

A Moment with Mother



Mother Marguerite

Many times when people look at the Little Sisters, they see us caring and serving the elderly. But you may be surprised how every day *we* are touched by *them*. In this issue you can read about Betty Pfad and how she gracefully persevered through the many hardships throughout her life.

Betty brings the gentle spirit of Jeanne Jugan to everyone she encounters each day. She greets us with a smile and is always ready to lend a helping hand. She goes out of her way to include everyone. In her compassionate spirit, she reaches out to those who are shy or reluctant to join in activities.

Her compassionate heart naturally extends to a love of animals and has led to a beautiful friendship with Snowflake, a fluffy white cat. Thirteen years ago, Betty found Snowflake in the parking lot. Betty started to leave some food and water. A lifelong friendship was born. Each day Snowflake waits for Betty. And Betty, in rain, snow or sleet, comes out with her walker and finds Snowflake. Snowflake knows Betty's voice and listens only to her.



Each one of our Residents has an inspiring story that touches us and makes us proud to be able to offer them security in their "Autumn Years." I am so happy that Betty agreed to share her story. There is so much strength, wisdom and perseverance in the elderly. It is easy to miss if you are just looking at the frail exteriors. I hope that you will be touched by Betty's story and feel satisfaction in knowing that your support truly does make a difference in each of our Resident's lives.

On August 30th, we will joyfully celebrate the Feast Day of St. Jeanne Jugan. She is the inspiration and role model of living out the vow of hospitality for every Little Sister of the Poor. But St. Jeanne Jugan's spirit transcends beyond the Little Sisters to touch the hearts and souls of our Residents, Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) members and staff. Her Spirit surpasses race, age, gender and religious affiliation. Each of us have been consciously or unconsciously affected by her. In preparation for the celebration of her Feast Day, Fr. James Delaney, C.S.Sp. will offer two days of prayer and reflection for our Residents and speak to the AJJ. Fr. James Kubicki, SJ, the National Director of the Apostleship of Prayer will be the main celebrant at 10:30 Mass on August 30th.

Please join us if you can for the Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing. It is a beautiful course and a fun-filled day. I'll meet you at the Rubber Duck Drive. Have a safe, healthy and enjoyable remainder of summer and fall.

Sr. Marguerite

Swing and a Prayer

Join special guest, former Chicago Bear running back, Roland Harper at the Ninth Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing, Monday, September 29th at the Ivanhoe Country Club.

Don't miss an opportunity to golf at the exclusive, nationally recognized Ivanhoe Country Club in Mundelein, IL. Sitting atop a spectacular 380-acre property with 27 holes, it is

recognized as one of the Top 25 Championship Golf Courses in Illinois.

Your support will help us to provide a loving home and quality care for our elderly Residents. For registration, sponsorship or advertisement information, call Diana Olson at 847-358-5700 or visit our website LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org.



2013 Swing and a Prayer winners (l to r): Dennis Marchetti, Robbie Gould, Bob Bates and Bashkim Ardoli



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

St. Joseph's Home

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.



With a wheelchair lift and plenty of room to store walkers and canes, our bus is usually filled for each of our outings. Be sure to wave if you see us on the road. Our friendly Residents will gratefully return the greeting.

On the Road Again

Activity Bus Adventures

So often, stereotypical connotations of quiet and slow moving days are associated with the elderly. While everyone likes an occasional quiet day, most days in our Home are filled with activities, joy, and laughter. A monthly activity calendar is distributed to everyone with at least 10-12 choices of daily activities.

Bingo, cards and sing-a-longs are everyone's favorite activities. With the nice weather, walks around our beautiful grounds and ice cream socials on the patio are delightful. In addition, thanks to a generous benefactor, we have a 16 passenger handicap accessible bus for offsite trips.

The mild summer weather has made travel easier. Weekly trips to Walmart, Mariano's and Aldi's are very popular. But our Residents love to go on the road!

Through the generosity of benefactors, we have cheered on the White Sox at

U.S. Cellular Field. We saw the sights of Chicago on a charter bus tour. We watched the horses race at Arlington Park and saw a wonderful production of Oliver at St. James Parish.

It has been our tradition to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the 4th of July by decorating our bus, donning our festive clothing and hats and waving to the many spectators as we ride in both Palatine parades.

Each month we try to make a pilgrimage to a Shrine. This year we traveled to the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John, IN, the Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians at Holy Hill, in Hubertus, WI, the Carmelite Monastery in Des Plaines, IL, and the Shrine of St. Theresa in Darian, IL.

You'll never know where we are off to next. But, you can be sure that we'll greet you with a big smile and a friendly wave.

Save the Dates:

- September 29, 2014
Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing
- November 6, 2014
St. Joseph's Home for the Holidays Wine Tasting
- April 19, 2015
Amazing Grace Gala (Mr. George Weigel, Guest Speaker)

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly
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Little Sisters of the Poor



Sr. Agnes (center) was one of the first Little Sisters Betty (right) met. Betty helped Sr. Agnes as she oversaw our 34 apartments. Sr. Diane (left) joins them as they share a prayer in front of the statue of St. Joseph.

This is My New Home! I Felt Like I Was in Heaven

BY BETTY PFAD, RESIDENT OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOME

Who would believe, 88 years later, that a little 3lb. 5oz. baby girl would have faced the many challenges she did. I had a wonderful childhood busy with family, sports, travel and Catholic schools. I was married in 1950 to a WWII veteran whose leg was amputated from his war wounds. We had two great sons; Larry and Kenny. We lost my husband in 1971 to an accidental food choking.

My first challenge came after he died, raising two boys and helping my brother run the family auto parts business, where my husband had worked. I remarried in 1975, leaving Chicago for the country life in Arkansas which consisted of a cattle ranch, 200 chickens and horses.

Believe me it was quite exciting and fulfilling, especially watching baby calves and horses taking their first steps.

Following the job trail, we went to East Texas where an office supply store beckoned. I also worked in a diner and managed a game room. But my biggest challenge of all was managing a county jail kitchen in Texas, serving 30-40 meals three times a day. After retiring due to health problems, I began training dogs in obedience. Some were shown in dog shows. Tyler, a black poodle was my favorite. He was my buddy and friend.

Financial and other personal hardships brought me back to Chicago in 1991. I lived with my youngest son and his new wife. Childhood diabetes had left her blind, and with nerve damage. She had

a double transplant. I helped them as much as I could.

In 1995, my other daughter-in-law saw in the newspaper that St. Joseph's Home had converted a three story wing to apartments. With my cousin's help, I applied. After being interviewed by Mother Rose Marie and Sr. Agnes, I was accepted! I felt like I was in heaven.

After moving in, I was delighted to do anything to help Sr. Agnes as she oversaw the apartments. I also did some clerical work in the Development Office. To my surprise, I found a fluffy white cat wandering around the parking lot. Thirteen years later, Snowflake still waits for me in the same spot each day. She has remained my beloved friend.

The challenges and struggles which I faced most of my life have been lifted off my shoulders. Over the years, I have made many dear friends. We look out for each other. The Little Sisters and staff are there to help us. There is always somebody to help; always somebody who cares.

The Little Sisters make this such a happy place. I have all I need. It is truly heaven on earth.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE AMAZING GRACE GALA
On April, 19, 2015, we will welcome special guest speaker George Weigel, a distinguished Catholic theologian and author of "Witness to Hope, a Biography of Pope John Paul II".

Around Our Home



Eva starts each day with 40 minutes of cycling on the NuStep machine. She had no trouble blowing out all the candles on her favorite Dairy Queen Cake! Happy Birthday Eva! May God continue to bless you with good health, happiness and endless Dairy Queen treats!

102 Years Young

This year, the Feast of the Most Sacred of Heart of Jesus fell on June 27th, which was also the 102nd birthday of our oldest Resident, Eva Kicanas. It was a day filled with blessings! Eva's son, Bishop Gerald Kicanas, traveled from his Diocese of Tuscan, AZ to honor his mom and offer Mass for this double celebration. Also joining the festivities were Eva's daughter Kathy Kerwin, daughter and son-in-law Barbara and Bob Yarbrough, her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Monthly Gifts

A 2013 Kaiser Family Foundation report found that 48% of seniors in the US are living 200% below the poverty level. The need for our services is significantly growing. Less than half of the costs of caring for our Residents are covered by Social Security and Medicaid. It is only through your donations that we are able to cover the majority of our expenses.

Just like you, we must budget for our monthly expenses. You can help us plan for our many needs year-round with your faithful monthly support. It doesn't take much to make a difference. Knowing we can rely on your regular gifts will help us focus on the needs of our

elderly Residents.

It's easy to begin. Go online to LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org. Click on **DONATIONS**, then click **ONLINE DONATIONS** and choose **REOCCURRING GIFTS**. You can pick weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. It can be changed or canceled at any time. Or if you prefer, you can use the enclosed donation envelope. Fill out the gift amount, credit card information and mark the "reoccurring gift" in the black circle.



It is such a joy to watch our Residents take pleasure in their days, not having to worry about financial hardships. Together we can provide them a secure Home where they can live their lives in comfort and love.



After blessing everyone after Mass in the Chapel, Fr. Matt went from room to room to bless those Residents who were unable to leave their rooms.

"God" incidence

Many of us have experienced coincidences or had chance meetings that enriched us and possibly change the direction of our lives. In 2006, Matt Jamesson met Andrea Sims while attending a retreat at Benedictine College. Like most young people, Matt and Andrea were discerning God's will for their lives.

Andrea spoke a lot to Matt about religious life. She also introduced him to the Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Joseph's Home where she was working. Matt got a job working here as a CNA. Mother Maureen (the Mother Superior at that time), spoke to him a lot about vocations in the Archdiocese of Chicago, including her friendship with Msgr. Dennis Lyle, at that time the rector of St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary.

In 2009 Matt entered St. Mary's of the Lake and was ordained a priest this past May. As luck (or God's Plan) would have it, he was assigned to St. Theresa Parish in Palatine. We are so blessed that we now have the opportunity to continue to grow in God's love with him. Sr. Andrea Sims professed her first vows as a Little Sister of the Poor in July of 2012. She is currently in Angers, France continuing her studies.

In our Catholic tradition, the first blessing of a newly ordained priest (for the first year after ordination) holds special indulgences. Wanting to share the tender mercy of God with us, Fr. Matt came back to celebrate Mass and individually bless the Residents, Little Sisters, staff, volunteers, and all who were in attendance.

It is said that the seeds of religious vocations are planted and nurtured within the family. We are blessed that God chose us, the family of Jeanne Jugan, to help in nurturing these vocations.

JOIN THE TEN WEEK CLUB AND WIN \$5,000

It's time again for the Ten Week Club. and your chance to win \$500 or \$5,000.

We will be giving away \$500 each week for nine weeks and a Grand Prize of \$5,000 on the tenth week.

Fill out your contact information on the enclosed Ten Week Club tickets and

return them to us for your chance to win! Your ticket(s) will remain in all ten drawings. This will give you a total of **TEN OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN!**

The \$500 weekly drawings will begin on Friday, September 5, 2014. The lucky winner of the \$5,000 Grand Prize will be drawn on Friday, November 7, 2014.