



Enjoying Life

Navigating A New Normal

In 1841, Jeanne Jugan was worried about all of the elderly poor that were being neglected. She moved into a larger space so that she could care for more needy older persons. A young girl who came for a visit with her godmother, could barely find a spot to sit because of all the beds side by side. Upon leaving, the young girl commented on how happy the elderly looked.

One of our favorite quotes from Jeanne Jugan is "Making the elderly happy – that is what counts!" It's what we strive to do each day. These past 14 months have challenged us in many ways, including just how to accomplish this, but we have done our best.

With vaccinations administered and restrictions easing a bit, we are trying to navigate to a new normal. Precautions are still being followed, but we are able to gather safely once again. We are joyously welcoming back our Residents' families



for visits. The Chapel is once again open for us to visit and attend Mass. A new Resident Bell Choir adds heavenly music to our prayer services and Masses.

Our dining rooms have reopened, and even though we are spread out more, it is so nice to be together again. Now instead of hallway music, the "Fantastiks" a Resident drum group (who use exercise balls instead of drums), entertain us at gatherings in our auditorium.



The weather is warming up and we are heading outside! Fresh air and beautiful landscape are the best medicine for us after enduring a weary pandemic winter.

We find inspiration from Jeanne Jugan. She endured many trials and hardships during her life and the Lord blessed her perseverance. The work she began, caring for and making the elderly happy, thanks to your help, continues 182 years later.

MEET VERONICA



Meet Veronica, our 85-year old puzzle-making queen. Veronica has always been a puzzle fanatic, but since the pandemic, she's found the best way to keep busy is to work on her jigsaws every day. This hobby has helped Veronica keep her spirits high throughout the past year, even when she herself caught Covid. Her tough battle with the virus back in December may have slowed her down a little bit, but she quickly worked her way back up, starting small with 300-piece puzzles all the way back to the challenging 1,000-piece puzzles that she is doing regularly again.

When asked why she does so many puzzles Veronica said, "I've always liked them. I need to keep my mind busy, and puzzles are a fun way to do that." Since the pandemic started last March, Veronica has put together a whopping 57 puzzles, and she has no plans to slow down. "Whenever puzzles get donated, they bring them right to my room so I can pick out a new one," said Veronica excited to be known for her hobby. She said the toughest one she has put together was an image of a sports stadium where all the people in the stands looked the same. Well, if a completed puzzle ever is missing a piece, she crafts a new one from older puzzles with the help of one of our nurses, Virg.

You may be wondering what happens to all of her work. She attaches the completed puzzle to a backing and gifts them to her fellow Residents to hang in their rooms as decor. Now if we ever walk into a Resident's room and see a puzzle proudly displayed on the wall, we know exactly where it came from.

Thank You, Janet!

Forty-five years ago, 19-year-old Janet Dorsey was at the Palatine American Legion with her veteran dad. They were attending a Friday night fish fry when a friend of her father stopped to say hello. The friend, a volunteer at St. Joseph's Home, suggested to Janet that she should apply for a job at our Home. We are eternally grateful that Janet followed his advice!

A few weeks ago, Janet celebrated 45 years as a CNA at our Home, making her our employee with the longest consecutive service. She was presented with an assortment of flowers and a wall of thank you notes from her current Residents.

Her love for the elderly began at a young age. As a young teenager, she often helped her grandmother. Once she began here, she is quick to say, "I had no desire to work anywhere else."

Janet's husband of 30 years, Ed, couldn't be more supportive. Janet works the overnight shift which can be very disruptive to any family, but Ed understands Janet's commitment and works very hard to support her any way that he can.

The Residents that receive care from Janet had many kind words when asked

about her. "Janet goes the extra mile, even when her shift is about to end, she'll never say no to lending a helping hand...With Janet, people always come before reports... Her kindness and loving attitude are shared with absolutely everyone, she is a fantastic woman."

Janet's smile can light up a room, or

“Her kindness and loving attitude are shared with absolutely everyone, she is a fantastic woman.”

the wing of rooms that she oversees. On any given night, you can find her playing a game of Scrabble with a Resident who can't sleep, or chatting with a Resident, gently calming their worries, or doing anything she can to help any Resident.

Janet's goal is to work here for five more years, until she reaches 50 years! Although, she says it's not work for her, "This is my home away from home. The Residents keep me going. I love them and they love me back."



Celebrating 45 years, Janet's service represents the longest consecutive tenure among our employees. She is one of the many dedicated employees in our St. Joseph Home family that work so hard to make our Home special.

Au Revoir ~ Bonjour



May God bless you, Mother Maria Christine and Mother Margaret Charles



Residents Bid Farewell and Welcome Home



Welcome Mother Provincial Julie Marie

Part of being a Little Sister of the Poor is to go wherever we are needed. The pandemic put a halt to most moves last year. Now, with the vaccinations and lowered infection rates, many Sisters are being called to new missions.

Since 2008, Mother Maria Christine has served as Provincial of the Chicago Province, overseeing our Homes from Illinois to California. Her leadership guided us through many historic events, the Canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan, the HHS Supreme Court cases, and the pandemic, to name just a few. Her new assignment is Superior at St. Augustine Home in Indianapolis.

Mother Margaret Charles has been our Superior since 2016. She has brought us joy, a lot of laughter, and much love.

Mother will go to Jeanne Jugan Residence in San Pedro, CA. The Little Sisters are withdrawing from that Home. She will help to facilitate the transition. Please join us in praying for vocations to the Little Sisters, so that we can continue to serve the needs of the elderly. After the transition is complete, Mother Margaret will become Superior at St. Mary's Home in Chicago.

Both Mothers valiantly guided us through one of the most challenging times for the elderly in our modern day. Without wavering, they led us on a sure path, all the way, helping us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Also moving to their new assignments are Sr. Diane (San Francisco), Sr. Beatrice (Baltimore), Sr. Rosanna (Pittsburgh),

and Sr. Sharon (Louisville).

While it is bittersweet to say goodbye, we trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit...and, we also know that many journeys often lead back to Palatine. We send with them our grateful prayers. Au Revoir - until we meet again may the holy angels watch over and guide you.

Bonjour ma mère! Our new Provincial has arrived and she is a beloved familiar face. Mother Julie Marie was Provincial Assistant for three years, before her recent position as Superior at St. Mary's Home in Chicago. We are happy to welcome her back and look forward to working with her in her new role as Provincial.

May God bless all of the Little Sisters of the Poor, as they answer God's call to move where they are needed to go.

Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

After months of sheltering in place, the response to last year's golf outing was amazing. For the first time, the event was sold out! The Club at Wynstone did a fabulous job in keeping us safe and making our day of golf very enjoyable. We expect that this year will be the same. Reserve your spot early so you won't miss this great event. St. Joseph is in charge of the weather, so you can expect a beautiful day!

Registration is now open for a Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing on Monday, September 13, 2021 at The Club at Wynstone in North Barrington, IL. Find information on registration, sponsorships and advertising on our website at LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org



WELCOME MOTHER MERCY STELLA



It is our pleasure to welcome Mother Mercy Stella to our Home. Mother Mercy Stella was Superior at Sacred Heart Home in Denver. She most recently celebrated her Silver Jubilee (25 years) as a Little Sister of the Poor.

Sr. Marcel Joseph will arrive from Pittsburgh to join Mother Mercy Stella as her assistant. Some of you may know her from her time at St. Mary's Home in Chicago.

We pray that they will immediately feel at home and are confident that they will be touched by your kindness and generosity.

SR. MARCEL JOSEPH



Our dear big brothers - the Knights of Columbus Holy Ghost Council #4977, came to our aid once again. They organized a drive-by food drop off and the response was overwhelming! Over 200 cars drove to our front door dropping off cash, food, paper goods, PPEs, and cleaning supplies. Our sincere thanks to all who participated and helped.

Protocols require that we keep an isolated wing of rooms in the event of a COVID outbreak. While these rooms are essential when they are needed, Medicaid will not reimburse us for empty rooms. We have lost over \$500,000 in Medicaid revenue since this began. Any help you can give us would be greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE

- **Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing**
Monday, Sept. 13, 2021
The Club at Wynstone
North Barrington, IL
- **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.