



Our oldest Resident, Anna, at her 100th birthday celebration, three years ago. After COVID required us to pause group parties, we look forward to gathering together once again to celebrate her 103rd birthday

In Old Age *They will still bear fruit*

Our Home is a place of hope, where life is celebrated and lived to the fullest for as long as possible. Our Residents come here to live until they die.

We are grateful that Pope Francis has often expressed the importance of protecting and looking up to grandparents and the elderly. He recently chose the theme for the Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, that will be held on 24 July 2022, "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalms 92:15). Hoping to promote dialogue among the generations, especially between grandparents and grandchildren.

Our Residents' talents never cease to amaze. Whether it be an impromptu piano recital or painting a masterpiece, they work hard to rise to any challenge.

They can often be found helping in the kitchen, peeling carrots or potatoes. Or, they are busy in the chapel distributing



headphones or passing out Mass programs.

To think of their wisdom and life experiences is awe-inspiring. Our oldest Resident, Anna at almost 103, has lived through the Spanish Flu, World War I & II, the moon landing, and most recently COVID. She has seen 10 popes and 20 Presidents.

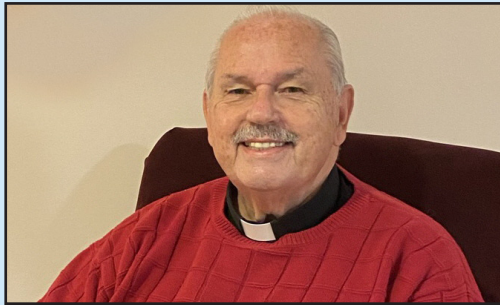
In a recent catecheiss, Pope Francis said, "Our throwaway society often exalts youthfulness and even dismisses the elderly as an unwanted burden. It is



important then, to consider and value the spiritual fruitfulness that this time of life can bring to the elderly themselves, as well as the gifts that they can offer to the communities of which they are an integral part."

Each one of our Residents is a precious gift to us, and to the world. We are blessed to receive their love and wisdom each day. Over and over the light of Christ shines through them, inspiring us and each other.

GOD BLESS FR. TOM



This year on May 10th, we celebrate our very own Father Tom Rzepiela's (pronounced zippy-ella) 50th anniversary of ordination. Fr. Tom knew he wanted to become a priest since he was an altar boy in second grade, and wasted no time studying to become one. Father attended high school at Quigley Seminary, then Niles College Seminary. He earned his Master's Degree at Mundelein Seminary, where he was ordained at just 26 years old.

Coming from a family of devout Catholics, he had great support. The Rzepielas cherished their Sundays, and devoted each one to Mass and family time. His family was not only faithful to the Church, but also to sports. Many of us are aware of Fr. Tom's great love for the Chicago Bears, but what that stems from is his childhood, when he would attend Sunday games with his father who worked for a company that made helmets for pro football teams. In the 1980s, Father's love of sports led to him becoming the chaplain for the Bears, where he'd celebrate Mass for the team the morning of home games. Not only was he chaplain for the Bears, but also for the Knights of Columbus and the Christian Family Movement.

Father was very blessed when it came to his assignments, emphasizing that "each one had been a good and satisfying experience, and not a lot of priests can say that." From two assignments at St. Thomas of Villanova to St. Constance and Holy Name Cathedral to retiring here at St. Joseph's Home, he spent many years at each place and has touched a lot of lives in the process.

We are very blessed to have him as a member of our St. Joseph Home family.

Treasured Acts of Love

"The poor are not happy just because they are given a home, food, and care, but also, above all, because through the care they are given, they see that they are loved" An excerpt from *St. Jeanne Jugan* by Eloi Leclerc.

The simple, acts of love performed at St. Joseph's each day sometimes seem to go unnoticed, but they are no doubt seen by Our Lord, and felt by the elderly who live here.

We strive to create a place where we are all family, treating each other with love and respect. St. Joseph's Home is a true home, not just a place to live, work, or volunteer. Our staff, Association Jeanne Jugan members, and volunteers dedicatedly serve our Residents and help us to maintain our Family Spirit.

The late Cardinal O'Connor once said, "Most of us consider it a great gift to have someone to listen to us. Someone who listens without judging, someone who listens because he or she loves us. That's all. Someone who wants to absorb whatever it is we have to say, especially our joys, our pains, our sorrows. For no other reason but love."

We spend a lot of time listening and being present to our Residents, because we know it is just as important to listen as it is to take care of them. Especially

with the social limitations that the pandemic inflicted upon us.

Equally important are the acts of love we receive from you, our friends. Your prayers, financial support and donations are our lifeline. While we are still under strict visiting limitations and can't thank you in person, please know that we treasure each and every one of

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you. Without your generous support, we would not exist, especially these last couple of years. Your kindness has not only helped us in the high cost of running our Home, but also to protect our Residents from COVID.

We know from experience that the prayers of our Residents are very powerful. Be assured that each day the Little Sisters join with them in offering many grateful heartfelt prayers for you, and your families.



"The elderly – grandparents [especially] – have a capacity to understand the most difficult situations: a great ability – and when they pray for these situations, their prayer is strong. It is powerful." Pope Francis

Prayers, Pilgrimage and Collections



Ash Wednesday Collection

Together with our Residents, we have been following the horrible events in Ukraine which began with the Russia's invasion on February 24. Although it was tempting to sit back and feel helpless, we heeded the call of our Holy Father to unite with the faithful all over the world and pray.

On Ash Wednesday, a Mass was offered for the people of Ukraine as well as prayers on the loud speaker every three hours. The Knights of Columbus established a fund to help the people of Ukraine, that matched any donations up to \$500,000. Our Residents spent the day in the lobby watching with gratitude as the monetary donations poured in from our Residents, staff



Pilgrimage to Immaculate Conception Church

and visitors. In addition, donations of personal care items were collected and given to an organization that sent them to the Ukraine.

It has been especially difficult for our friends at the Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church not far from our Home. On Thursday, March 3rd, our bus was ready for a group of apartment Residents while five Little Sisters set out for St Theresa's Parish on foot for a prayer service and the start of a 2 ½ mile 'prayer pilgrimage of peace' to Immaculate Conception parish. With a full crowd, the service began as the bishop and priests of the Ukrainian Rite processed to the sanctuary with our priests from St Theresa's and several



Praying the Consecration Prayer to Mary

parishes in the area.

Nine days leading up to the Feast of the Annunciation, Residents, Little Sisters and staff prayed the Rosary Novena for peace. Uniting with Pope Francis and the Church around the world, we gathered together on March 25th to pray the Prayer of Consecration and offer a Mass for peace.

St. Jeanne Jugan had a deep devotion to our Lady. In good times and in bad, she would encourage the Little Sisters to pray to Mary for protection, guidance and thanksgiving. We too are staying close to Our Lady, asking Her to intercede for peace. As St. Jeanne Jugan said, "Let us say a Hail Mary together."

Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

Monday, September 19th is our Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing at The Club at Wynstone in North Barrington, IL. Golf legend Jack Nicklaus designed this beautiful and challenging golf course that is recognized among the "top one hundred" golf courses in the U.S. St. Joseph always provides us with beautiful weather for this fun-filled day. Registration begins at 10:30. You will be able to enjoy a fresh off the grill lunch, before the noon shotgun start. After golf, cocktail hour with hors d' oeuvres will be served on the beautiful patio overlooking the course. A delicious dinner and awards reception rounds out the day.

Your support of this event will help us to provide a loving home and quality care for our elderly Residents. Find more information on registrations, sponsorships and/or advertisements, on our website, or call 847-358-5700 or email dvpalatine@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Arriving to begin my assignment as Mother Superior at St. Joseph's Home in the middle of a pandemic, has made meeting you, our dear friends, a challenge. Honestly, your prayers and gifts have been our lifeline. Thanks to your support and our dedicated Little Sisters and staff, we are making our way through this uncharted journey. I am very proud that despite all of the challenges, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has awarded us a 'Five Star' rating.

It was lovely to be able to meet some of you at our Amazing Grace Gala. Since it had to be postponed the past couple of years, this was my first time attending this event. I am very grateful that because of lower infections rates, we were able to hold this enjoyable event. I am also very grateful for your generosity. The much-needed funds that were raised will go a long way to help with our general operations.

In keeping with positive news, I am also happy to announce that positive changes are happening! Family visits and volunteering are opening up at our Home. We still need to adhere to required protocols from the Illinois Department of Public Health, but it is a step in the right direction in getting back to some form of normalcy.

Thank you for joining with us to care for our elderly brothers and sisters who (as Pope Francis says) are "a treasure of humanity." Please be assured of our grateful prayers as we pray for God's abundant blessings for you and your loved ones.

St. Mary

"Rockin With the Oldies"



It was like a welcome home party! After a two year COVID-hiatus, our Amazing Grace Gala returned on Sunday, May 1st. Old and new friends gathered to raise money for our Home and celebrate being together once again!

We were 'Rockin with the Oldies' as John Michael Coppolla (known for his performance in the Chicago production of Jersey Boys) and his band, the Four C-Notes, brought down the house with their Frankie Valli tribute. Toes were tapping and our guests were swaying to the music, some were

even dancing between the tables.

Congratulations to our Amazing Grace Sweepstakes Winners. Albert Disciano (\$5,000), Joyce Jurcenko (\$1,000) and a special thanks to the anonymous friend who put the Little Sisters name on the \$500 winning ticket.

We are so very grateful to all of you who participated in our event, either by attending, sending a donation, participating in our sweepstakes or offering prayers for its success. The funds raised from our Amazing Grace Gala will be a tremendous help for us.

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!

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.