Save the Dates:

- Aug. 30, 2012
  Holy Mass on the Feast of St. Jeanne Jugan

- Sept. 10, 2012
  Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

- Nov. 8, 2012
  St. Joseph’s Home for the Holidays Wine Tasting

God Wants Me for Himself

Residents’ Daughter Joins Little Sisters

As fireworks exploded and sparks of bright lights illuminated the sky, the Holy Spirit was exploding and illuminating in the heart of a young woman destined to be His bride. “It was the 4th of July between her freshman and sophomore year of college,” explained Ed Sims, “that my daughter was called to her vocation.” Coincidently, also in July, Sr. Andrea Rose made her first profession as a Little Sister of the Poor.

Mary Jo Sims, Sr. Andrea’s mom, remembers, “Andrea always lovingly cared for the children in vacation bible school and the elderly Residents at the nursing home where she worked during college.” When her father suffered a terrible accident she gave up her job to help me care for him.”

Sr. Andrea felt that the Lord was calling her to fulfill her gift of womanhood by becoming a religious Sister. In discerning her vocation, she searched for a religious order where devotion to the Magistarium and service to those in need was actively lived out. The words of St. Jeanne Jugan, “God wants me for Himself”, echoed in Andrea’s heart and led her to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

On July 21st Sr. Andrea professed her temporary vows of Obedience, Poverty, Chastity and Hospitality at St. Ann’s Noviate in Queens Village, NY. For the next two years she will work alongside other Little Sisters continuing to learn to care for the elderly.

Reflecting on his daughter, Ed Sims laughed, “I can’t find anything wrong with the man (Jesus) she’s marrying. He will protect her and provide very well for her. I couldn’t be a prouder Father-in-law!”
It has been said that saints are like windows in which the light of Christ shines through to a cloudy world. How true this is of St. Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Growing up in Milwaukee, the Little Sisters had a home next to my parish. I often served Mass there before school. The Sisters were always so kind and made sure we had breakfast and a bag of candy for coming so early. The Residents and staff exuded much joy, and my pastor always sang the praises of the Little Sisters.

Later in life, my family faced a dilemma of caring for the needs of my mother-in-law who emigrated from Honduras. Her health was rapidly declining and we did not know where to turn. Although she was here legally, Renee did not qualify for Medicare or other government assistance.

Providentially, Our Lord brought the Little Sisters back into my life. As Executive Director of the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE, we got reacquainted at IRL conferences and meetings.

Sharing our situation with one of the Sisters, we were invited to bring my mother-in-law for a visit and evaluation. When I explained that she was extremely poor and did not have any assets, I was told that she all the more qualified to become part of the Little Sister’s family!

We moved her into St. Joseph’s Home, where she was treated like a queen. I remember one of the Sisters telling her when she arrived that this was now her home. For a woman that grew up in extreme poverty, this was a gift beyond belief.

As Renee’s health continued to worsen, our family was so relieved knowing her spiritual and physical needs were being taken care of. Visiting practically every day, we marveled at how the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan was being lived out.

During this time, I was most fortunate to attend the canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan in Rome. In a certain way it was a pilgrimage of thanksgiving for the generosity and goodness of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Shortly after my return, surrounded by the loving presence and prayers of the Little Sisters, Renee’s soul returned to God.

St. Jeanne Jugan was a “beacon of the Beatitudes” manifesting the love of Christ to the aged poor and those most in need. I will be forever indebted to the Little Sisters of the Poor for carrying on her mission and taking care of my mother-in-law, Renee Castillo.

We moved her into St. Joseph’s Home, where she was treated like a queen. I remember one of the Sisters telling her when she arrived that this was now her home. For a woman that grew up in extreme poverty, this was a gift beyond belief.

As Renee’s health continued to worsen, our family was so relieved knowing her spiritual and physical needs were being taken care of. Visiting practically every day, we marveled at how the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan was being lived out.

During this time, I was most fortunate to attend the canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan in Rome. In a certain way it was a pilgrimage of thanksgiving for the generosity and goodness of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Shortly after my return, surrounded by the loving presence and prayers of the Little Sisters, Renee’s soul returned to God.

St. Jeanne Jugan was a “beacon of the Beatitudes” manifesting the love of Christ to the aged poor and those most in need. I will be forever indebted to the Little Sisters of the Poor for carrying on her mission and taking care of my mother-in-law, Renee Castillo.
**Golden Jubilee**

Sr. Mary Francis du St. Esprit’s Golden Jubilee celebration began Friday, May 4th, as the Polania Ensemble entertained us with their beautiful folk dancing. Saturday, following a Mass of Thanksgiving offered by Fr. Robert Joseph Switanowski, OFM, Conv., a humorous depiction of a Day in the Life of Sr. Mary Francis, was presented by our staff. Closing out the celebration after a delicious dinner, Residents, Little Sisters and staff presented a touching production, paralleling St. Francis and St. Jeanne Jugan.

**Acts of Love**

“The poor are not happy just because they are given a home, food, and care, but also, above all, because through the care they are given, they see that they are loved …. ” An excerpt from St. Jeanne Jugan by Eloi Leclerc.

The simple, hidden acts of love performed at St. Joseph's each day sometimes seem to go unnoticed, but they are no doubt seen by Our Lord, and felt by the elderly who live here.

We strive to create a place where we are all family, treating each other with love and respect. St. Joseph’s is a true home, not just a place to live, work, or volunteer. Our staff, Association Jeanne Jugan members and volunteers, are an extension of the Little Sisters’ hands and hearts. The service and gifts they bring to our home help us to maintain our Family Spirit.

And you, our Benefactors, are the greatly treasured, but mostly hidden part of our family. Without your generous support, we would not be able to meet the operating costs of our Home. We offer you our heartfelt thanks and prayers that the Lord will reward you a hundredfold for your hidden acts of love to His beloved elderly.

---

**The Litany of St. Jeanne Jugan**

composed by Mike D. Wick

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, * pray for us.  
Saint Joseph, *  
St. John Eudes, *  
St. John of God, *  
St. Jeanne Jugan, *  
Sister Mary of the Cross, *  
Foundress and first mother of the Little Sisters, **  
Selfless servant at Saint-Servan, *  
Faithful daughter of the Church, *  
Holy woman of humble heart, *  
Pillar of spiritual strength and courage, *  
Patient soul awaiting God’s call, *  
Talented organizer for God’s work, *  
One united with the poor, *  
Special attendant to the sick, *  
Comforter to the lonely, *  
Consoled to the suffering, *  
Companion to the dying, *  
Apostle of the aged and abandoned, *  
Advocate for the needy and neglected, *  
Friend to the forgotten and forsaken, *  
Rescuer of the distressed and destitute, *  
Helper of the homeless and widowed, *  
Instrument of healing and mercy, *  
Agent of change and transformation, *  
Virgin consecrated to the Lord’s service, *  
Beloved beggar of God’s Providence, *  
Model of divine abandonment, *  
Quiet victim of injustice, *  
Beacon of the Beatitudes, *  
Living light of God’s love, *  
Disciple of living faith, *  
Herald of undying hope, *  
Vessel of burning charity, *  
Great lover of the treasure of poverty, *  
Protector of the precious jewel of chastity, *  
Silent witness to evangelical obedience, *  
Visible sign of gracious hospitality, *  
Paradigm of care and concern, *  
Grateful recipient of untold graces, *  
Guide to those in formation, *  
Woman of prophetic intuition, *  
Inspiration to volunteers, *  
Promoter of the culture of life, *  
Patron for our troubled times, *  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
Spare us, O Lord.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
Graciously hear us, O Lord.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy on us.  
Pray for us, St. Jeanne Jugan  
That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.  
Let us pray.  
God our Father, You have promised Your Kingdom  
to those who are willing to serve  
the poor and those in need. Help us to follow the way  
of St. Jeanne Jugan with confidence so that by  
her prayers we may come to know your eternal glory.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen
On August 30th, we celebrate the feast of St. Jeanne Jugan. On that day, we are honored to host a reception for Monsieur Hughes Fourage, mayor of Palatine’s Sister City, Fontenay-le-Comte, France. What a beautiful way to celebrate her heritage and legacy.

Today, St. Jeanne Jugan continues to invite us to live the Beatitudes, trusting that God will provide for our needs. Through your generosity, we have seen His love manifested in the completion of several projects. Soon, the original air conditioning and heating units in the North Wing (Craft/Activity Room, laundry, ice cream parlor and employee lunchroom) will be replaced. A sprinkler system will be installed in our elevators. We are ordering new chairs for the Resident dining rooms and a new dishwasher for the kitchen.

As Little Sisters of the Poor living our mission of loving service, we are grateful for the opportunities God gives us to experience the depth of His mercy and love. Recently we experienced this beauty, as one of our Residents journeyed to his eternal home. We, along with Mother Provincial Maria Christine, her large family, and our dedicated staff, shared in the grace filled last days of Mother’s father, John Lynch.

Aware that we will always need your help, we recognize that your generosity and understanding of our mission is a gift. This truly strengthens our faith. Throughout these summer months we see the happiness of our Residents, as they give us so many opportunities to know, love and serve them. Thank you for sharing in this very specific joy. Together we are making a difference living out the example of St. Jeanne Jugan.

Mother Marguerite Marie

Swing and A Prayer Golf Outing

It’s not too late to register! Polish your clubs and arrange your foursomes. It’s time again for the Little Sisters of the Poor 7th Annual “Swing and A Prayer” Golf Outing on Monday, September 10, 2012.

This outing began seven years ago as a source of funds for our ever increasing operating expenses. Additionally, we are faced with cash flow challenges as the State of Illinois has been consistently late with our monthly Medicaid reimbursements.

Your donations are vital in supporting our mission of providing a loving home and care for our elderly Residents.

Why don’t you join us for a great day of golf, delicious food and fun? The beautiful Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, IL is a premier 18-hole championship caliber course.

The event will include a 4-person scramble, box lunch, dinner and an awards reception. For registration, sponsorship or advertisement information, call Diana Olson at 847-358-5700 or go to www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org.

Register now for A Swing and A Prayer Golf Outing, Monday, September 10, 2012 at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, IL.

Visit us at www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org