



## Bienvenue Mère Maria

### *Mother General's Visit Ignites New Hope*

As the old saying goes, man proposes and God disposes. After weeks of preparation, we were set to welcome Mother General María and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine to our Home as they began their second U.S. visit. But then our old friend COVID snuck into the Home, forcing our guests to detour to St. Mary's Home in Chicago.

We had really been looking forward to Mother General's visit, but you can't fight with COVID after all — and those Sisters who remained virus-free were able to visit Mother María and Mother Joseph Christine at St. Mary's. Mother Provincial Julie and Mother Mercy then joined superiors from our other U.S. Homes for several days of meetings with Mother General in Queens, NY.

Mother General María and Mother Joseph Christine had come to the U.S. to help realize the merger of our three U.S. provinces into two, and to help launch a national vocations team who will collaborate in nurturing vocations and make the Congregation better known.

Over the last several years we have withdrawn from a number of Homes across the country in order to consolidate our aging communities and strengthen our religious life, despite a diminished number of vocations. St. Joseph's Home will



remain the provincial residence for our Chicago province. Along with the two Chicagoland Homes, our province now includes Homes in Kansas City, Louisville, Indianapolis, Mobile (AL), St. Paul, San Francisco and Gallup (NM).

Our other two U.S. provinces merged into the Baltimore-Brooklyn province, comprised of two Homes in metropolitan New York, Pawtucket (RI), Enfield (CT), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Totowa (NJ), Baltimore, Newark (DE) and Washington, D.C., our novitiate in Queens and a retreat house in New Jersey. This province is headquartered at St. Martin's Home in Baltimore.

Although we face our current situation with realism, we know that our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan is still with us, and we look to the future



with hope. A number of Homes have quietly been undergoing transformations to better reflect the ideals of person-centered care. Mother General was happy to tour a major reconstruction project underway in Philadelphia.

Finally, Mother General María and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine gathered with the superiors of our U.S. Homes and a group of Little Sisters experienced in vocation work to create an action plan for fostering vocations around the country. The Vocation Team will launch new national and regional projects and assist the local communities to tap into local vocation initiatives.

Please join us in praying hard for a new flourishing of vocations to all ministries in the Church, and especially to our religious family!



## 100 YEARS YOUNG



Our newest centenarian, Emanuela Mildred Radosta was born March 20, 1923 in Chicago. Her parents, Charles and Elizabeth immigrated from Sicily. Her first job was in 1939 at the Continental Radio & TV company. She married Frank Tutomase on October 9, 1943. She has two daughters, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Monnie has always been a "family first" person. No matter what she had to do, she took care of her family first. She loved to cook and entertain. Feeding people was her passion. She took pride in her home and made sure her parents, husband and children were well taken care of and fed very well!

Family and friends who visited, were treated to her homemade Italian dishes which were better than a fine dining establishment in downtown Chicago. Hands down, Monnie made the best Italian cookies during the holidays and family gatherings.

Monnie joined our St. Joseph Home family in 2012, moving into our apartments. Once we discovered her culinary talents, she was often called to help Sr. Mary Timothy prepare her Italian dishes for special occasions. Monnie took great delight in cooking for the Little Sisters, especially preparing her special 'sugo' (sauce) for a Little Sister's feast day.

A little known secret about Monnie, is that she is a self-taught accordionist and could play by ear. She also played the organ, often entertaining the Residents and Little Sisters.

Once Monnie moved into our Home, we all became her family. Her smile can light up a room and her laugh is contagious. She is quick to say hello and ask how we are doing.

Happy birthday dear Monnie, thank you for bringing such joy into our lives!

## "Thank You St. JJ"

We believe unwaveringly in the power of Divine Intervention. St. Jeanne Jugan told us, "If God is with us, it will be accomplished". She had complete trust in God to provide for whatever she needed. Through her intercession, we often see prayers answered, needs met, and difficult situations resolved.

This note was enclosed with a donation that we received.

*"Dearest Little Sisters of the Poor,  
The purpose of this letter is to thank Saint Jeanne Jugan for answering my recent prayers. Three weeks ago my mammogram showed 3 abnormal lumps. I have had 2nd stage breast cancer in the past so I knew what this could mean. My grandparents lived at your home until their death many years ago and in their honor I try to donate as much as I can especially during the Holiday Season. I have never prayed to Saint Jeanne Jugan before, but have read about how she has helped people. I really wasn't sure how to pronounce her name so I just prayed to Saint "JJ". Last Friday my test results showed that the lumps*

*were benign and I believe that Saint "JJ" answered my prayers. She gave me the best Christmas gift anyone could wish for.*

**"I really wasn't sure how to pronounce her name so I just prayed to Saint "JJ"... I believe that Saint "JJ" answered my prayers.**

*I am enclosing a check for the amount I would have had to pay as a deductible if I had to go through chemo, etc. I know you will put it to good use taking care of all of your residents.*

*May you have a Merry Blessed Christmas as will I.*

*God Bless all of you!"*

We know that St. Jeanne Jugan is a powerful intercessor and has helped many people, but it is always an inspiration for us to hear the stories.

## The (Gift) Shop Around the Corner!



MaryRose Nowak(l) and Peggy McCotter(r) work tirelessly to keep our gift shop stocked with unique gifts and treasures.

After a COVID hiatus, our Gift Shop is now officially open!

Although you won't find Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Sullivan, you will find that our Gift Shop is a treasure trove filled with unique gifts. Located in the lobby around the corner from the reception desk, our Gift Shop is one of the hidden gems within our Home.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the Gift Shop is freshly stocked with one of a kind items and seasonal decor.

Just as Jimmy and Margaret found love in their Shop Around the Corner, we are sure that you will fall in love and want to make our Gift Shop a regular stop for your special shopping needs. Please stop by and take a look!

# Do Small Things With Great Love



Mother Julie, the Superior of the Little Sister's Chicago Province, recently saw an article about the International Day Against Human Trafficking (Feb. 8). It reminded her about a program that she had planned to do at St. Mary's Home in Chicago before COVID hit.

There are over 1.3 million missing and runaway children in the U.S. If a child is not recovered within the first 48 hours, the likelihood is high that they will be trafficked. The majority of trafficking occurs in hotels and motels.

The SOAP Project works to fight against Human Trafficking by engaging trained volunteers to offer bars of soap free-of-charge to motels, along with



training to be able to identify and report human trafficking when they see it in their establishments. These soaps have labels with information that victims of human trafficking can use to seek help.

Groups like our Home can help by purchasing cases of soap, labeling them and delivering them to a local SOAP Project drop-off facility.

Mother Julie felt that this would be a good opportunity for our Homes (Sisters, Residents, employees, AJJ, etc.) to share



in the fight against human trafficking.

Cindy Deluca, our Volunteer Coordinator, went to work organizing. First, she planned a monthly raffle, featuring beautiful themed baskets to raise the \$200 needed to purchase a box of soap and labels. Next, she organized a group of Residents, staff, volunteers and family members to gather and label the soap. Finally, she arranged to have the soaps delivered to the Felician Convent in Chicago, which is our local drop-off facility.

We are often the recipients of generous people who help us. It is a joy and privilege for us to be able to help others, through this program.

## Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

Registration is now open for our Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing on Monday, September 18th at The Club at Wynstone in North Barrington, IL. *St. Joseph is in charge of the weather and he always comes through for us.* Don't wait too long, the last two year's events were a sell out!

This beautiful and challenging course was designed by golf legend Jack Nicklaus. It is recognized among the "top one hundred" golf courses in the U.S.

Registration begins at 10:30. Be sure to arrive early and warm up at the driving range and try your luck at the "Putt Against the Sister" contest. The locker rooms will be available for our guests.

A fresh off the grill lunch will be served until the noon shotgun start. Beverage carts will be roaming the course during the day to provide complimentary refreshments.



After golf, cocktails and hors d' oeuvres, followed by dinner, will be served on the beautiful patio overlooking the course.

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](mailto:dvpalatine@littlesistersofthepoor.org).



## MOTHER'S MESSAGE



The Superiors of the Chicago Province (l-r). First row - Mother Theresa Gertrude (St. Paul), Mother Marguerite (San Francisco), Mother Mercy (Palatine), Mother General Maria del Monte Auxiliador, Mother Provincial Julie, Mother Assistant Joseph Christine, Mother Judith (Mobile). Second Row (l-r) Mother Margaret Patricia (Kansas City), Mother Margaret Charles (Chicago), Mother Maria Christine (Indianapolis), Mother Theresa Louisa (Gallup).

Dear Friends,

It was such a joy to be with our Mother General and all the Mother Superiors from the U.S., as we met to create a plan for the future of the Little Sisters. The meetings went well and we are very excited to move forward with hope.

The Little Sisters arrived in America in 1868 just after the Civil War, working hard to help the many elderly in need. It was just after the Great Chicago Fire, the Little Sisters were asked to come to Chicago to care for the elderly displaced by the fire.

So often the we were, and still are, called upon to help in times of need. The Little Sisters arrived with almost nothing and depended on the generosity of the community to provide all that was needed for the care of the poor. Our unwavering faith in God's Providence and dependence on the generosity of our friends is still true today.

Thank you for being our friend and believing in our mission! *With your support and the dedication of our Little Sisters, staff and volunteers, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has once again awarded us a 'Five Star' rating.*

Please be assured that you, and your loved ones, are remembered in our daily prayers and in a Mass offered in our Chapel the last Sunday of every month.

*St. mercy*



Many thanks to everyone who supported our Amazing Grace Gala by attending, through your financial gifts and through your prayers. It was a delightful evening that raised much needed funds for our general operating expenses. Congratulations to our Amazing Grace Sweepstakes winners Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Lauber - \$5,000, Mr. Michael Martin - \$1,000 and Ms. Sandy Ippolito - \$500.

## Needed Items

- Lysol Spray
- Paper Towels
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Raisin Bran
- Oil (Vegetable or Olive)
- Quick Cooking Oatmeal
- Body Wash for Sensitive Skin
- Ben-Gay Ultra Strength Lg Size Patches

## SAVE THE DATE

### ▣ Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

*Monday, Sept. 18, 2023  
The Club at Wynstone  
North Barrington, IL*

### ▣ #GivingTuesday November 27, 2023

## 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.