



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

Serving the elderly poor in Palatine since 1966

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.



Franc D'Ambrosio (top right) with a group of Residents and Little Sisters at the Amazing Grace Gala.

The Music of the Night

An Amazing Grace Gala

*"Close your eyes, let your spirit start to soar
And you'll live as you've never lived before...
You alone can make my song take flight
Help me make the music of the night."*

Music of the Night, Phantom of the Opera

If we had closed our eyes, we could have imagined we were in a Broadway Theater as Franc D'Ambrosio truly made the "Music of the Night" at our Amazing Grace Gala on April 22nd.

Franc D'Ambrosio is best known as the "Phantom" in the Tony Award-winning musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*, with over 2,300 performances in the lead role. His resume also includes an Academy Award-nominated film, an Emmy Award-nominated TV show, two Grammy considerations, **and an Amazing Grace Gala!**

Our dear friends at the Stonegate Banquet Centre outdid themselves, helping us transform the banquet room

into an elegant concert venue. Over 335 guests gathered to raise money for us and enjoy this "off, off, Broadway show".

Speaking about his humble upbringing in the Bronx, NY, Franc entertained us not only with his beautiful voice, but with his tender witty stories. After the show his on-stage persona proved more than genuine as he graciously greeted our guests and took special care to greet each of our Residents who were in attendance. Franc even sang an impromptu duet with one Resident.

The Amazing Grace Gala is our largest fundraiser. Our deepest gratitude to all of our friends who joined us that night and all of the businesses and individuals who have helped underwrite the cost of this event. With your support, it was a great success!

Many thanks also to Franc D'Ambrosio, for sharing his music, his talents and his heart with us.

Save the Dates:

- September 10, 2018
***Swing and a Prayer
Golf Outing***
- November 8, 2018
***St. Joseph's Home for
the Holidays Wine
Tasting***

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly
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www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org

Spring/Summer 2018

Little Sisters of the Poor



Roy reminisces about his days in the Royal Protection Force while enjoying a "spot of tea" with Sr. Mary Timothy and Catherine Plishka (our receptionist and St. Joseph Journal and Blog contributor).

"Roy"al Memories Chatting with a 'Spot of Tea'

BY CATHERINE PLISHKA

After the birth of Prince Louis of Cambridge, England awaits the second royal wedding in almost a decade. Many of us plan on tuning in to watch the big event; including Roy, a fellow Englishman and former member of the Royal Protection Force. "Wherever the Queen went, we went. It was never boring," recalled Roy when he and the other officers would travel the world with the Royal Family. Their travels included far away places such as Africa, Australia, New Zealand and of course, the rest of Europe. Roy would not only accompany members of the Royal Family on their travels (including the Queen's private holidays on the beach), but even during their trips to public settings, including restrooms. An officer would stand outside the door and not let anyone in

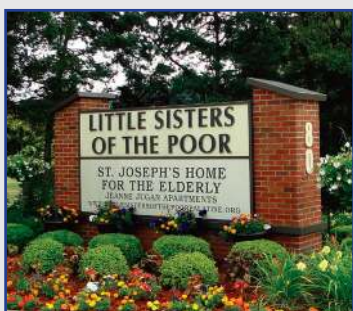
while waiting for "the royal flush."

As a teenager, Roy originally wanted to be a mechanic. However, his father, a Royal Navy Commander, had other plans for the young lad to also join the military. Not at all comfortable with the idea, Roy decided to become a policeman instead. He applied for a job with the Metropolitan Police, where he was eventually stationed at Buckingham Palace. The job proved to have its challenges in rain or shine. In fact, one of Roy's first assignments was to stop traffic in pouring rain while waiting for the royal car to exit the palace gates. "I felt like a drowned rat," said Roy. As soon as the royal car pulled up to him, however, the window rolled down and two pieces of candy were placed into Roy's hand. He was later informed by his boss that

it was the Queen Mother who performed the kind deed. "She likes you. I think she was upset that you were standing there in the pouring rain," the boss said. That moment motivated Roy to apply for a position in the Royal Protection Force where he later met the Queen's private secretary, who would introduce him to the Queen herself. When the time came to meet her Royal Highness, Roy lost his nerve. "My legs froze," he recalled. When he shook the Queen's hand, he curtsied instead of bowed. "I thought, 'That's it. I'm dead,'" said Roy. But the secretary kindly assured him that the Queen would not remember his mistake because she met too many people.

When assigned his duties, Roy was told to be respectful to all members of the palace, even the maids and janitors. In public, officers were very discreet about their actual occupation to protect the queen and her family. They wore long trenchcoats to cover up their weapons even in 90 degree weather. People would make ignorant comments about the officers, but all one could do was to "ignore them and walk on." On his days off, Roy would spend hours in the palace gardens. The throne room was the most beautiful, with pure gold everywhere. With twelve years of living at Buckingham Palace, Roy looks forward to life at St. Joseph's Home. We enjoy his company as well, especially over a traditional "spot of tea."

WE ARE NAMED ONE OF THE VERY BEST!



WE ARE VERY PROUD,
THAT THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, AND THE
DEDICATION OF OUR LITTLE SISTERS AND STAFF,
US NEWS AND WORLD REPORTS HAS NAMED
ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY
ONE OF THE **"BEST NURSING HOMES"**
IN THE UNITED STATES!



Roy shows us a picture of himself at 18 in his royal uniform, his helmet, and truncheon (night stick).

Around Our Home



Heritage Girl, Grace Nelson, presents (our Resident) Grace, with a wrist corsage. Invitations were hand delivered. Boutinieres and corsages were given to all the Senior Prom attendees.

Senior Prom

Heritage Girl, Grace Nelson decided that proms aren't only for high schoolers. As a project for her "Stars and Stripes" award (the highest and most prestigious award), she hosted a Senior Prom in our auditorium. Decorated in lovely spring colors, the tables featured centerpieces of dancing couples cutouts. The food was delicious and the singer had a fabulous repertoire of all of our favorite songs. We danced and danced. When the clock struck 4 and it was time to go, we shouted for an "encore" and stretched the afternoon a bit longer. Our deepest thanks to our new friend Grace Nelson for a fun filled afternoon.

Recurring Gifts

Since 1966, we have cared for thousands of needy elderly. It's only through your support that we are able to continue. Illinois has one of the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rates in the US and is continually behind in their payments to us. We need to raise **\$60 per Resident per day** in donations to make up the deficit of the actual costs of caring for the elderly. With 94 Residents, the numbers can be daunting. But, we believe, like St. Jeanne Jugan did, that God will provide through your help.

You can help by setting up a recurring gift. It is flexible and convenient and ensures a steady source of support for our ministry.

Easily set up your recurring gift by using the enclosed donation envelope, calling us at 847-358-5700, or on our website using the following instructions.

- Click on the **Donation** button at the bottom of our website: LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org. On the next page, press the **Click to Donate** button on the left side.

- Click **Recurring Gift** to set up your gift. It can be deducted automatically from your credit or debit card or directly from your bank account.

- Choose the frequency (weekly, monthly, etc.) of your donation.

- Choose the amount to be deducted and the duration of the donations.

An email and mailed receipt will be sent to you after each donation. And, you are able stop or adjust your gift anytime on our website or by calling us.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the needy elderly.



Your support enables us to provide a loving Home with quality care for the needy elderly.



Our Chaplain, Fr. Damien Graziano, blesses our Staff on the Feast of our Patron, St. Joseph the Worker (May 1st).

God Bless Our Staff!

It takes a team of dedicated staff members to provide the elderly with the care they deserve and to keep our Home running smoothly. As Little Sisters, we rely on the daily help of our employees to continue the mission of St. Jeanne Jugan. They are an extension of our hands and hearts. The gifts they bring to their duties are what help us maintain our Family Spirit.

Our staff members truly become part of our family. Our Home becomes their home-away-from-home. If you wish to make a difference in the lives of others and feel called to a high level of commitment, we invite you to explore the possibility of finding a new home with us.

Prayer for Those Who Serve the Elderly

Heavenly Father, Your humble servant Jeanne Jugan saw the face of Your Son Jesus Christ in the elderly.

Moved by the power of the Holy Spirit, she opened her arms in welcome to the aged poor.

Inspired by her loving example, may we be mindful of older persons who are most in need.

May we respect and reverence our elders. May we learn from their wisdom and offer them loving assistance.

May we assure them of their promise of Your presence during the autumn years of their lives.

Uniting our prayer with St. Jeanne Jugan may we never tire in saying, "Blessed be God!"

A Moment With Mother



Our Vocation and “The Phantom”

As you can see on our front page, we were privileged to have Franc D’Ambrosio – also known as the *Iron Man of the Mask* - one of the longest running Broadway *Phantoms of the Opera*, perform at our Gala. It was a stellar performance; we were in awe of his talent, his voice range and his kindness.

The evening was elegant in every way. It was the centerpieces that first drew my attention – they set the theme. They also reminded me of the essence and beauty of our vocation. There were burning candles in lovely candelabras entwined with deep red roses and with the signature phantom mask leaning against them; all of this was placed on carefully arranged sheet music.

Indeed, these centerpieces could well stand for the theme of our vocation. There is light and beauty and sacredness: the candles, the roses, and the music.

The sheet music also reminds us that the melody for each of our lives is different – we all dance to a different beat. Some can jive, some can only shuffle, and whatever the dance of life is, it’s so much better together: young and old, fast and slow, often leaning on each other.

Finally we come to the mask: Old age can try to put a mask on people, sometimes it is a mask of frailty, a mask forged by the burdens life can impose, or by a society that disregards the value of the elderly. For Little Sisters, it is a gift and unique privilege to unmask the beauty of each one whom we welcome into our Home. We truly have a magnificent vocation.

And sometimes God seems to wear a mask. We have to really search for him, and we don’t always recognize God when we’re trying to make ends meet. But the Sisters will tell you, we actually do recognize Him. We see God’s unveiled face in the benefactors we approach week after week, in those responding to the mailings we send out time and time again. You hear us say, “could you please spare some fruit, or some nice fish for our Residents; could you please help us pay our bills...again?” And you always do! Behind the masks of so many faces, we truly see God’s face shining through!

Now, some of you might be tempted to put on a mask when you see us coming and hope that we don’t recognize you! But we always do!

In the Bible we read that Moses had to mask his face because of its blinding radiance after he looked upon God. I think I could say that about all of you our good friends, and you, our wonderful Priests and Religious, and you, our beloved elderly Residents, and you our dedicated Little Sisters. We’ve all seen God when we try to help each other and we all come away a bit more radiant. Thank you for putting on the face of Christ for us.

Thank you for all that you do. God bless you.

A Margaret Charles



SWING AND A PRAYER GOLF OUTING

Mark your calendars for Monday, September 10th for our annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, IL.

Golf legend Jack Nicklaus designed this beautiful and challenging golf course. 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.

We have complete confidence that St. Joseph will help to provide beautiful weather for this fun-filled day that includes a four-person scramble.

Registration begins at 10:30. Enjoy a fresh-off-the grill-lunch, before the noon, shot gun start. After golf, cocktail hour with hors d’ oeuvres will be served on the beautiful patio overlooking the course. The popular helicopter ball drop will be back again this year! A delicious multi-station dinner, and an awards reception round out the day.

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 or call Diana Olson at 847-358-5700.



Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing is Monday, September 10th, at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington.