



For unto you is born *A Savior, who is Christ the Lord*

While we try to keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts all year round, there is something special when the Christmas Season arrives. Although the holidays can sometimes be hard for our Residents without family or friends, or when their ailments limit what their minds and spirit hope to experience, we work hard to remind them that everyone is someone for whom Jesus entered the world.

It is often said that Christmas is for children, but we believe that we are all children at heart. The magic of Christmas can touch us at any age. With that spirit, we come together as a family to celebrate.

In joy and anticipation of Christmas, we fill our Home and saturate our senses with the sights and sounds of the season. A life size Nativity welcomes our visitors in front of our Home. Another Nativity is in our Chapel awaiting the arrival of the Christ Child, lovingly carried by a Resident to the manger on Christmas Day. Prayer and song resonate in our Chapel, culminating in a joyous Christmas liturgy. Poinsettias



and twinkling lights brighten our rooms, Christmas carols echo through the hallways and the aroma of fresh baked cookies tempt many a taste bud.

Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving seeing the way that you assist us in bringing the love of Christ to our Residents. From the beautifully wrapped gifts delivered to our door, to the handmade Christmas cards, to the bounty of food, to your financial support that allows us to continue our ministry.

After experiencing your generosity, a Resident once commented, "Who am I, to be treated in such a special way?" We can



easily answer that question. Our Residents are cherished children of God who deserve "special" attention and love. Thank you for believing with us, that each elderly person is special and for helping us to show them that truth.

Anxiously awaiting God's great gift to us, we reflect on the beautiful gift of you – our friends, who support us. How blessed and grateful we are for you! We know that we could not continue without your help.

It is our prayerful wish that God will fill your hearts with His love and grant you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Christmas and a happy New Year.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY SR. VINCENT



Sr. Vincent de la Providence was born in Philadelphia, one of seven children of Catherine and Patrick O'Neill. She grew up in a row home on a narrow street. The home had three bedrooms and one bath and was filled with love and laughter. Sister attended Holy Souls Grade School and had many friends.

The family suffered the great loss of their father in 1935. This changed their circumstances a lot. Their mom did the best she could as a young widow. The older boys quickly went out to work, while Sister and her siblings finished school. In the meantime, everyone got some kind of job to keep the family afloat. After grade school, Sister went to Holy Souls Commercial, a two-year business school, then worked in the business for a time.

As the Lord called her, Sr. Vincent kept the longing for a vocation. She had always looked up to her aunts, Sr Emilie who was a Little Sister and Sr Beatrice who was an Ursuline Sister. Sr. Vincent yearned to follow in their footsteps.

Once her mind was made up, Sister wasted no time entering the Little Sisters of the Poor. Her sister Emily did not learn about Sister's decision to enter until she saw the black oxford shoes on the staircase. Sister's brother John didn't find out until she asked him to drive her to the convent.

Over the years, Sister's family made many trips to visit her. They have many

fond memories of traveling to see 'Aunt Sissy', as they lovingly called her. These visits were opportunities for mini family reunions, where all of her siblings would get together and catch up.

Throughout the years, Sister had various assignments in different Homes. During the first 20 years of her religious life, she was assigned in Homes in the Provinces of Brooklyn and Baltimore. In addition to this, she also served most of her years in the various Homes of the Province of Chicago, which includes 47 years of service between the Homes of Chicago and Palatine. In her apostolate to the elderly Residents, she generously helped them over the years in the Dining rooms, the Laundry and Linen rooms for the care and upkeep of the Residents' clothing, and as sacristan in the chapel, where many would turn to her for prayers and would bring Mass intentions for their special needs.

Sister has a wonderful sense of humor and would bring joy to everyone she encountered by telling jokes. Her delivery was perfect! You could always tell when Sister was coming down the hall by the trail of laughter that followed her.

Sr. Vincent celebrated her 25th Jubilee in our Philadelphia Home. Many of her family members live in the Philadelphia area and were able to attend. Years later, her family made the trip to our Home when Sister celebrated her 95th birthday in 2017 and her 75th Jubilee in 2019.

A Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of Sr. Vincent's 100 years is planned for the end of November. Afterwards her family, our Residents, Little Sisters and staff will join together to celebrate.

Sr. Vincent is loved and admired by all those who know her. For 78 dedicated years, Sr. Vincent de la Providence has given her life to God in the service of his elderly sons and daughters. We can imagine Him telling her "Well done my good and faithful servant, your 100 years have been well spent."

Gifts of Love

On the first Christmas as Jesus lay in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem, three Kings brought gifts and shepherds followed a star to pay homage to the Christ-child.

Today we see you, our present-day shepherds and kings, making the journey to our Home each day. You unselfishly offer to us gifts of food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, handmade cards, festively wrapped Christmas packages and more, often times in spite of your own hardships.

We are very grateful to all of our friends - the parishes, schools, businesses, neighborhood groups, families and individuals who quietly and unassumingly drive up to our front door (many times anonymously), unloading gifts for us.

Especially in these challenging times, we are so grateful to you for helping us to find ways to make Christmas special for our elderly Residents. Your generosity enables us to offer to them gifts of love, peace and security.

Thank you for helping us to make Christmas (and every day) special for our Residents. Thank you for supporting our work and enabling us to gently care for the elderly.

We owe you a great debt of gratitude. And we offer you the finest gift we can give, our prayers. Be assured that you are remembered in our prayers each day and in a Mass offered for your intentions the last Sunday of each month in our chapel.

If you would like to help, you can find our Urgent Needs List and Amazon Wish List on our website at www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org.



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas



Christmas celebrations bring families together. Christmas traditions are as varied as the customs and countries around the world, but they all share in the wonder and magic of the season.

Our St. Joseph's Home family is a mini United Nations, with Residents, Little Sisters and staff hailing from Britain, Colombia, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Philippines, Poland, Mexico, New Zealand and of course the United States. Each person brings a special piece of their tradition to create our own St. Joseph's Home traditions.

Traditions and memories of Christmases past are deeply rooted, and



have certainly shaped our attitudes as we anticipate and plan our celebrations of Christmas. It is a time for us to reflect on the great gift God has given us through the birth of Jesus Christ, His only Son. This truth, as well as our reflections on how we have celebrated this holy event through our pathways of life, brings us a response of joy and much gratitude to God, our family, and friends.

The excitement and celebrations have already begun, as we work to create a family atmosphere which flows, quite naturally, into the true spirit of Christmas.



We are grateful to our staff, who spend their Christmas Day assisting us in the care of our Residents and who share in our traditional celebrations. We are grateful to our volunteers and friends who have spent time decorating our Home and preparing Christmas gifts. In this way, staff, volunteers and Residents' holiday memories become intertwined with our own. As our family expands – so do our blessings.

The joy that our elderly Residents bring to us each day is a great blessing for us. They light up our life and remind us of the gift God has given to us through the honor of serving them.

GIVING TUESDAY

November 29, 2022

DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY

**A generous foundation has offered to match each gift
that we receive up to \$50,000!!!**

This Christmas, give the gift of love, comfort, and quality care to the needy elderly. Your generosity has the power to make a positive change in the lives of our Residents. Will you join us in making a difference in their lives?

Giving is Easy:

1. Text STJH to 302-405-6954, you will receive a return text with a link to our #GivingTuesday donation page.
2. Donate Online at www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org.
3. Mail a donation in the enclosed envelope.



Serving the elderly poor in Palatine since 1966.

MOTHER MERCY'S MESSAGE



Mother General, Maria (2nd from right), Mother Mercy (far right), along with other American Little Sisters, celebrate at the inauguration of the statue of Jeanne Jugan in France.

Joyeux Noël - Merry Christmas!

The French language is still fresh in my mind, after my 10 week stay at La Tour St. Joseph, the Motherhouse of the Little Sisters in France, during our General Chapter meeting. Among the business conducted was the reelection of Mother Maria del Monte Auxiliadora, who visited our Home last fall, as Mother General.

What a wonderful opportunity it was to get to know Little Sisters from around the world and learn about their cultures and experiences. We spent time together in prayer (*I prayed for each of you!*) and intense collaboration, working together to form a plan for the future of the Little Sisters. Even though our cultures and experiences differed, we were united in our resolve to preserve and carry on the charism handed on to us by our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan.

During our stay, we were blessed to be present for the inauguration of the new statue of St. Jeanne Jugan in the Valley of the Saints in Carnöet, France, participate in the procession for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and celebrate the feast day of St. Jeanne Jugan with the Little Sisters from around the world.

It was a wonderful trip, but it is good to be back home! I look forward to spending this Christmas Season with our Residents, doing our best to make them happy. Together, we will offer our prayers for you. Thank you for helping us to keep the true spirit of Christmas alive. May you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy, and feel the support of our very grateful prayers.

M. Mercy



SAVE THE DATE for the Amazing Grace Gala, April 23, 2023. Put on your dancing shoes to "Twist and Shout" with our featured guests, Beatles tribute band, American English.

**Find our Urgent Needs List & Amazon Wish List
at www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org**



Candy Drop

Help us make this Christmas extra sweet for our Residents.

Drop off a bag of candy (regular or sugar-free) in our lobby December 4th - 10th.

We hope to make a Christmas Sweets Basket for each of our Residents!



SAVE THE DATE

- **#GivingTuesday**
November 29, 2022
- **Amazing Grace Gala**
April 23, 2023
Stonegate Banquets
Hoffman Estates, IL
- **Swing and a Prayer**
Golf Outing
September 18, 2023
The Club at Wynstone
N. Barrington, 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.