

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

Serving the elderly poor in Palatine since 1965

Mission Statement

Continuing the work of Saint 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 family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

Save the Dates:

- April 6, 2014
Amazing Grace Gala
- September 29, 2014
Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly
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Residents Gayle Atkinson and Teresita Endencia enjoy one of our favorite traditions, a Gourmet Christmas Dinner

Christmas Traditions

"Haul out the Holly"

Traditions bring families together. Traditions create memories and unite families. Traditions mark milestone moments and seal memories. 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 from Colombia, Ireland, India, Africa, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Hungary, Mexico, Guatemala and of course the United States. Each person brings a special piece of their tradition to create our own St. Joseph's Home Traditions.

We celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas by inviting all the employees and their children to a special party. St. Nicholas (our very own Resident, Bob Guretz) dressed in his traditional robes, greets each child and

some adults and gives them a gift picked out especially for them.

Chefs Andy Webber and Tony Stallone, generously donate the food and expertly prepare a special themed gourmet Christmas Dinner. In the past, we have been treated to a Victorian, prime rib dinner, a silver snowflake themed, roast pork and dump-lings dinner, and a candy cane themed filet and shrimp dinner.

Throughout the month of December we are blessed to have many groups from schools, parishes and businesses visit us, sharing their time and talents. Christmas comes alive as carolers fill the hallways with song. Santa's many helpers arrive with carloads of gifts and food.

Culminating the celebration is of course
(continued on back page)

Little Sisters of the Poor



Good friends (l to r) Fr. Sal Livigini, Fr. William Foley, back row Craig Yost and Peter Yanutola, Marian Grant Swift, Dee Dee Yanutola, Liz Parker, join Bishop McDonald for his birthday celebration.

A Year of Celebrations

Happy 90th Birthday Bishop McDonald

In March of 2002, Bishop Andrew J. McDonald arrived at St. Joseph's Home to serve as our chaplain after 24 years of dedicated service as Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas.

2013 has been a year of celebrations for Bishop McDonald. On April 1st, we celebrated his eleven years of loving service, as he retired as our chaplain. In May, he celebrated the 65th Anniversary of his priesthood. Culminating this year of milestones was the celebration of his 90th birthday on October 24th. Many friends and relatives flew in from around the country to share in this joyous occasion.

Bishop McDonald was born in Savannah, Georgia, the eleventh of twelve children of James and Theresa McDonald.

His devout Irish Catholic upbringing resulted in four sisters choosing religious life. His older sister Josephine (Sr. Celine de Ste. Rose) joined the Little Sisters of the Poor. It was her witness that led Bishop McDonald to St. Joseph's Home.

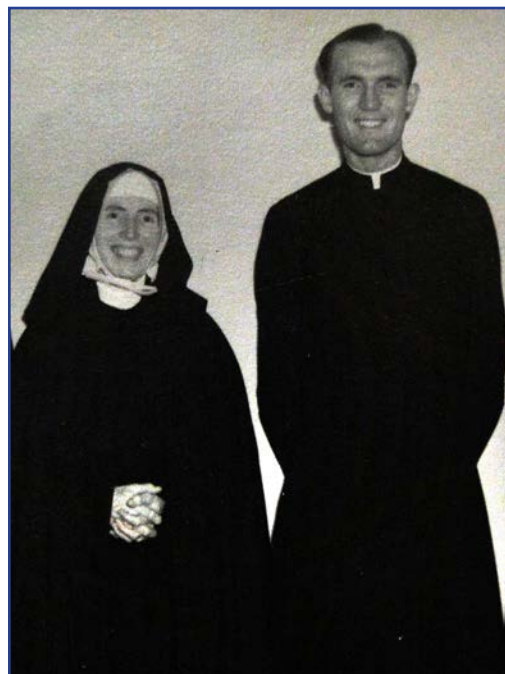
At the young age of fourteen, he told his parents and a local bishop of his desires to be a priest. With a determined spirit, young Andrew boarded a train to begin his studies at St. Charles Minor Seminary in Baltimore. He completed his studies and graduated from St. Mary's Seminary, also in Baltimore. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood for the Diocese of Savannah on May 8, 1948.

He then studied in Rome for two years, receiving his Juris Doctor degree. During

that time, he had the privilege of being in attendance at a Mass celebrated by Padre Pio.

Pope John Paul II appointed him bishop of Little Rock on September 5, 1972. During his years in Arkansas, Bishop McDonald strongly supported programs protecting life and worked hard to help the poor. He hosted Mother Teresa and accompanied her on a tour of the diocese.

We are very blessed to have witnessed Bishop McDonald's priestly fidelity during the past eleven years. His example of living and speaking God's truth with honesty and humility has deeply touched us and helped us to grow in our faith. We will continue to be blessed with his presence as he concelebrates daily Mass in our chapel and participates in the life of our home.



Bishop McDonald with his sister, Little Sister of the Poor, Sr. Celine de Ste. Rose in 1958.

A SWING AND A PRAYER GOLF OUTING



The Eighth Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing was held at the beautiful Ivanhoe Country Club. Joined by our special guests, Relevant Radio's Fr. Francis 'Rocky' Hoffman and Chicago Bear Robbie Gould, over 100 golfers enjoyed a picture perfect day (provided compliments of St. Joseph).

Many thanks to all of our golfers and sponsors who helped make this Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing the best one yet. In addition to raising money for the operating expenses at St. Joseph's Home, we raised enough money to buy new mattresses for our Residents!

Around Our Home



Chefs Tony Stallone and Andy Webber (back row) explain to Mary Stallone, and Adriene and Bob Bates the origins of Cassoulet, a traditional dish from the French region where St. Jeanne Jugan lived.

French Dinner

The Eiffel Tower illuminated the tables and French music sweetly resonated in the background, as our auditorium was transformed into a Paris Bistro, on October 24th. In honor of the birthday of St. Jeanne Jugan, 50 guests gathered to celebrate. Cassoulet never tasted so delicious as from the hands of chefs Andy Webber and Tony Stallone. Some may argue that the Beignets filled with spiced wine custard, were the sweetest part of the evening, but most of us agree that it was the fellowship of good friends.

The Heat Arrives

In this Chicago sports centered area, when you talk about the Heat arriving, you may expect to hear about Derrick Rose taking on LeBron James. And, in the loyal Bull fan tradition you would expect to hear chants of 'Let's Go Bulls'. But last month, when we heard that the heat had arrived, we were happy to hear about horsepower and BTUs and found ourselves chanting 'Let's go heat!'

In a last minute 'fast break' before the 'transition' to cold weather, thanks to our friends who supported our efforts to raise the money we were able to secure a 'triple double' and have now installed three new boilers. These new energy effi-

cient boilers will alleviate our worries of keeping our Residents warm this winter and reduce our energy bills. However, with energy costs increasing and our large facility to heat, we still face energy costs of several thousand dollars a month. We hope that you will begin a new tradition or continue in your generous tradition of giving us a monetary gift this Christmas. Together we can 'double team' these high costs and 'slam dunk' the heat!



Director of Maintenance, Chito Rilloraza and Mother Marguerite watch as one of the new boilers is lowered into the basement.



Resident Ann Perri visits with Santa

"Making the Elderly Happy, That's What Counts."

St. Jeanne Jugan

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

*Ebenezer Scrooge,
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens*

Shortly after St. Jeanne Jugan opened her third Home in Dinan, France in August of 1846, she was visited by an Englishman who wrote an article about their meeting in an English newspaper. The Englishman was author Charles Dickens. He wrote "there is in this woman something so calm, and so holy, that in seeing her I know myself to be in the presence of a superior being. Her words went straight to my heart, so that my eyes, I know not how, filled with tears."

Present day author George Weigel, continued to expound on the Spirit of Jeanne Jugan in his 2009 article, *St. Jeanne Jugan, We Need You Now*. "To enter a house of the Little Sisters of the Poor today is to recapture what Dickens experienced. 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."

The Spirit of Jeanne Jugan lives through us today as we strive to keep Christmas in the hearts of our elderly Residents, 365 days a year.

A Simple Note



In 2013, we joyfully celebrated three centenarian birthdays. Above, Mother Marguerite is shown with (l to r) Eva Kicanas - 101 years old, Kay DeMarco - 101 years old and our oldest Resident, Julia Swager - 102 years old.

Our traditions and memories of Christmases past are deeply rooted, and have certainly shaped our attitudes as we anticipate and plan our celebrations of Christmas. Indeed, it is a time to reflect on the great gift God has given us through the birth of his only Son, Jesus Christ. This truth, as well as our reflections on how we have celebrated this momentous event through our pathways of life, brings us a response of joy and much gratitude to God, our family, and friends. Here, at St. Joseph's Home the excitement has already begun!

We endeavor 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. In this way, staff, volunteers and family members' holiday memories become intertwined with our own. As our family expands – so do our blessings.

A wonderful blessing occurred this past April at our Amazing Grace Gala. We were privileged to welcome His Eminence Francis Cardinal George. He spoke to us about the Papal Conclave in Rome, which concluded with the election of our dear Holy Father, Pope Francis. Everyone in attendance was captivated by the Cardinal's deep insights. We were equally amazed to witness the extraordinary generosity of our many benefactors who contributed to the great success of this event.

This message would not be complete without me emphasizing the joy that our elderly Residents bring to us each day. Indeed they light up our life and remind us of the gift God has given to us through the honor of serving them.

All the Little Sisters join me in asking God's blessings on you and your families at Christmas and throughout 2014. Please remember us in your holiday giving; for it is only with your help, that we can continue to lovingly care for God's elderly sons and daughters.

Sr. Marguerite

Christmas Traditions

(Continued from page 1)

Christmas Mass. At (early) Midnight Mass, after an Advent of preparation and anticipation, a Resident places the Christ Child in the manger. Last year, Kay DiMarco, as a further celebration of her 100th birthday, had that honor. Topping off our blessings, is a special Christmas present we received. A beautiful new Nativity Set was given to us as a memorial gift. It will be displayed in the Chapel to be enjoyed by all.

Perhaps the most heartfelt gifts are those of our Residents and Little Sisters to you, our friends. They are the deep prayers, rosaries and Masses we offer to you this Christmas Season. It is our prayer that God will abundantly bless you and your families.

Amazing Grace Gala 2014

In 1994, a group of our friends worked together to organize the first Amazing Grace Gala at the grand opening of Mia Cucina's Restaurant in Palatine. On April 6, 2014 please join us as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Amazing Grace Gala. Over the years this, our largest fundraiser, has been a tremendous support for us as we try to meet the challenge of reduced government support and increased operating expenses.

This will be an extra special celebration, as we honor one of the original founders, Andy Webber, with the St. Jeanne Jugan Award. The Amazing Grace Gala will be held at the beautiful Stonegate Banquet Centre



Sr. Mary Timothy and Andy Webber

in Hoffman Estates. The evening will be filled with delicious food, exciting silent and live auction items and, most importantly, good fellowship.

Won't you join us and be an "Amazing Grace" for the elderly Residents who live at St. Joseph's Home? Look for more information at LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org.