



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.

Save the Date:

- December 15, 2019
**Christmas
Open House**

Holiday Mass Schedule

Dec. 24th - 7:30 PM

Dec. 25th - 11:00 AM

Jan. 1st - 11:00 AM

- April 26, 2020
Amazing Grace Gala
- September 14, 2020
**Swing and a Prayer
Golf Outing**

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly
80 W. Northwest Highway
Palatine, IL 60067
847-358-5700
www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org

Fall/Winter 2019



Sr. Mary Timothy (front), Sr. Beatrice, Santa's helpers - Carol Broderick (front right) and Peggy Cummings (back center) help Residents Elaine (front left) and Rose (back) Christmas shop at our "Price is Right" shopping day.

Making the Elderly Happy

Helping Them Live Life to the Fullest

Jeanne Jugan used to say "Making the elderly happy, that is what counts!" To accomplish this, she encouraged the Little Sisters to look at each individual; their possibilities, their tastes, their past life, health, etc. Making the elderly happy means believing in the value of their life.

Everyday we are blessed to witness the extraordinary resourcefulness of the elderly - 80 and 90 year olds who are still healthy and active, and 100 year olds who are full of life. It is a joy for us to watch them doing things they enjoy, feeling useful, being able to take initiatives, to communicate, to form friendships, maintaining relationships with their family, and interacting with youth. These are all factors which provide them with great happiness. We also see that when given the opportunity to participate in celebrations and to pray together or in

solitude, their happiness grows deeper. It becomes a source of peace and profound joy. It leads to openness towards others and aspiring to make others happy.

Old age is a stage of life, not an illness, but it can cause physical and mental disabilities. These disabilities are easier accepted when we take care of the elderly with esteem and affection. We strive to compensate for their disabilities, making them easier to bear, and often times halting their progression.

Serenity can be experienced in old age, when the elderly have an experience of being treated and taken care of in a family atmosphere where each one is loved and accepted until death.

Our goal is simple — making the elderly happy by helping them live their lives to the fullest in serenity and with dignity until the Lord calls them home.

Little Sisters of the Poor



Two Little Sisters bring up the gifts to Pope Benedict at the Canonization Mass on October 11, 2009.

St. Jeanne Jugan 10 Years of Sainthood

"Jeanne lived the mystery of love by peacefully accepting darkness and divesting herself of all material possessions until her death. Her charism is always relevant, while so many aged persons suffer different types of poverty and solitude, sometimes even abandoned by their families. The spirit of hospitality and fraternal love, founded on limitless trust in Providence, which Jeanne Jugan drew from the Beatitudes, illuminated her whole existence. May Saint Jeanne Jugan be for the elderly a living source of hope and for the persons so generously placing themselves at their service a powerful stimulus to pursue and develop her work!"

Excerpts from Pope Benedict's homily at the Canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan

Ten years ago, St. Jeanne Jugan was canonized, not because she founded a religious congregation, or even because the elderly needed a friend more than ever. She was declared a Saint because she practiced heroic virtue.

Heroes are people we look up to, people we want to be like. Jeanne is a hero in virtue, beginning with the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. Faith enabled Jeanne to see God in the elderly. Through hope she knew that God would not abandon the poor. Through love she gave all she had to the poor, in imitation of Jesus who gave His life for love of us.

Humility was Jeanne Jugan's crown. She demonstrated great humility in identifying herself with the forsaken, taking their

burdens upon herself and going out to beg in their place. It was said of Jeanne that humility was the essence of her being. It was the secret of her sanctity.

Jeanne looked at the Holy Family as the foundation of how to make the elderly happy. "See how Jesus, Mary and Joseph loved one another, all three, how happy they looked, with what kindness and gentleness they spoke to each other. In our little family, it must be the same."

She brought this to life at Christmas in 1842. Enlisting the help of many friends, a large crib the size of an entire room was constructed. Jeanne brought the Nativity to life with real-life people dressed as the Holy Family, shepherds and wise men. She invited the community to come to the Home not only to see the real-life nativity (possibly making a donation to help buy a new stove), but also to experience the love and family spirit in the Home. The response was good and there was enough money raised to buy a new stove.

From Jeanne Jugan's humble heart flowed a great wave of charity that spread all over the world. Today there are over 2,000 Little Sisters caring for 11,500 elderly in 172 Homes in 30 countries.

We cherish the charism that St. Jeanne Jugan received from God as a precious flame and are eager to pass it on to new generations of Little Sisters who will continue to serve the needy elderly.



It was the miraculous healing of Dr. Edward Gatz (shown with his wife Jeanne at the Canonization Mass in Rome) that led to the Canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



*It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...
and we'd like to share it with you!*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2-4 PM

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

SANTA AND GAMES FOR THE KIDS

BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED

CHRISTMAS TREES THROUGHOUT OUR HOME

COOKIES AND HOT CHOCOLATE

Around Our Home



St. Theresa School Girl Scouts, complete with their reindeer antlers, sing Christmas Carols to our oldest Resident, Gertrude (101 years young).

Joyful Twinkling Eyes

One of our many joys, especially around Christmas, are the groups of children and teens that visit. Whether to sing a Christmas carol, deliver handmade Christmas cards or bring boxes of food from a school collection, it is such a delight to have them around. It is often said that Christmas is best seen through the eyes of children. As we look into our Residents' eyes as they listen to children singing or receive a homemade Christmas card, we would argue that Christmas is also seen through the twinkling eyes of the elderly. Thank you to all who help make our elderly happy and feel so special during the Christmas Season and all year long!

Your #UNselfie Gift

St. Jeanne Jugan believed that because God is our Father, all men and women are brothers and sisters, members of one family, thus responsible for one another. She sought to involve people from many walks of life in the care of the elderly, gratefully accepting whatever they could contribute.

It is the same for us today. We work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of the needy elderly, but we can't do it alone. It is only through the unselfish generosity of our friends that we are able to continue our ministry.

#GivingTuesday is a day recognized all over the world that is dedicated to giving back. After Thanksgiving and shopping days Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday will take place on December 3rd. It was created to kick off the

giving season by inspiring people to give an #UNselfie gift.

Giving is easier than ever, just text STJH to 555888 and you will receive a return text with a link to our #GivingTuesday donation page.

We are happy to welcome the needy elderly into our Home, but we need your help! Your #GivingTuesday donation of any size will make a difference in the lives of our Residents.



Share your generosity to inspire others to give too. Post your #UNselfie picture on social media.



Br. Martin, (front) with other Residents, Little Sisters, and volunteers enjoying Christmas decorations at a local mall.

A Christmas Letter

Brother Martin Schmitz, OSM Conv. joined our St. Joseph Family last year. He agreed to share a letter he wrote reflecting on Christmas.

My Dear Mother Margaret and Community,

It's time to send some Christmas Blessings to my new community of Little Sisters. This affords me great joy, never having expected to be in such a special house of prayer this Christmas. The Residents are all wonderful, each one returns a smile and words of welcome. They manifest in their souls the presence of God we are expecting on Christmas, the Great Sanctifier; the One Who makes all things new.

The brief time I've spent here has certainly confirmed my conviction: "I could not be in a better place." The friars made the perfect choice, I'm so grateful.

I look forward to the Feast of the Birth of Jesus! We can only try to imagine what is going through the mind of Mary; the profound and holy thoughts and sense of great expectation that must be so alive in the Immaculate One.

We need to search out in prayer the Divine Child with great eagerness, and with expectation the way humble souls do. St. Jeanne Jugan speaks about the littleness we need to exercise. She rightfully tells us much on this for her joy was serving them.

May the Holy Child of Bethlehem, through the prayers of the Residents, friends and all the recipients of your charity, bring many more vocations your way. Our God must be most pleased with all of you. You are an inspiration and a model of goodness to us; a great source of faith, encouragement and trust in the Child we look forward to welcoming at Christmas time.

Gratefully,

Bro. Martin

A Moment with Mother Margaret



Mother Margaret Charles
and Br. Martin

Dear Friends,

The Sisters and Residents join me in wishing you a very blessed and Merry Christmas! This season of joy and of giving, and more importantly this season of celebration for the birth of our Savior, brings with it a sense of peace and wonder.

We recently commemorated the feast of All Saints. At our Home, we have a tradition of celebrating a Vigil which helps us to reflect upon the lives of many Canonized Saints. Meditative readings and song focus on the lives of a few of the newly canonized. This year, Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was highlighted. Among his many works are these beautiful words: "God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes..."

As Little Sisters, we know our mission. It is clear and simple: make the elderly happy, care for them well, create a happy Home where all feel esteemed and loved. This is what counts at St. Joseph's Home. Christmas is a wonderful season to do it, with even extra flair, because our God was lavish in the love He poured upon us on that first Christmas.

We hope that you can come to our Open House on December 15th! Experience first-hand the joy that radiates from 90 year old Noel, who doesn't need much to make him happy: a smile, a helping hand, and a quiet spot in the Chapel where he can pray. Meet Gertrude, who at 101 says she hopes to be around a lot longer "because this is my home and I love it." And, see how much our wonderful Volunteers, Staff and Sisters do to make our Home bright for the holidays.

Thank you for being part of our family and for using the gifts that you have to enrich the lives of the elderly. We wish you the peace and wonder of this Holy Season; may you always be aware that God has created you for some definite mission and has called you by name.

The many monthly Masses that are offered for you are the best gift we can give. We also add the prayers of each Little Sister and Resident here. May your Christmas be filled with wonder and joy, and much grace.

Margaret Charles



Teresita spends a moment with newly
Canonized St. John Newman.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP US MAKE THE ELDERLY HAPPY!



Recurring Donation - Set up a scheduled donation on our website or contact us to set one up with a credit card, debit card, or e-check to automatically repeat at a frequency of your choosing.



Memorial/Tribute Gifts - Make a gift in memory of a loved one, to honor a special person, or to recognize a significant anniversary or achievement.



Matching Gifts - Check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift program to increase the impact of your gift.



Planned Giving - Carry on the legacy of caring for the elderly poor by remembering us in your estate plans.



Gifts of Stock - Contact Diana Olson at dvpalatine@littlesistersofthepoor.org for more information on how to make a transfer.



Volunteer - Reach out your hearts and hands in service to lighten our task of meeting the many needs of the elderly. Contact volpalatine@littlesistersofthepoor.org for more information.



In-kind donations - Interested in donating goods or services? Contact Sister Amy Marie at 847-274-1677 to find out more about our needs and what we can accept.



- Shop at AmazonSmile and designate **Little Sisters of the Poor of Palatine** as your charity. A portion of your Amazon purchase will be donated to us, at no additional cost to you.



Pray - Pray for us that we will be blessed with all we need to continue our work and that more young women will answer God's call to become Little Sisters.