



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.



"My little ones, never forget that the poor are Our Lord; in caring for the poor say to yourself: This is for my Jesus – what a great grace!" St. Jeanne Jugan

From Jeanne Jugan's Heart

Flowed a Great Wave of Charity

In the early 1800's, poorhouses were created to house needy persons. The needy elderly sometimes had to live among petty criminals, alcoholics and the mentally ill in sub-human conditions. When the Little Sisters of the Poor arrived 150 years ago, they brought a wave of charity that welcomed the indigent elderly gratuitously, regardless of race, nationality, disability or perceived deservedness.

Local citizens were amazed by the Little Sister's humility, generosity and complete trust in God's Divine Providence. In a century characterized by unapologetic racial discrimination, the Little Sisters opened their doors to the needy elderly regardless of race, religion or nationality - Catholic and non-Catholic, immigrant and native-born, black and white. With courage, humble charity and the ability to adapt to their new circumstances, our pioneering Little Sisters

were embraced by America.

The great wave of charity launched by our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan in France in 1839, quickly spread from shore to shore, ensuring that with the Little Sisters, needy elderly persons of every race and religion would always find a home where they would be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

We believe that our mission is more urgently needed today than ever as the U.S. population rapidly ages, new models of elder care emerge and respect for the dignity of human life is challenged. The charism St. Jeanne Jugan received from God is a precious flame that we are eager to pass on to new generations of Little Sisters as they serve needy elderly women and men in the United States for the next 150 years!

Save the Dates:

- April 26-28, 2019
Institute on Religious Life National Meeting (Little Sisters Honored)
- June 30, 2019
Amazing Grace Gala (Sanfilippo Estate, Barrington Hills)
- September 9, 2019
Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing
- November 7, 2019
St. Joseph's Home for the Holidays Wine Tasting

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Winter/Spring 2019

Little Sisters of the Poor



Ann shows Sr. Vincent (left) and Sr. Mary Gerard (right) a picture of one of her dance performances. Ann said that the dancers called themselves “recycled teenagers”, because they were having so much fun!

It's Never Too Late To Learn Something New

You may have heard the common phrase, “It is never too late to learn something new.”

One of our Residents, Ann Fitzgerald, truly took this message to heart as she decided to take up tap dancing at 75 years old. She was introduced to tap dancing by one of her friends and went on to participate in tap dancing classes with other 55-85 year olds for 10 years.

As a child, Ann wanted to take dance lessons, but the 50 cents a month cost was just too much for her family's budget. Her mother promised that when she was older, she would be able to take

dance lessons. Her mother was right, but little did they both realize that it would be almost 70 years later!

In addition to her tap dancing, Ann also had experience in other dancing. She often performed with a group of dancers at parties and weddings and even on roller skates in various venues.

Ann usually wore elaborately decorated costumes when she and her fellow dancers performed on roller-skates. Her group performed at benefits, community colleges, competitions, and other large events receiving many medals and awards over the years.

Ann truly enjoyed tap dancing and her favorite part was making friends. She often went out with her friends from the dance group, for coffee or dinner, to theatre shows, and other fun adventures.

Sitting down and talking with Ann is like sitting down with a little ray of sunshine. She warms your heart as she shares her life story. Her contagious smile and endless determination is an inspiration.

Ann's life is a lesson for all of us. If there is something that you have always wanted to try and have been waiting for the right time, Ann encourages you to go out of your comfort zone and do it! She is a prime example that *“It is never too late to learn something new.”*



At 96 years old, Ann is always ready to join in the fun and try something new!

INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE TO HONOR LITTLE SISTERS

Each year, the Institute on Religious Life (IRL) holds their National Meeting at St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, which is open to religious and the laity. This year's event will be held April 26th-28th.

The IRL has served the church for over 40 years. The IRL promotes and supports the growth, development, and renewal of the consecrated life, particularly vowed religious life, as a gift to the Church and an evangelical witness to the world.

The IRL's special honorees on Saturday (27th) evening are the Little Sisters of the Poor, in celebration of 150 years in the United States. Special guest Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who grew up in the region in France where St. Jeanne Jugan founded the Little Sisters, will preside at Saturday's Mass.

Saturday evening begins with 4:00 p.m. Mass, followed by a reception and dinner. The Little Sisters will receive the Pro Fidelitate et Virtute award, which is

given to a person(s) who lives a life of heroic virtue and fidelity. Past honorees have included St. Teresa of Calcutta, the IRL founder Servant of God Fr. John Hardon, S.J.; and Mother Angelica, PCPA; among others.

Tickets for the Saturday, April 27th banquet, are \$90.00 each. Tickets are also available for the wide-range of talks from nine renown speakers throughout the weekend. More information can be found at ReligiousLife.com or call (847)573-8975.

Around Our Home



One of the Best!

Just walk into our Home and you will be greeted by smiles on the faces of our Residents. You can feel the love that permeates from room to room. But did you know, that thanks to your support, and the devotion of our Little Sisters, staff and volunteers, U.S. News and World Reports has named St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly one of the "Best Nursing Homes" in the United States for the 2nd year in a row! We realize that we could not continue without your help. Thank you so very much for your support! Together we are making a positive difference in the lives of the elderly.

Share with Us

When the Little Sisters arrived in the U.S. in 1868, fraternal organizations began to build old age homes to give 'deserving' old people an alternative to the poorhouse. These homes often required up-front payments or the transfer of pensions and assets. The 'inmates', as the elderly residents were called, were often expected to work to bring in revenue.

Conversely, the Little Sisters welcomed the needy elderly with open arms, giving them the peace of mind of knowing that once the elderly were with the Little Sisters; they would be taken care of for the rest of their life. This remains the same today. We offer a continuum of care from independent apartments through total nursing care. And, unless the Lord takes them unexpectedly, no one dies alone. When the time comes, we are continually at their bedside, singing praying and comforting our Resident until they go home to our Lord.

Soon after St. Jeanne Jugan began caring for the needy elderly, a man asked, "Jeanne, why do you burden yourself with these poor old women?" She replied, "We will share them, Sir. You will provide for them and I will care for their needs."

Will you share the care of the elderly with us? With our gas and utility bills averaging over \$600 per day, we need your help. Any donation you can give will add up with others and help us!

It is such a joy to watch our elderly Residents take pleasure in their days and not have to worry about financial hardships. Together through your support we can give them the peace at the end of their life that they deserve.



Sr. Julie with Phyllis, 95 years old (left) and Gertrude, 100 years old.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the 150th Anniversary of the Little Sisters in America *adapted from the Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55)

Our story tells the greatness
of the Lord;
and together we rejoice
in the love of God our Savior.
For he has smiled down upon our lowliness
and cared for us, in his Providence,
these 150 years.
The Almighty has done great things for us
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
on those who trust in him.
He has shown his power in weakness
and revealed the mysteries of his kingdom
to little ones.
He humbles the powerful
and lifts up the lowly.
From the rich he calls forth generous hearts
so that the hungry may be filled with
good things;
He comes to the help of his servants,
remembering his promise of mercy;
for when God fills the house he will
never abandon it.
And when God is with us
anything can be accomplished.



The figures at the center of our 150th anniversary logo represent our mission of hospitality to the needy elderly. Weighed down by the burdens of old age, an elderly woman finds love and understanding in the welcoming embrace of a Little Sister.

The flame at the heart of this embrace represents the founding charism of Saint Jeanne Jugan, which we wish to keep alive and to pass on to future generations. The circular shapes represent the great wave of charity launched by our foundress and the universal mission of the Congregation.

A Moment With Mother



Dear Friends,

In this newsletter we have highlighted the 150th anniversary of our arrival in North America. The logo for this occasion is rich in symbolism, which includes the great wave of Charity that was launched by our Mother foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan. It is a powerful wave, symbolic of the grandeur of God and the goodness of others. The world is “charged with the grandeur of God,” poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote. And, for Little Sisters we see this grandeur in the beauty of an aged face, and in the generosity of so many friends who help wash away the pain and poverty that old age often brings.

We recently received a thank you letter, written by a Little Sister in 1924. It had been carefully tucked away in a drawer and found by relatives of a blacksmith. In it, a

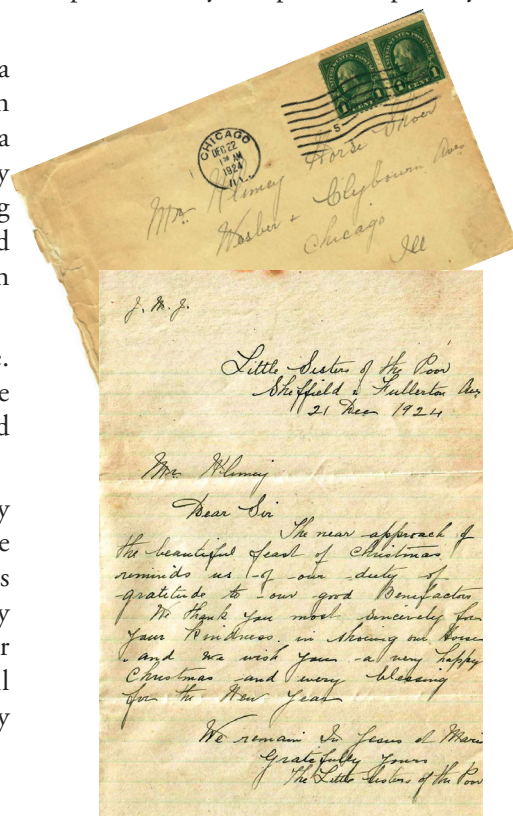
Sister expressed the home’s gratitude for “shoeing our horse”. People help us in so many ways! And for so many years we have promised – and always kept our promise of praying for our benefactors. Each month we have a Mass offered for our benefactors, living and deceased, and every day, several times a day we pray for them; just think, that blacksmith is still being remembered in all those Masses and prayers. So are you!

Our Amazing Grace Gala will be even more ‘Amazing’ this year at the Sanfilippo Estate. In preparation for this event we made a site visit. I found the creativity and talent of the artists and engineers who have gone before us breathtaking. Their remarkably detailed work truly reflects God’s splendor. Please consider joining us there.

Indeed, the world is charged with the grandeur of God and it is reflected not only in nature, but in the work of artists’ hands. Not many of us could design or create the lovely things you will enjoy at the Gala, but we each have our gifts that reflect God’s goodness. I promise you, we will continue using ours: praising God making the elderly happy. And we thank you for continuing to use yours: making a difference in your corner of the world by your acts of charity. The Masses and the prayers of the Little Sisters will continue well into the next 150 years, please God, for you, the blacksmith and many others.

God bless you!

A Margaret Charles



AMAZING GRACE GALA, A CELEBRATION OF 150 YEARS!

Continuing the celebration of our Jubilee Year of the 150th Anniversary of the Little Sisters arrival in the United States, we have an extra special Amazing Grace Gala planned! This year’s event will be held at the Sanfilippo Estates in Barrington Hills on Sunday, June 30, 2019.

The Sanfilippo Estate is a 44,000 square foot private home located in Barrington Hills, Illinois, featuring the world’s finest collection of automatic music instruments. Included in the evening will be a 1 ½ hour tour of the estate. We will dine in the Carousel Pavilion featuring a fully restored 1890 European Eden Palais Carousel 46 feet in diameter with 36 hand-carved Hübner Horses.

You won’t want to miss this “Amazing” opportunity. The Sanfilippo Estate is only open to charitable events. See and listen to the 1927 8,000 pipe Wurlitzer Opus theatre organ. Visit the American Orchestrion Room with beautiful art glass-front orchestrions. Peruse the exhibit of restored steam engines and 1881 Grant Locomotive and Tender. Put a penny and play the many 19th century penny arcade machines or listen to the pristine Edison phonographs and much more. After dinner you will even have an opportunity to ride the carousel.

Look for more information to be mailed out soon and on our website at LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org.



Sr. Rose, wearing the Little Sisters’ old habit, visits with Buscia. We will pay tribute to more of our 150 years of U.S. history at the Amazing Grace Gala.

Visit us at www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org