



# Spirit of Hospitality

## *Being A Living Source of Hope*

In the first letter of St. John we read that love is not about feelings or words, but about deeds and action. This is why our vow of “hospitality” is so important. Hospitality is love in action. It begins in hearts open to others, to all, especially the poor and the sick, the neglected and rejected of what Pope Francis calls our “disposable culture.” We must open our hearts to them just as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is open to them.

This is what St. Jeanne Jugan did. Her heart was open to the elderly poor. She felt their need. She had compassion and suffered for their sufferings. And, she responded. Continuing what she started, we strive to bring the mercy of the Father and the compassionate love of the Heart of Jesus to the elderly we serve.

Hospitality not only means opening our hearts, our doors, and sharing everything that we have, but ultimately sharing in the lives of our Residents. Jeanne Jugan taught us to share in the poverty of the poor,



becoming a beggar for the beggars. Her complete trust in God's Divine Providence by not having endowments or investment income is the same today. We depend upon your generosity to continue our ministry.

Jeanne found her strength and consolation in Jesus. His words on Sermon on the Mount had a tremendous impact on her and her ministry - *blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed*



*are the merciful, blessed are the pure of heart, blessed are the peacemakers, and blessed are those who suffer persecution.*

The words of Pope Emeritus Benedict at Jeanne Jugan's Canonization inspire us each day, “May St. Jeanne Jugan be for elderly people a living source of hope and for those who generously commit themselves to serving them, a powerful incentive to pursue and develop her work!” With your help, we will continue to offer our hospitality to the needy elderly.



## WELCOME ROHI



Our newest Resident Rohi, has quite the tale to share with us. Having lived the majority of her life in Iran, she endured many hardships, including the Iranian revolution. Coming from a family of thirteen, she married at sixteen, and was living a good, humble life. The Revolution was a shock to her and her family.

Rohi's husband was sentenced to 9 months in prison for being Christian, and having a job with ties to the United States. While he was in prison, Rohi was left alone under house arrest. Each of their children had already fled Iran to the US. When her husband was released, they decided that they would leave too. They each packed a suitcase and fled to Austria. Finally obtaining visas, they arrived in Chicago in 1988. Unfortunately, only eight years after the move, Rohi's husband passed away, but she wasn't left alone this time, because Rohi had her family.

Her children were a great support. After her husband died, Rohi got a condo near her grandkids. Rohi cooked them Persian meals every day, a favorite being eggplant stew. She was such an amazing cook that she never needed to measure anything or follow recipes. To preserve her recipes, her family decided to record her, much like a cooking show, allowing her creations to live on forever.

Living at our Home, her struggles are few. Having such a tough life makes you wonder, how did Rohi, this sweet little lady, get through such struggles? Well, according to her son, her motto has always been "pray and smile." And that she does! We love that motto as it signifies that sometimes no matter what trials we endure, God is with us - so we might as well surrender and 'pray and smile'.

## Help Make A Difference

Shortly after St. Jeanne Jugan opened her third Home in Dinan, France in August of 1846, she was visited by an English tourist who later wrote an article about the encounter in the English press. "She never knew on any given day where the next provisions would come from, but she persevered, in the firm conviction that God would never abandon the poor... everything we do for them we do for Our Lord, Jesus Christ."

Present day Catholic author and theologian George Weigel described what he saw when visiting one of our Homes, "Elderly men and women with no one else to care for them are given exquisite attention; the dignity of every Resident is honored, no matter how difficult that dignity may be to discern amidst the trials of senility and disease. The Little Sisters of the Poor and their Residents are living reminders that there are no disposable human beings; that everyone is a someone for whom the Son of God entered the world, suffered and died; and that we read others out of the human family at our moral and political peril."

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of the elderly? Bequests have been one of the most meaningful sources of funds for our ministry. Through the foresight and generosity of others, we have been blessed

to continue our work with the aged.

Estate gifts can be made through wills, living trusts, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policy or IRAs.

The simplest way to designate a gift is by stating, "I give to the Little Sisters of the Poor Palatine, Inc to be used at their discretion, the following gift..."

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Some examples:

- The sum of \_\_\_\_ (amount in dollars)
- \_\_\_\_ % (amount in percent) of my estate
- The residual of my estate (after other gifts)
- Specific stock, property, policy or asset

There may also be tax benefits that come from your gift, such as an income tax deduction, and avoiding capital gain and/or estate taxes (check with your tax professional for specific advice). Planning ahead can benefit you as well as our work, making a difference in the lives of the elderly.



"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

## Welcome Mother General



After waiting a year due to COVID related postponements we were honored to be the first to welcome Mother General Maria del Monte Auxiliadora and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine to the USA on Sunday, November 28th. Arriving from our Motherhouse in France, this was the first time for both of them to visit the United States.

Entering our lobby, they were greeted by our Residents waving American, Spanish and Scottish flags, representing the nationalities of Mother General and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine.

Our oldest Resident, 102-year-old



Anna, was all smiles as she welcomed Mother General and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

During her week long stay, Mother Maria had an opportunity to meet with Mother Provincial Julie and all of the Mothers of the Chicago Province.

But, it wasn't all business. The Residents and staff showcased their talents with a variety show featuring our Resident exercise ball drum ensemble and a Sister Act song and dance routine.

In honor of our beloved Bears, we presented Mother with a Justin Field's autographed Chicago Bears' jersey



(graciously donated by our dear friend Virginia McCaskey).

Mother Maria and Mother Assistant Joseph also spent an afternoon greeting our Residents and staff, presenting a gift to each one.

What a great blessing it was to have our dear Mother General Maria with us. The week flew by too quickly. Before we knew it we had to say 'au revoir', sending Mother and Mother Assistant off with our love and prayers, as they traveled to visit the other Little Sisters' Provinces in Baltimore, MD and Queens Village, NY.

## Amazing Grace Gala

With faith and many prayers, we are moving forward with our twice COVID-canceled Amazing Grace Gala on May 1, 2022 (*the feast of our patron, St. Joseph the Worker*). We are entrusting our dear St. Joseph to take care of everything.

The Four C-Notes will have us "Rockin' with the Oldies" at Avalon Banquets in Elk Grove Village. Take a look at the enclosed flier for details.

Tickets for the Amazing Grace Sweepstakes are also enclosed. The drawing will be held at the Gala on May 1st. 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 19, 2022 at The Club at Wynstone.





## MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

In this newsletter, we talked about our vow of hospitality and how we are dedicated to being a living source of hope to the elderly that we serve. But, the dedication to help others shouldn't be exclusive to the Little Sisters. Aren't we all called to show hospitality, to be loving sources of hope to one another, especially those who are less fortunate?

I recently read a quote from Mother Teresa. Did you know that after receiving her "inspiration" from Jesus to devote her life to the poor, Mother Teresa lived temporarily with our Little Sisters in Calcutta before starting the Missionaries of Charity? I think that this quote succinctly describes the Spirit of Hospitality and how we are called to reflect the mercy of God to those in need. "At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by - I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in. Hungry not only for bread-but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing-but naked for human dignity and respect... Only in heaven will we see how much we owe to the poor for helping us to love God better because of them."

Lent will be here soon. It's our sacred time to start preparing for Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. During this time, we are called to a conversion of heart as we strive to follow Christ's will more faithfully. Our prayer this Lent is that we can all reflect God's mercy and love to those in need spiritually, mentally, or physically. And, by doing this grow ever closer to His Sacred Heart.

Finally, after a two year COVID hiatus, we are going forward with our Amazing Grace Gala on May 1st. With great faith and much prayer, we are entrusting our Gala to St. Joseph (on his Feast day). Will you please consider supporting us by participating at some level for this important fundraiser?

*Be mercy*



Thank you for your prayers and support. It is only through your help that we are able to provide a loving Home and quality care for Residents. Be assured that you and your loved ones are in our grateful prayers.

In caring for our Residents and keeping them safe and following the IL Dept. of Public Health guidelines, a wing of empty rooms is reserved in case of a COVID outbreak. We have lost *hundreds of thousands* of dollars in Medicaid revenue since this began. Any support that you can give to us would be greatly appreciated!

## SAVE THE DATE

■ **Amazing Grace Gala**  
*Sunday, May 1, 2022*  
*Avalon Banquets,*  
*Elk Grove Village, IL*

■ **Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing**  
*Monday, Sept. 19, 2022*  
*The Club at Wynstone*

## 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.