



Making the Elderly Happy *In the Midst of a Pandemic*

Social isolation is hard on anyone at any age, but can be devastating to an elderly person. In the midst of this coronavirus outbreak we are thinking outside the box to make sure social suffering isn't happening here. Jeanne Jugan focused her life on "Making the Elderly Happy" and we do our best in any situation to follow her footsteps.

Keeping everyone safe may require a 6' foot distance and no group gatherings, but we can still have fun! Individual tables are set up in each Resident's room doorway where they can eat their meals. Smiles and waves send greetings across the hallways. Conversation may be a little louder, but we are adapting. Our Activity Staff leads sing-alongs from a portable keyboard.

St. Patrick's Day was more subdued than years past, but the Irish spirit still shone through. We still feasted on a corned beef and cabbage dinner with Irish soda bread, as our Lucky Leprechaun danced through the hallways. Mother Margaret was close behind ready to pour us some delicious "Irish Coffee."



A computer, mounted on a rolling stand, is loaded with the IN2L (It's Never Too Late) program. IN2L allows us access to email or skype to keep in touch with family and friends.

Mass and prayer groups are very limited, so we brought the Lord and a relic of St. Jeanne Jugan to our Residents with a Eucharistic Procession through the hallways. Along the way, we prayed the rosary and asking for the protection of all here and for all of you! Our chaplain, Fr. Damien, blessed each Resident and



employee along the way.

The Little Sisters first arrived in America speaking very little English during an outbreak of cholera and a series of recurring epidemics of Typhus, Scarlet Fever, and Yellow Fever. They rolled up their sleeves and got to work, spreading a wave of charity throughout America. Finding ourselves in similar circumstances today, we're rolling up our sleeves, striving to provide the highest quality of care in a loving, happy Home, trusting that St. Joseph will protect us.

RESIDENT HONORED

Ever since she was a child, JoAnn Carroll knew she was adopted, and loved her family very much. It wasn't until two years ago when her children bought JoAnn a DNA test as a Christmas present, that she discovered who her birth parents were, changing her life in the most unexpected way. The results of this test didn't lead her to meet her biological parents, but their many wonderful children.

After completing the DNA test on ancestry.com, JoAnn sent an email to her newly found relatives, just wanting to learn about her biological family. What she received was an eager phone call from a sister letting her know she's the oldest of 5 kids and urging her to come meet them all in California. Through her new found family's generosity, JoAnn traveled with her kids and cousins to meet her birth mother's children; Bobbi, Leslie, Lisa, and David; her birth mother's sister, Betty Ann; and her birth father's child, Kathleen. They greeted her like she was already family with wide open arms, and they put on a giant family party where she met nieces, nephews, husbands, and wives.

When JoAnn saw the faces of her newly discovered family, she couldn't believe her eyes. "It was so nice to finally see people who looked just like me; meeting Kathleen was like looking in a mirror," JoAnn said. After meeting family in California, she headed to Albuquerque, New Mexico to meet the rest of her birth father's 3 kids. Here, she learned the whole story of how her mother had to give her and another sibling up in order for them to live a better life. They both feel so blessed to be here today and have not one, but two families to call their own.

Another miracle of this whole experience is that JoAnn had lost the last of her siblings she grew up with, the same year she had the blessing of meeting her new family. Now they keep in touch via phone and email quite frequently, and JoAnn has found a part of herself she didn't know she was looking for.

We are blessed to have JoAnn as a member of our St. Joseph's Home family and we are so thankful that her mother chose life.

We Need Your Help!

At the time of this writing we have decided to restrict access to our Home. We want to protect our Residents from COVID-19. We are allowing only our staff to enter the building. Access to volunteers, visitors, family members, and outside vendors is restricted. This restriction is in effect until further notice. No one is sick at this time, but we are taking all the necessary precautions.

The mandatory closings and social distancing have severely affected our ability to visit parishes and businesses asking for their support. It has also severely affected our food donations.

While we temporarily have plenty of food for our Residents, our food costs have soared because we must purchase more. We realize that many are suffering in these dire economic times. If you are able to help us monetarily, would you consider making a donation? Any amount would make a difference in helping us serve our elderly. You can donate online at LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org or by mailing in the enclosed envelope.

If financial burdens prevent your monetary support at this time, would you consider joining us in prayer each morning at 8:30 am? We pray for the health and safety of everyone in our Home, for each of you, and for an end to the coronavirus outbreak. We also

had three days of Eucharistic Processions blessing our Home and praying for the protection of each of you. Please be careful during this difficult time.

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For over 54 years, the Little Sisters at St. Joseph's Home have provided the highest quality of care for the neediest elderly of every race and religion. It is our unwavering belief that God will provide for our needs through generous people like you!



JoAnn Carroll (bottom left) at her newly found family reunion.

Staying Connected in Social Distancing



By Sr. Contance Veit, lsp
National Director of Communications

Several years ago, a summer heat wave of historic proportions settled over Europe, leading to the death of over 14,000 people in France alone. Many of the victims were elderly citizens who were left behind in major cities as their families and neighbors enjoyed their summer holidays far from the country's urban areas.

The memory of this tragedy has been very present to me as we hunker down, close our doors and try our best to isolate our elderly Residents from the coronavirus for as long as it takes to protect them from danger.

I am confident that our Residents will receive the best care possible no matter how long this emergency lasts, but I worry about the thousands of seniors who live alone out in the community. Let's not allow what happened in France to happen here.

Even as we practice prudent social distancing, we need to find ways to stay connected to our seniors even without having direct, face-to-face contact. Here are a few suggestions.

Many seniors are not skilled at social media, but they do use the telephone! Call at least once a day to make sure the elders in your life are well and have what they need. Just knowing someone cares about them will help sustain their spirits.

Make sure the seniors in your life have the food and medications they need. If you need to avoid direct contact, you could drop purchases off on their doorstep. You might even drop off some home-cooked meals, or invite your senior friends to make

you something if cooking is not your forte!

If the seniors you know are interested in using social media, offer to help them set it up.

For seniors who own a pet, offer your services as a dog walker. Finally, don't forget the spiritual needs of your senior friends and loved ones!

As I write this, many churches have locked their doors and bishops are exempting parishioners from Sunday Mass. But for many seniors, spirituality is a prime source of strength and solace, especially during trying times.

Let the parish staff know about seniors who are homebound or hospitalized and who may need pastoral care. Ask if it's possible to bring them Holy Communion, or if a priest could visit them to give them the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

We began Lent with the imposition of ashes and the reminder, "Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return." None of us could have predicted how quickly we would become so focused on the finiteness and fragility of human life – this is one of the spiritual lessons of the coronavirus.

During this difficult period, we are also learning lessons of patience, interdependence and human solidarity.

The elderly have learned

these lessons through a lifetime of experience. Many of them lived through the Great Depression, World War II and the Korean conflict; the youngest retirees came of age during the war in Vietnam. Personal sacrifice and mutual assistance were lessons they learned growing up in tough times.

Our elderly Residents are witnessing to these values in the midst of our current trials as we do everything we can to protect them from the coronavirus. Together with them, we are praying for a quick end to the pandemic and for all those who are laboring to fight it.

Amazing Grace Gala Rescheduled Golf Outing Cancelled

You are a cherished part of our family. It is with this sense of care and concern for the health and safety of everyone that we have decided to reschedule our Amazing Grace Gala to Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020.

All the details will be the same. The event will still be held at Avalon Banquets in Elk Grove and the Four-C Notes will perform. If you already registered you do not have to do anything, as your registration will automatically be transferred.

The Amazing Grace Sweepstakes winners will be

picked on April 26th. The winners will be contacted, and also published on our website. The Vacation Raffle winners will be picked at the Gala on Sept. 13, 2020.

Unfortunately, because of the new date for the Gala, our 2020 Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing will be cancelled this year. It will be back in 2021.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. We hope to have a joyful celebration on Sept. 13th, after going through these trying times. Please contact us if you have questions.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

As I write this, the world is facing difficult times. The coronavirus pandemic has changed our way of life. Please know that we pray many times throughout the day for an end to this virus, and for your safety and protection.

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we are exactly where we should be – in the midst of our elderly brothers and sisters, caring for them and doing our utmost to keep them safe and happy. We have had to severely limit access to our Home, but as you can see throughout this newsletter, we are striving to maintain a joyful atmosphere. Without volunteers, we are wearing many hats, but this is nothing in comparison to the frontline healthcare workers, that we hear of each day on the news, and pray for mightily. We are working side by side with our dedicated staff and inviting them to pray with us for Divine Protection for their families and for the whole world. As difficult as these days are, we all feel a certain solidarity and prayerful unity that in normal times is often not fully appreciated.

Eucharistic Processions and communal calls to prayer have been well received. It is touching to see our staff members line the hallways, bowing reverently in prayer, grateful to receive a blessing. A steady stream of our wonderful neighbors have formed a charitable procession, driving quietly past our front door, leaving much needed supplies. We are so blessed and grateful.

For the safety of everyone, we rescheduled our Amazing Grace Gala to Sept.13th, and cancelled our Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing. Because of this, the income we depend on from these events is delayed or decreased. Businesses and parishes that normally support us are closed and unable to offer us assistance. If you are able, we need your financial support and would be so grateful for your help.

In difficult times St. Jeanne Jugan would tell the Sisters to pray, "You know well what is happening my dear Jesus. I have only You. Come to my aid..." She added, "And then go on your way. And don't worry about knowing how you are going to manage. It is enough to have told Our good Lord. He has an excellent memory." I hope and pray that things are not too difficult for you. May God bless our world, and each of you with healing and strength.



Mother Margaret Charles

WASH YOUR HANDS



Mother Says....

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

If you are able to donate any of these items please call (847)358-5700 before you arrive. Someone can meet you outside or you can leave them at the front door.

HAND SANITIZER
DISINFECTANT WIPES
NON-LATEX GLOVES: M, L, XL
THERMOMETERS
FACE MASKS
ALOE VERA GEL

SAVE THE DATE

- **Amazing Grace Gala**
*Rescheduled for
September 13, 2020*
- **Swing and a Prayer
Golf Outing**
*Cancelled. Look for a
new date in 2021*

MISSION

Continuing the work of St. 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 a family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.