and a donation does not increase your chance of winning.

But we do depend on your generous support!

Your entry will remain in all ten drawings unless you win, in which case it will be removed until the 10th drawing. Winners need not be present for drawings.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

As we mentioned on our cover page of this newsletter, the Little Sisters form a very united family with our elderly Residents, with all who support our apostolate, and with all those who count on our prayers. I feel very blessed to be part of such a united, faith-filled Congregation.

Each year, on New Year's Day the Little Sisters throughout the world receive a message from our Mother General. She offers us an orientation for the year; a point on which each Little Sister is asked to focus, and which will enhance our unity as a Congregation.

This year, she has invited us to delve deeper into the soul of the one God has given us as the "Mother of all Little Sisters," our foundress St. Jeanne Jugan. As a community we are sharing ideas about how we can do this and involve everyone at St. Mary's. As the year progresses, we hope to share more with you.

St. Jeanne Jugan would often repeat the same counsels to her Sisters: Remain Little, humble, love God and the poor very much, and always pray for our benefactors – which we promise you we always do.

Keep sending your special intentions and know that the Little Sisters and our elderly Residents bring them before Our Lord in prayer. Thank you for your support.

Gratefully,

Mother Margaret Charles

Save the Date!

Sweet Sweepstakes: *March 1 - May 3*

Ten weekly drawings to win \$500 or the Grand Prize of \$5,000!



Travinia: *Saturday, March 2*

Bring your picnic to St. Mary's Home and test your trivia knowledge!



Habits on the Green: *Monday, June 10*

Our much-anticipated annual golf classic returns to Midlothian Country Club.



Chez Ste. Marie- A Taste of France: *Thursday, September 12*

Our ever-popular wine tasting soirée beckons you to St. Mary's Home.



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 future need, go to:

www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org/donate