



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

Serving the elderly poor in Palatine since 1965

Mission Statement

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.



The Gift of the Eucharist In This Year of Faith

“There is nothing in ourselves or in our past that one Communion cannot more than repair - if we have but enough faith!” St. Thomas Aquinas

In the winter of 1839 St. Jeanne Jugan saw Christ in the eyes of Ann Chauvin, the elderly blind homeless woman, whom she carried to her own bed to care for her. She dedicated her life to giving herself to others as Christ gave Himself to us.

She became, in Christ, poor among the poor. People could not tell the difference between her and them, and this was supreme joy to her. “Really love the poor, really take care of them – they are our treasures.” What a sublime thing faith is when it is truly lived. We can hardly tell where faith ends and love begins.” (*Excerpts from Poor in Spirit by Cardinal Garrone*).

On Christmas Morning, God our Father sent us the “Greatest Gift of All.” Jesus

Christ entered the world as the poorest of the poor; a manger was His bed. He came for all people, entering this world in pure humility so that no one would think that He was too great or better than them. Through the gift of the Holy Eucharist, Christ feeds our souls with His love, so that we might love Him in return, thus loving others as well. It was her devotion to the Holy Eucharist and all of the sacraments that gave St. Jeanne Jugan the strength and will to persevere in her dedication to the elderly poor. The fruits of her labors are seen today in the 2,500 Little Sisters of the Poor caring for thousands of elderly poor in 31 countries around the world.

The Lord called a simple peasant girl to love and follow Him. Jeanne's openness to His love changed the world. Walking in faith, she didn't stop to think what effect her love and promise to Christ would have on the world. (*continued on back page*)

Save the Dates:

- April 14, 2013
Amazing Grace Gala
- September 9, 2013
Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

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Little Sisters of the Poor



Mother Marguerite, Rose Saret, Bob Guertz, Paula Kelly and Mother Maria Christine, enjoy the festivities during a special Christmas Dinner.

Five Star Home

A Perfect Rating

We have always known it, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have made it official. St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly is a Five-Star Nursing Home. In addition to our 34 independent living apartments, our nursing home wings offer a continuum of care from sheltered to total nursing care. CMS evaluates on overall quality, health inspections, nurse staffing, staffing and quality measures. Each home is assigned a rating of a low of one star to a high of five stars. St. Joseph's Home received a perfect five star rating in each category. The CMS ratings can be found at www.medicare.gov.

St. Joseph's Home is one of only three homes, out of approximately 500 nursing homes within the Chicago Metropolitan

area that received the highest ranking.

Sr. Mary Timothy, who has overseen the dietary needs of St. Joseph's Residents for over 25 years, remarked about the Five Star Rating, "This rating is an honor. We couldn't have done it without the staff. They are dedicated and hard working, but it is our Residents who are the true stars."

When told about the perfect rating, Resident Kay Hartlieb said "In reality the Little Sisters are SIX STARS!" Tom Schurr adds, "It is a privilege to live in a Home with that top rating. I am so grateful for the Little Sisters."

Many thanks to our wonderful staff and volunteers who help us make St. Joseph's Home a true home - not just a place to

work, or volunteer. In the footsteps of St. Jeanne Jugan, we have worked very hard to provide the best medical care possible, while creating a beautiful family spirit, where all are treated with love and respect.

While this Five Star Rating is a wonderful honor and confirmation of our hard work, we are reminded of the words of St. Jeanne Jugan, "If God is with us, it will be accomplished ... God will help us; the work is His." and "Making the elderly happy—that is what counts!"

It is the smiles on the faces of our Residents that are our true reward.



Kay Hartlieb compliments Sr. Mary Timothy on the delicious meals Sister and her staff serve each day.

A SWING AND A PRAYER GOLF OUTING



Many thanks to all of our friends who supported our Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing. St. Joseph provided us with a beautiful day at Makray Golf Club in Barrington. The course was full of golfers as several Residents cheered them on from the terrace.

Our special guest, Chicago Bear Robbie Gould, (shown left with the Sisters) was not only gracious as he spent time signing autographs and answering questions, but led his foursome to win the tournament with the best score!

Around Our Home



Representing the employees, (l to r) Sunanda Kaushal, Suk Dhillon and Jill D'Souza greet Mother General Celeline dressed in their native clothing.

Welcome Mother General

The Little Sisters of the Poor care for the elderly in 31 countries around the world. On Wednesday, October 10th, we welcomed Mother General Celine de la Visitation with a celebration of the many cultures of the Little Sisters, Residents, staff and friends.

Wearing a colorful array of their traditional ethnic clothing, our staff and volunteers greeted Mother General and prepared an assortment of desserts from around the world. On behalf of all the Residents, AJJ and staff, Betty Harte and Teresita Endencina welcomed Mother General and Mother Assistant Gerard Patricia, presenting to them a special key to St. Joseph's Home. Mother General and Mother Assistant then greeted each Resident, giving them a special gift.

We were happy Mother General and Mother Assistant were able to join us for two special Masses during their visit. Because of the opening of the Year of Faith, we celebrated the third anniversary of the canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan early, on October 10th.

On October 11th, the Resident Handbell Choir demonstrated their musical skills by playing several hymns before Mass, ringing in the Year of Faith. Our good friend Fr. William DeSalvo, VF offered Mass, along with Bishop Andrew McDonald, Father Frank Kiley, OSF Conv. and Fr. Robert Switanowski, OSF, Conv. After Mass, Fr. DeSalvo led a special ceremony of the enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You can visit and venerate this beautiful image of the Sacred Heart from France, in our Chapel.

As we said farewell to Mother General and Mother Gerard, we asked through the intercession of St. Jeanne Jugan that many vocations to the Little Sisters will be born during this Year of Faith.



Jean Prits welcomes Mother General Celine and thanks Mother for the St. Jeanne Jugan key chain and box of chocolates.



Our Mission, Vision and Values

Continuing the work of St. 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 a family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

Our **VISION** is to contribute to the Culture of Life by nurturing communities where each person is valued, the solidarity of the human family and the wisdom of age are celebrated, and the compassionate love of Christ is shared with all.

Our VALUES

REVERENCE for the sacredness of human life and for the uniqueness of each person, especially those who are poorest and/or weakest. This is reflected in care that is holistic and person-centered.

FAMILY SPIRIT: a spirit of joyful hospitality embracing all with open arms, hearts and minds; fostering participation in the life of the home and rejecting all forms of discrimination.

HUMBLE SERVICE: the desire to raise others up and to put their needs before our own; an appreciation of simple, everyday tasks and experiences and humble means in accomplishing our work.

COMPASSION: empathy for sharing the weaknesses and sufferings of others; eagerness to relieve pain in all its forms and to make the elderly happy.

STEWARDSHIP: the recognition that life and all other goods are gifts from God and should therefore be used responsibly for the good of all; trust in God's Providence and the generosity of others to provide for our needs; just compensation for our collaborators; a spirit of gratitude and sharing.

A Simple Note



Mother Marguerite Marie

The Season of Christmas is a time to look back to all the many blessings of the past year. Watching the gentle snow falling, the very hot and dry summer fades to a distant memory. We had a beautiful fall season with colorful trees and cherished memories of special visitors and friends. We were honored when our Mother General Celine de la Visitation, visiting us from our Motherhouse in France, joined us for the opening of the Year of Faith. On the Feast of St. Jeanne Jugan, we welcomed Mayor Hughes Fourage and his family from Fontenay le Comte, France – Palatine’s Sister-City.

Sr. Maria Guadalupe, our first Peruvian Little Sister celebrated her Silver Jubilee in September. We were entertained by the wonderful music and colorful costumes of dancers from Peru. The auditorium was decorated with five murals depicting scenes from Peru. Our chapel, decorated with tropical flowers created a perfect setting for the music and chant throughout the celebration of the Liturgy. Truly these occasions give witness to the depth of gratitude we hold in our hearts for the gift of our religious vocation.

As we celebrate this holy season of Christmas, my thoughts turn toward our elderly Residents who share so completely in our celebrations. I am grateful that every year we are able to make their Christmas so meaningful through the kindness of our friends. After experiencing the generosity of our benefactors, a Resident commented, “Who am I to be treated in such a way?” We can easily answer that question. Our Residents are cherished children of God who deserve our “special” attention and love.

Please remember us in your holiday giving, for without your help we cannot continue to lovingly care for God’s elderly treasures. All the Little Sisters join me in asking God to bless you and your families at Christmas and throughout 2013. May we all experience a renewed and stronger faith and an ongoing concern and love for one another. In this way the “Year of Faith” initiated by Pope Benedict XVI, will be spiritually fulfilling.

Sr. Marguerite



The Gift of the Eucharist

(continued from Page 1)

During this Christmas season and upcoming year of 2013, let us center our lives on the Eucharist. In this year dedicated to deepening our faith, let us frequently receive this free gift of love from our Father and grow in our spiritual life. Who knows what the Lord has in store for us!

AMAZING GRACE GALA 2013

Our largest fundraiser, the Amazing Grace Gala, will be held on Sunday, April 14th.

We are very excited to welcome Emmy award winning journalist, Sheila Liaugminas. Sheila hosts a ‘Closer Look’ on Relevant Radio. She has reported for Time magazine for more than twenty years, been published in the Chicago Tribune, Crain’s Chicago Business, the National Catholic Register and the National Review Online.

Won’t you please join us for this delightful evening of good fun, good food, and good fellowship? Look for more upcoming details on our website.



Sheila Liaugminas will be the guest speaker at the Amazing Grace Gala