



Time and Life

St. Mary's Home

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Trust in God and above all give thanks.

"On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence."

— William Jennings Bryan

In the United States, the Advent and Christmas seasons are preceded by the national observation of Thanksgiving, which marks a 1621 truce between the Pilgrims and native Wampanoag Indians that recognized their mutual dependence.

The Little Sisters acknowledge their dependence on God and His Providence not only during the holidays but each and every day. This confidence in Divine Providence, while not unique among religious orders, is at the heart of the Little Sisters' spirituality and guides everything they do. It is expressed in their mendicant way of life. There are no endowments, investments or planned giving programs, but their radical trust in God, which never disappoints.

The Lord provides for the Little Sisters and most especially for the elderly poor, He has placed in their care, through their benefactors who share their time, talent, treasure and prayers. These supporters are a cause of celebration.

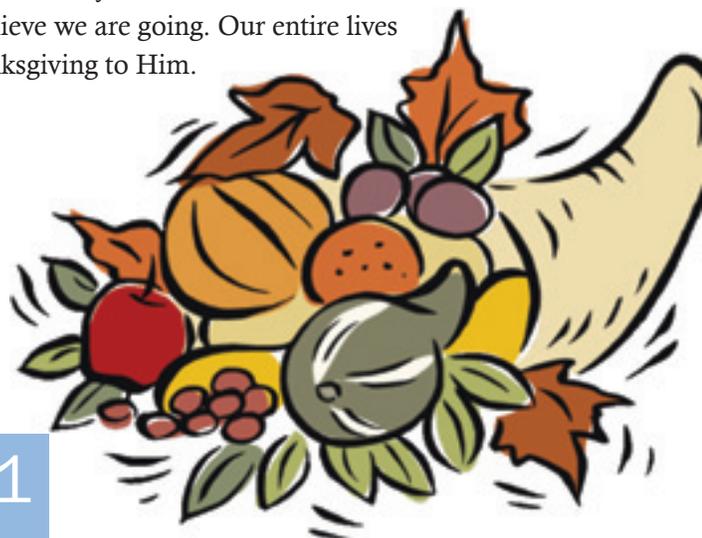
St. Jeanne Jugan said "We must always say, 'Blessed be God!'" We thank Him for our blessings and our disappointments. The blessings she said were for those in their care and the disappointments were for the Little Sisters' spiritual benefit. So whatever would happen would be a reason for gratitude.

As Christians, we are reminded in Sacred Scripture that we too are pilgrims. The definition of a pilgrim is someone who takes a journey to a holy place to worship there. This voyage is a service to God, and oftentimes requires some extreme and perhaps voluntary hardship. However, our faith assures us that it is all worth it.

We are pilgrims passing through this world on the way to Heaven. We should live our lives as though that is where we really believe we are going. Our entire lives should be spent in service to God and in thanksgiving to Him.

*"We must always say,
'Blessed be God!'"*

— St. Jeanne Jugan





ST. MARY'S HOME
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Dear Family and Friends:

This month, we celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday about recognizing our blessings. As Little Sisters, we thank God daily and count each and every one of you as a special gift from Our Lord.

Reflecting, we remember the many ways that God provides for us throughout the year and are filled with humble gratitude. We are first grateful for the Residents, who give us more than what we could ever hope to give them in return. Welcoming them to the family of St. Mary's Home, we also welcome and come to know their family and friends, an added blessing. We are thankful for our generous benefactors who provide financial and in-kind resources to help us maintain a warm and cozy home. We give thanks for our committed Staff who provide quality care and devoted concern and love for the residents; our loyal volunteers whose constant presence reassures our Residents that they are appreciated and loved.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love") that Catholic charitable activity isn't simply philanthropy, it's a reflection of Christian faith and the obligation to love others as Christ loved. Thank you for your loving kindness and support.

As we approach the Christmas season, we wish you God's abundant blessings. And we pray that the coming New Year will be filled with joy and peace.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Patricia Mary, I.S.P.



ST. MARY'S HOME
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Dear Friends:

Greetings! May Christ's peace be with you.

My name is Bill Osquino. I am a 68 year old man. I've been here at the Little Sisters since Aug. 3, 2011. Since I've been here, my health has improved. The reason is that I've been on a regimen of proper medicine and exercise (physical therapy). I have reduced the number of cigarettes that I smoke by 2/3. My blood sugar is down to a normal level. I'm eating three meals a day. I'm going to Mass everyday, which I have wanted to do for years. The nuns (Sisters) and the staff are both helpful and very friendly to me. The staff is also very professional. I am in better health and I feel better since moving here.

Sincerely,
In Jesus' Love,
Bill Osquino



"It is so good to be poor, to have nothing, to depend on God for everything."

Saint Jeanne Jugan

Loving God and his St. Mary neighbors



Resident Mary Haughey congratulates Fr. Mike on his anniversary.

Rev. Mike Ruthenberg, O.P., celebrated 10 years as resident Chaplain to St. Mary's Home on November 17th. He says the time has passed surprisingly quickly, marked by the wonderful people he has met.

"The residents' simple faith and their life stories have really inspired me," Father Mike says, reflecting on his time here. "Some of them are scared when they first move here, but then they are transformed with hope because they feel so fortunate to be able to live with the Sisters."

The Little Sisters have also left an indelible impression on him. Father said that he stands "in awe" of the Sisters and their mission. "As a Dominican, our tradition is also one of begging; however, the Little Sisters are true mendicants. Actually, Dominicans no longer go out to beg for donations. The Sisters beg on behalf of the elderly poor and do tremendous work with these resources."

As Chaplain, Father Mike provides spiritual and emotional comfort to the Residents. He is always available to offer spiritual direction and counsel but he never wants anyone to ever feel pressured. "My goal is to bring Christ to them through my homilies, when we gather for meals, or pass each other in the halls," Father Mike said.

He celebrates two daily Masses as well as the other sacraments even baptism. One memorable story was when he baptized former Resident Georgetta Steiner at the age of 100. Father Mike helped her prepare for the sacrament, which she received along with her first communion and confirmation. Georgetta and her husband raised their children in the Church. However, because she grew up in a community where Catholics faced overt discrimination she delayed her official entry. By the time Georgetta moved to St. Mary's Home, she finally felt safe to openly practice her faith.

A proud native of St. Clair Shores, Michigan, Father was inspired to become a priest by the Dominican Sisters who taught him in grade school, where he developed a deep appreciation for their charism. "It's ironic but I never met a Dominican priest as a child," he notes.

The hallmark of Dominican spirituality is preaching, a gift that has been bestowed on Father Mike, and one that he skillfully shares with his neighbors.

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

— **Mathew 22**



Fall Fun!

The spirit of family so important to St. Jeanne Jugan was certainly present at St. Mary's Home this fall. September was packed with "Back to School" activities; October weekends were filled with new and unique events (such as our first Pet Blessing and Halloween festivities); and in November we honored our veterans.





St. Mary's Home Holiday Wish List

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we care for the needy elderly in the spirit of humble service that we have received from Jeanne Jugan. We welcome the elderly as we would Jesus Christ himself and serve them with love and respect until death.

The Little Sisters of the Poor do not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, age or gender.

The Little Sisters of the Poor do not share or sell donor information. Our mailing list is strictly private and confidential.

- ▶ AA & AAA Batteries
- ▶ Adult Incontinent Products
- ▶ Aluminum Foil
- ▶ Body Wash
- ▶ Cologne
- ▶ Kleenex
- ▶ Knee Highs (nylon stockings)
- ▶ Mouth Wash
- ▶ Napkins
- ▶ Paper Cups for hot/cold beverages (6 – 8 oz.)
- ▶ Paper Plates
- ▶ Plastic Wrap
- ▶ Unscented Body Lotion
- ▶ Wine (red and white)

Save the Date! – Trivia Night

We are looking for teams to compete in our first ever Trivia Night on Saturday, January 28 from 6:30 – 9:30 pm at St. Mary's Home. Come test your knowledge, have a drink, and support the Little Sisters. Teams can consist of 4 to 6 people and tickets are \$20.00 per person. To reserve a spot for your team contact our Development office at dvchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org or (773) 935-9600 ext. 303.

Yes Sister, I want to support the Little Sisters of the Poor with a Year End Gift!

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____ to help with the ongoing care of the Residents at St. Mary's Home.

- Please send me information on remembering the Little Sisters in my will or estate.
- Please send me information on volunteering for the Little Sisters.
- Please send me information on discerning a vocation as a Little Sister.
- Please send me your quarterly *Serenity* magazine.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Prefer to donate online? Go to www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org to donate online.