



With a Father's Heart

The Year of St. Joseph

Pope Francis has declared this liturgical year – the Year of St. Joseph! St. Joseph has long been a friend of the Little Sisters and in particular our Home, of which he is our patron and protector.

From her early years, Jeanne Jugan had a devotion to St. Joseph. Jeanne was a toddler when her father was lost at sea. St. Joseph became a father figure that she would rely on for her entire life. There are many stories of Jeanne receiving assistance from St. Joseph. Once, Jeanne saw that her elderly were eating dry bread because they were low on butter. She lit a candle in front of a statue of St. Joseph and placed next to it all the empty butter dishes. Days later a large donation of butter arrived, filling all the empty dishes.

We also see miracles when we ask for St. Joseph's help. At a staff meeting it was mentioned that we needed fresh produce. Hours later a volunteer from a community farm (we didn't know existed) stopped in and asked if we wanted fresh



vegetables. When we placed a sign by St. Joseph's statue asking for coffee, over a hundred pounds were left at our door.

Pope Francis spoke of how St. Joseph loved Jesus, "With a Father's Heart... Our world today needs fathers... Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."

We wholeheartedly agree and join Pope Francis in asking for St. Joseph's



intercession with a prayer he recites daily: *Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.*

OUR AMAZING ANNA



101-year-old Anna Grattoni is our oldest Resident, and we are happy to share, a Covid warrior. Born in beautiful Venice, Italy in 1919, our Amazing Anna has lived through two pandemics – the Spanish Flu and now Covid-19. When Anna tested positive and moved into our Covid Wing, she said she was never afraid because of the outstanding care she receives here. “Everyone is perfect,” Anna exclaimed, “Everybody here has a good mood and does a good job. I never worry.” When Anna recovered and was wheeled out of the Covid Wing, we clapped and cheered.

Being quarantined and watching how much the world around us has changed in only a year, has led to reminiscing of the past. When we asked Anna if she could go back in time to any point in her life, she quickly responded, “I want to be 20 again because that is when I met my husband.” Anna lost her husband in World War II. She left Italy shortly after, with their two children, to live in the US. Using her sewing skills, she found a job in a small factory. She made a life for herself and her children, who are now grown and grandparents themselves, making Anna a proud great grandmother. Her kids call every day and visit in person as often as they can (limited now due to Covid). Anna’s wish for her 102nd birthday in August is for an end to pandemic and a party with her family.

Meeting a happy and healthy woman of 101, makes us wonder what is the secret to living that long. Anna’s answer was simple: “Be good and speak honest. That way you will never get into trouble.” She believes it is because of that philosophy that she, her parents, and her grandparents all lived past 90. That and good genes of course!

To the World Around Me

It has been a challenging time for our Residents during this pandemic. They have unselfishly joined with us to do whatever needs to be done to navigate through this. One of our Residents wrote her thoughts in a letter:

"To the world around me,

I found talking with some Residents I had not known as well before, and asking them about their feelings about the pandemic, helped me and them to feel better.

We, other Residents and myself, were thinking of Thanksgiving and Christmas and what it will be like. We were coming up with ideas that could make the holiday nice, what we could do and things to change our feelings.

Also, when I pray especially for an attitude of gratitude, its good to realize what we have and what we have not.

When I do this, I am mind blown about all the little things the Sisters do just to make things as nice as they can. I believe they must lie awake at night thinking up ideas. They are also pleasant and cheerful in all of this. I pray I can pick up their spirit. They are all St. Jeanne Jugans!! I've come to appreciate

my family so much more.

I've grown strong in the ways I'm blessed. We must remember we are most blessed of all because we have our faith, know God, and can share with everyone around us.

Soon we'll be back together. It will be a little bit of meeting in Heaven.

“I pray especially for an attitude of gratitude, its good to realize what we have and what we have not.

There will be so much joy. We'll realize how strong we are together as we came through this.

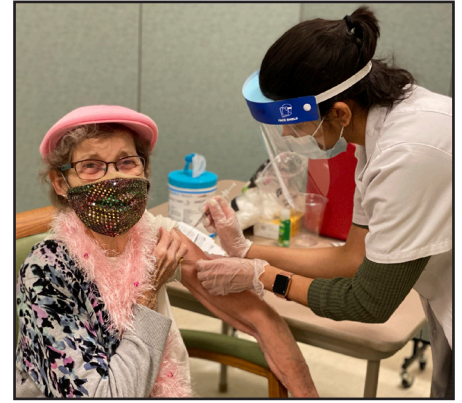
Have you thought of how you will celebrate, how you will share the stories and memories of these times?

Really in spite of all of it, we are still the most blessed of all. We are a people of God, and can share and love one another and build up a caring world for everyone; just as God intended."



Shirley graciously shared her thoughts and feelings of living through this pandemic. Her beautiful perspective gives all of us hope and the encouragement to persevere.

Like a Thief in the Night



Our COVID wing of eight rooms sat empty for nine months. It was tough, as Medicaid does not reimburse us for empty rooms (*we have lost over \$391,000*), but we knew it was necessary. We hoped and prayed that we would never have to use the COVID rooms. Then, one cold November night, one of our Residents began to have symptoms, then another, and another, and soon the wing was full.

The hours of training and preparation kicked in and our own private battle with this vicious virus was being fought within our midst. Heroic Little Sisters and staff volunteered to work

12 hour shifts, valiantly caring for and comforting the sick.

Thanksgiving came and then Christmas. Our fight continued. We held many frail hands and tried to calm the frightened. We prayed and we cried.

However, in the midst of the turmoil we saw God's blessings. We cheered and celebrated with each Resident as they recovered and left the COVID wing. Our oldest Resident, 101-year-old Anna smiled and waved, with balloons tied to her wheelchair, as she left the COVID wing to return to her room.

Concerned friends delivered festive wrapped gifts, so that each of our

Residents would be remembered at Christmas. One thoughtful friend hired a singer who serenaded us with Christmas carols. He sang, with a microphone and speaker from our driveway, to all of the smiling faces looking out of their windows.

At this writing, our COVID wing is once again empty. With two rounds of the vaccine administered here without any problems, there is much hope that this pandemic will soon end.

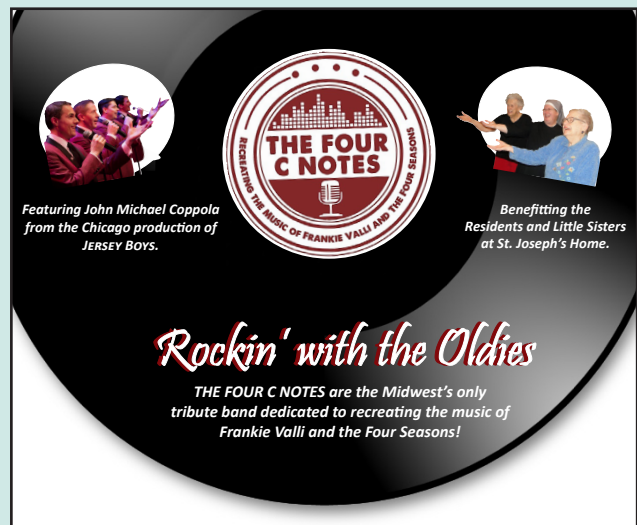
Words cannot express our gratitude for your prayers and generosity. It is only through God's grace and your support that we have been able to get through this unimaginable journey.

Amazing Grace Gala

Unfortunately the uncertain situation and ever-changing COVID restrictions have caused us to reschedule our Amazing Grace Gala to May 1, 2022. The Four C-Notes will have us "Rockin' with the Oldies" at Avalon Banquets in Elk Grove Village. Thank you for your patience as we work to keep everyone safe.

Tickets for the Amazing Grace Sweepstakes are enclosed. The drawing will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021. Don't miss your chance to win \$500, \$1,000 or \$5,000.

Be sure to also mark your calendars for our Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing on Monday, September 13, 2021 at The Club at Wynstone.



MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

At the beginning of 2020, from our Motherhouse in France, our Mother General invited each Little Sister in the Congregation to “live with Mary in the Heart of Jesus and to become missionary disciples in the midst of our daily activity”. We could never have imagined how 2020 would unfold, but it did. And it slowly became clear to us that we were called to become “missionaries” by navigating in an environment that was completely foreign to us. We made our way through a global pandemic while holding tightly to the hands of our frail elders and allowing the hand of God to take the lead. Thanks to the grace of God and your support, we survived, but we know it isn't over.

The coronavirus has indeed changed each one of us; it has chiseled at our hearts as we watch it sap strength from our Residents, as we suffer their isolation with them, as we long to see them reunited with their families. Yet through God's grace, it has also chiseled away at our hearts for greater openness. Every one of us has had to do more than we thought we ever could. In the newly opened spaces in our hearts, the Holy Spirit pours gifts of courage, fortitude, charity and wisdom whenever we ask for them; whenever we go beyond our own strength or desires and work together to serve others.

Every year our Mother General gives us a theme, a spiritual invitation meant to unite all the Little Sisters throughout the world. For 2021, as the Church celebrates a year of St. Joseph, she encouraged us: “Following St. Joseph's example, and with the strength that comes from the Spirit, let us adhere with astounding confidence to all that comes to us from God.”

Will you join us in this beautiful spiritual effort?

With “astounding confidence” we ask God to bless you as you work with us to make the lives of our elderly more comfortable. Thank you so very much.



You help us to bring love and joy to our Residents, especially in these difficult times! Thank you for your prayers and support. We can't come out to say thanks, but be assured that you are in our grateful prayers.

Want To Help?

Find our Urgent Needs List and
our Amazon Wish List at
LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org

SAVE THE DATE

- **Amazing Grace Sweepstakes**
(Tickets enclosed)
Drawing April 26
- **Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing**
Monday, Sept. 13, 2021
The Club at Wynstone
- **Amazing Grace Gala**
Sunday, May 1, 2022
Avalon Banquets,
Elk Grove Village, IL

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.