



# 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.*



Cardinal Francis George at the Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the Canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan, at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Chicago on November 1, 2009. (photo by John White)

## May You Rest in Peace

### Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

Cardinal Francis George was not only our holy shepherd, but also our friend. He shared a close relationship with our former chaplain Bishop Andrew McDonald. We were blessed whenever Cardinal George stopped by to visit Bishop McDonald. Without any fanfare, Cardinal would greet each of us along his way. After the Lord called Bishop McDonald home last April, Cardinal George, who was frail and weakened by chemotherapy, heroically presided at his dear friend's funeral.

Cardinal George presided at a Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the Canonization of Jeanne Jugan in 2009. After the Mass, he walked down to welcome our Residents in wheelchairs in the front row.

When we requested a copy of his beautiful homily, his secretary told us it wasn't written out. The Cardinal had three or four notes and spoke the entire 20 minute homily from his heart.

In 2013 during a remission when he was feeling better, he was the guest speaker at our Amazing Grace Gala. As soon as the Cardinal arrived, he graciously and patiently walked around the room and greeted over 350 guests and Residents for an hour before dinner began.

At the Gala, he spoke eloquently and frankly about the Papal Conclave from which he had just returned. Visualizing this historical tradition through the experience of Cardinal George, gave us a great understanding of the traditions and work of the Holy Spirit within our church.

But, that was how Cardinal George was; frank and always speaking from his heart; teaching and touching millions all along the way. He led us through life's challenges until the moment of his death. He taught us patience, love, forgiveness, understanding, and finally, complete faith as he gracefully entered into the arms of our Lord.

### Save the Dates:

- September 21, 2015  
***Swing and a Prayer  
Golf Outing***
- November 5, 2015  
***St. Joseph's Home for  
the Holidays Wine  
Tasting***
- April 24, 2016  
***Amazing Grace Gala  
St. Joseph's Home  
50th Anniversary  
Celebration***

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# Little Sisters of the Poor



I asked the Lord, out loud, "Lord, what in the world am I doing?! You can't possibly be asking me to reconsider religious life again, decades after you called? I love my life as it is!" This questioning became louder and more persistent after I had visited with the Sisters and met the Residents.

## Year of Consecrated Life

### Sr. Judith's Vocation Story

*"Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Go and find Him when your strength and patience are giving out, when you feel lonely and helpless."*

This quote from St. Jeanne Jugan is one that I have found very consoling and helpful since I initially read it on a holy card that was given to me the first time I met the Little Sisters of the Poor, in early 2006. Although I'd felt called to religious life since I was 15, I'd searched for years but not found a congregation that I felt Jesus was beckoning me to pursue. A change had taken place in my prayer life, once I understood the need to LISTEN to the Holy Spirit in silence, instead of incessantly "talking." I believe it was this change in my prayer that made me open to reconsider religious life when an opportunity arose.

When I first read about the Little Sisters in an issue of the Wall Street Journal in 2005, I was intrigued and awestruck by their dependence on Divine Providence. Several weeks later, I contacted the Little Sisters and made arrangements to visit them. I felt so much at peace when I was at the Home, so magnetized, especially when praying in the chapel, singing evening prayer, or sharing a meal with the Sisters. I would find myself saying, "Lord, I know You want me to be here, and I want to be here. But I don't see how it can happen. Then the words of Jeanne Jugan would come to me, and I would realize, "OK, Lord, I'm not telling You anything You don't already know, but I believe that You want to hear me ask for Your guidance in working out the details ." There eventually came a time

when I was able to leave the chapel feeling it was in God's hands, and that my job was to watch for opportunities that He presented to make the necessary details work out.

It DID work out! I was able to enter in October, 2007. The words of wisdom from Saint Jeanne Jugan have been helpful in my formation process as well. Whenever I experienced the inevitable ups and downs of the spiritual life, I've had recourse to the Blessed Sacrament and to our Mother Foundress' advice, with my own variations "Jesus, you know what is going on here. You know not only MY perspective, but also the perspectives and motivations of the others involved, which I myself do NOT know. You are all I have at this moment, and I depend on You to clarify for me my next step, the one that is most loving and most in keeping with what You would do." And then I have tried to leave the chapel, not worrying about exactly how I was going to manage, but open to listen to the Holy Spirit's guidance to work for resolution. He's come through every time!



Sr. Maria Grace has been responsible for our postulants, Jamie, Grace, and Courtney during their stay here. Please keep them in your prayers as they leave to continue their vocation journey at the Noviate in Queens, NY.



## AMAZING GRACE GALA

A record 380 guests gathered on Sunday, April 19th to 'Travel Around the World With the Little Sisters of the Poor' at the Stonegate Banquet Centre in Hoffman Estates.

We were honored to have Mr. George Weigel as our guest speaker. He gave a compelling talk, speaking about how the Little Sisters and our Residents are 'living reminders that there are no disposable human beings.' You can listen to his talk on our blog at

[www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org](http://www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org).

Performance painter, Elliott From, entertained and dazzled us with his unique speed painting.

Hot air balloon centerpieces rose from each table, accompanied by a flag and statistics of the number of homes in the country that was represented.

We are very grateful to all those who supported our Gala. *You truly did make a difference.*

# Around Our Home



Our Residents carefully plant and water the flowers in the raised flower beds .

## May Flowers

The milder weather and beautiful sunshine are bringing new life to our winter weary spirits. Each year at this time we gather to transform two raised flower beds into masterpieces filled with new colorful life. With an array of donated plants we tenderly plant, perfectly space and lovingly water this future garden. By the end of the day, gorgeous arrangements of colorful flowers burst from the beds. With the proper nurturing, we know that this garden will prosper and grow. We look forward to enjoying our beautiful garden throughout the spring, summer and fall.

## Technology Troubles

In 1839 when Jeanne Jugan rescued a poor blind woman from the streets of post-revolutionary France, there weren't even telephones to call for help. With word of mouth, Jeanne was able to find people and resources to assist her in caring for the elderly. Today, with the mandate of electronic medical records, the Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Civil Rights agencies require us to have a secure network and clear electronic policies and protocols in place to maintain the security of the protected electronic health and financial information of our Residents.

Five years ago, to be in compliance with the Affordable Care Act electronic requirements, we purchased a wireless system. However, 5 years is a lifetime for technology. With more imposed security and mobile medical processing constraints, we find that we must upgrade to a newer system.

This new equipment will comply with current security protocols and allow us to expand into a more mobile environment with streamlined integration and accessibility for our healthcare partners (i.e. visiting physicians, consultants, etc.).

Fortunately, the upgrade will not require a complete overhaul of the current system which is a cost savings. However, the upgrade will cost an unexpected, unbudgeted \$29,000. With expectant faith, we place this in St. Joseph's hands and in the hands of you, his many helpers. We thank you for whatever you can do to financially support this project.



St. Joseph's Home has one of the largest groups of Association Jeanne Jugan's members in the United States.

## Association Jeanne Jugan

*"In Your presence, Lord Jesus, with Your grace and through Mary's intercession, I commit myself to the Association Jeanne Jugan of the Little Sisters of the Poor, for one year. I promise to serve You in the Elderly with joy and love, by following the example of humility and confidence left to us by Jeanne Jugan."*

May 1st is the Feast Day of our patron saint, St. Joseph the Worker. In honor of St. Jeanne Jugan's devotion to St. Joseph, traditionally the Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) members renew their promises on the first weekend of May.

The AJJ is comprised of men and women who have promised to commit themselves for one year to serve the elderly with joy and love by following the example of humility and confidence left to us by Jeanne Jugan.

With 40 AJJ members, we are blessed to have one of the largest Association Jeanne Jugan groups in the U.S. Our members assist the Little Sisters by volunteering to help in the dining rooms during meals, providing dessert tables for special events (such as Valentine's Day, Feast Days, etc.), visiting with the Residents, and much more.

To become an AJJ member we attend classes led by one of the Sisters who is our Association Jeanne Jugan sponsor. These formation classes last a year and at the beginning of May the new members make their promise and the current members renew their promise. This year we welcomed Pam Anderson and Monica Hilrosa as new members.

If you would like to find out more about the Association Jeanne Jugan please contact Sr. Diane at (847) 358-5700 or [dnpalatine@LittleSistersofthePoor.org](mailto:dnpalatine@LittleSistersofthePoor.org).

# A Moment With Mother



Mother Marguerite greets George Weigel at the Amazing Grace Gala

The days are getting longer and the warm sun is waking up our flowers. Spring has arrived! Along with the nicer weather comes an array of springtime activities. We honor Our Blessed Mother in a very special way during the month of May and we will devoutly crown the statue of Mary in our Chapel. Our Mother's Day Tea is one of our favorite traditions. Our ladies and their special guests will enjoy specialty desserts and an assortment of teas served with our unique collection of delicate tea cups and teapots.

We will honor our Resident veterans as we commemorate Memorial Day with a prayer service, flag raising ceremony and a special luncheon. The grills will be fired on our patio as families, friends and staff help us host a Father's Day BBQ for all of our fathers and those men who are like fathers to us.

Our financial situation can be overwhelming but, with your support we continue to persevere. The state of Illinois has one of the lowest Medicaid reimbursements rates in the nation. We have to raise, through donations and grants, over 50% of the actual cost of caring for our Residents in order to meet our expenses. In addition to our operating expenses, we are facing some large projects. We continue to seek the needed funding for the replacement and relocation of our walk-in freezer and the necessary associated infrastructure upgrades. During a recent life safety inspection it was discovered that 26 structural I-Beams are in need of fire retardant insulation. We have raised approximately \$18,000 of the \$66,000 projected cost. On page 3, you can read about the \$29,000 computer upgrade that we must do to comply with the Affordable Care Act. We are grateful for all of your help.

Our largest fundraiser, the Amazing Grace Gala, was held on Sunday, April 19th. We were very blessed to have Mr. George Weigel address us at the Gala. On behalf of all the Little Sisters, I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Amazing Grace Gala a huge success. The much needed money we raised will be a great help in paying our operating expenses. In prayerful appreciation, we will offer a special Mass for all of your intentions on Saturday, May 30th at 11:00 AM. Please join us if you can. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's Amazing Grace Gala on Sunday, April 24 2016. We will be happy to welcome Archbishop Blase J. Cupich as our guest speaker as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Palatine and the 140th Anniversary of the Little Sisters of the Poor arriving in Chicago from France.

Spring and summer will be filled with news and events. Please check our website to keep up to date on all that is happening and see how your generosity and support is making a difference in the lives of our elderly Residents!

*St. Marguerite*

## SWING AND A PRAYER GOLF OUTING

**On Monday, September 21st we will celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of our Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing. It is sure to be a memorable event when we golf at the newly renovated Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, IL.**

**Golf legend Jack Nicklaus designed this beautiful and challenging golf course among the rolling hills and wetlands. His vision and respect for the topography generated a championship golf course that was immediately recognized among the "top one hundred" golf courses in the U.S.**

**Don't miss an opportunity to golf at this exclusive, championship course. Closed**

**last August for renovations, this will be the first season on the renovated course.**

**We trust that St. Joseph will help to provide beautiful weather for this fun-filled day that includes a four-person scramble, straight from the grill lunch, cocktail hour with hors d' oeuvres, a delicious dinner, and an awards reception.**

**Your support for this event will help us to provide a loving home and care for our elderly Residents. For more information on registration, sponsorship or advertisement, visit our website [www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org](http://www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org) or call Diana Olson at 847-358-5700.**



**Mark your calendar for Monday, September 21st, at Wynstone Golf Club, in North Barrington. Registration begins at 10:30, with a shot-gun start at noon.**