



Time and Life

St. Mary's Home

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The Spirit of Jeanne Jugan Lives On!

**“Be kind... In serving the aged,
it is He Himself whom you are serving.”**

On August 30th, St. Mary's Home will honor St. Jeanne Jugan on her feast day. What makes her so remarkable is not how she founded a world-wide organization from one selfless act of kindness but how her mission challenges us today.

It's incredible but in 1839 Jeanne Jugan gave up her own bed to a blind and paralyzed elderly woman she carried straight off the streets — the first of many poor elderly who came to her door.

Pope Benedict XVI called St. Jeanne Jugan a “saint for old age,” which might not seem like much of an honor in a society that esteems youth and all its attributes. It is a title that is significant precisely because it is so counter-cultural.

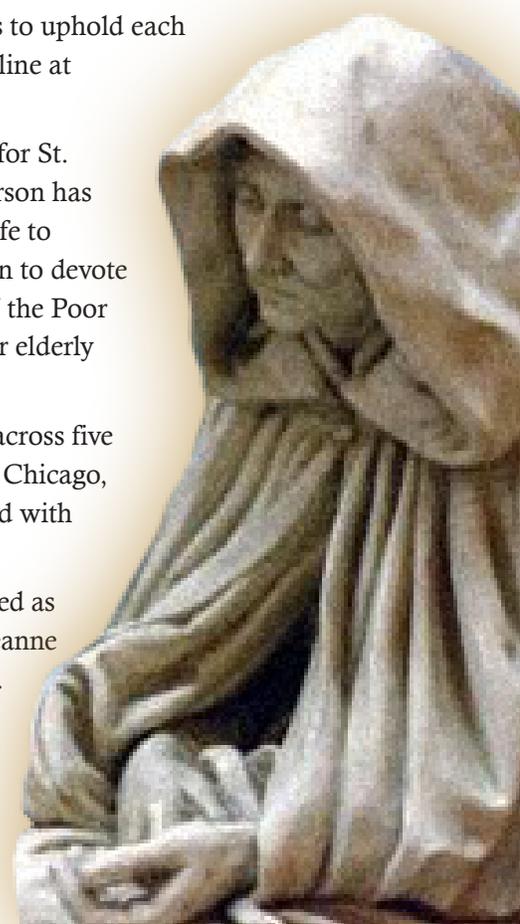
As we struggle to define public policy to best care for our senior members of society, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops offers us wisdom through its recently published statement entitled “To Live Each Day with Dignity.” Its teaching reminds us that compassion's root word means to “suffer with” another person. The document calls on Catholics to work with others to uphold each person's right to live with dignity. The full text is available online at www.usccb.org/toliveeachday.

Ideas about the meaning of human dignity may vary, but for St. Jeanne Jugan, it was very simple. She believed that every person has worth simply by being a child of God, and she devoted her life to caring for the vulnerable. Her spirituality still inspires women to devote their lives to the care of the elderly poor. The Little Sisters of the Poor embody her model of love by opening up their homes to their elderly guests they lovingly call Residents.

Today, Little Sisters care for 13,000 elderly in 196 homes across five continents. There are 30 homes in the United States. Here in Chicago, St. Mary's is home to 120 low-income seniors who are treated with respect and kindness.

By 2030, it is estimated that 1 in 5 Americans will be counted as elderly and will spend their final years in nursing homes. St. Jeanne Jugan's legacy increasingly will be an indispensable apostolate.

Inside you will find reflections of how St. Jeanne Jugan's spirit continues in the lives of some of the members of St. Mary's family.





How do you live out St. Jeanne Jugan's legacy?



Shirley Bady
Certified Nursing Assistant

"I try to do better than my best each day because that is what the Residents deserve. This Home is so special because everyone who works here has that spirit and we work hard to inspire it in new employees."

Ann Hermes Tudor, LCSW
Director of Social Services & Admissions, AJJ

"As I go about my day - at work, home and in the community - I try to embrace the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan in the smallest ways. For example when I am interacting with an elderly person, I always ask myself 'What can I do to make this person happier or more comfortable?' It helps center me."



Daniel Berger
Assistant Development Director

"Whenever Residents visit my office to talk, I stop whatever I am doing to listen. I give them as much time as they need. Just listening to someone seems small, but realizing how happy it makes them is fulfilling."

Patricia Landini
Volunteer, AJJ

"To be small and not seek recognition is what impresses me about the spirituality of St. Jeanne Jugan. I try to remember it when I am doing something for someone."



Novena to Saint Jeanne Jugan

Jesus, you rejoiced and praised Your Father for having revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. We thank You for the graces granted to Your humble servant, Jeanne Jugan, to whom we confide our petitions and needs.

Father of the Poor, You have never refused the prayer of the lowly. We ask You, therefore, to hear the petitions she presents to You on our behalf.

Jesus, through Mary, Your Mother and ours, we ask this of You, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

Amen.

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

Saint Jeanne Jugan

Listening For the Call



Resident Dorothy England enjoys a visit with Anna before lunch.



Linnea and Christina receive a warm welcome from Sr. Mildred.



Everyone gathers for a group photo in the chapel. Pictured: (kneeling, left to right) Mary, Sierra, Linnea and Angie (standing, left to right) Chaperone Dana, Chaperone Marlo, Christina, Fr. Ehli, Bethany, Deacon Hochhalter, and Anna.

St. Mary's Home recently opened its door to seven college-bound young women traveling from Bismarck, North Dakota through the Midwest as part of a 4-day "nun run."

A nun run is a type of road trip in which a group of vocation-discerning students (mostly high school seniors) visit several convents and/or communities within a small period of time to get a glimpse into the life of a professed religious.

Their stop here was a whirlwind but they were able to tour Chicago, see a musical, and spend time with the Sisters and Residents. They prayed, made beds, served meals, socialized, and even made a trip to the produce market to beg for donations.

Father Joshua Ehli, head chaperone and run organizer, concluded their visit with a special Mass for the Residents and young women.

The visit was short but it was enough time to fall in love with the Residents! The Residents especially enjoyed their stay and are looking forward to welcoming them again.



Sierra and Linnea take a break from serving lunch to chat with Resident Laverne Barnard.



Christina and Resident Joan Fredrick hope to hear the right numbers during afternoon bingo.



While their visit was both busy and brief, the group made time for prayer and reflection.

Paying it Forward

Two years ago the Residents formed a fundraising group to find practical ways to support and connect with their local and global communities. The group raises money for favorite charities through special events like preparing home cooked meals for employees, bake sales and impromptu performances.

So far, they have raised money for Haiti Hurricane Relief, St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Smile Train.

The Council also hosts events such as the Annual Mother's Day Tea for Residents and parties for staff to show their appreciation. "It is a great way to get involved and do something positive, which benefits everyone," said Resident Helen Linzer.



Helen Linzer enjoys cooking, especially when it is for a good cause.



Else Sawicki shows her appreciation for the staff during the Residents' performance of "You Are My Sunshine."



Welcome New Sisters!

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.



Sr. Mary of the Holy Spirit



Nun Run organizer Fr. Ehli prays with Sr. Marie Alphonsine.



Sr. Mary Anne helps Resident Mary Malloy keep track of her bingo cards.

St. Mary's Home recently welcomed three new members. As part of their way of life, Sisters are sometimes asked to relocate to help where there is a need. The transfer is called an "obedience."

Our new Administrator is Sr. Mary of the Holy Spirit who is also responsible for the Our Lady of Joy Unit and the Jugan Terrace Apartments. Reflecting the global influence of St. Jeanne Jugan, our two international arrivals are Sr. Mary Anne and Sr. Marie Alphonsine. Sr. Mary Anne, who comes from Malaysia, is responsible for the Sacred Heart Unit and Sr. Marie Alphonsine, originally from Shanghai, China, brings her culinary talents to our kitchen staff.

All are wonderful additions to St. Mary's Home!

Chez Ste. Marie: A Taste of France

On Thursday, August 25th, we will hold our 2nd Annual Chez Ste. Marie Wine Tasting in the award-winning garden of St. Mary's Home from 6 - 8 pm.



Guests will enjoy live music while sampling wines from the major regions of France paired with French-inspired hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Tickets @ \$50 each

I cannot attend, but I am enclosing a donation of \$_____