



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

Serving the elderly poor in Palatine since 1966

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 Date:

- December 10, 2017
Christmas Open House
- April 22, 2018
Amazing Grace Gala

St. Joseph's Home Holiday Mass Schedule

Dec. 24th - 7:30 PM

Dec. 25th - 10:30 AM

Jan. 1st - 10:30 AM

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly
80 W. Northwest Highway
Palatine, IL 60067
847-358-5700
www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org

Fall/Winter 2017



"...for it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself." Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol.

Christmas Through the Eyes of a Childlike Heart

It is often said that Christmas is best seen through the eyes of a child. The magic and wonder of a child's Christmas hopes and dreams stirs a strong sentiment in our hearts. But, aren't we all children at heart? As this Holiday Season is upon us, we are blessed to see Christmas through the childlike eyes of our elderly Residents.

Gazing at a decorated Christmas tree, singing Christmas Carols or munching on a Christmas cookie, sparks a twinkle in a Resident's eyes. Maybe it's a memory or just the simple pleasure of the moment. Regardless, it is a true gift for us to share that special moment.

Have you ever wondered why God, chose Elizabeth and Zechariah (senior citizens) to become parents of John the Baptist? Or, why Prophets, Anna and Simeon, were chosen to see Jesus in their old age, speaking about Him "to all those who were looking

for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:36)?

It was the child-like hearts of those Saints that transcends age and cultural barriers to see Jesus. Their hearts were filled with joy and wonder, reflecting the love and hope of the Savior. Jeanne Jugan was inspired and energized by Christ's love in the hearts of the elderly. She passionately spoke, "Be kind, it is a great grace God is giving you. In serving the aged, it is he himself whom you are serving".

Our hearts are full of joy that with the help of many friends and benefactors, we are able to give all of our Residents Christmas presents. In reality, their very being gives us the presence of Jesus in our lives each day.

As we visit Jesus in our Christmas Manger, we give thanks for our Infant Savior, the beautiful gift of the elderly that we are blessed to be able to serve, and you our dear friends, who make this all possible.

Little Sisters of the Poor



We are happy to welcome our international Little Sisters (from l-r) Sr. Stephen- Kenya, Sr. Rosana - Phillipines, Sr. Christina - Sri Lanka, Sr. Mary Gerard(newly professed in August) - USA, and Sr. Juliana - Somoa.

Our Christmas Gift to You: 180 Masses Every Month

Jeanne Jugan's vision was of caring for the needy elderly as one family; extending far beyond the Little Sisters and Residents. She believed that because God is our Father, all men and women are brothers and sisters – members of one family – and thus responsible for one another.

As our friends and benefactors, you become part of our very large family. **Every day we gather with our Residents and pray for you and your intentions in thanksgiving for your kindness.** Each month in all of our 180 homes throughout the world, a Mass is offered for all of our benefactors. You and your loved ones are

remembered in all of those Masses. Our prayers and these Masses are the best gift that we can offer you and we do so wholeheartedly. May St. Jeanne Jugan obtain blessings in abundance for you.

This year, we are celebrating the 225th anniversary of the birth and baptism of our Mother foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan. From the start, Jeanne Jugan did not want her Congregation to limit itself to the West of France, but rather to become a real network of family homes where each person would be received, honored, encouraged and cared for.

A little seed of the Gospel was sown in

the soil of Brittany by this most humble woman of Cancale, France.

By the end of Jeanne's life in 1879 the Little Sisters were ministering to the needs of the aged poor in nine countries.

The Congregation had spread all over France and then took root in England in 1851. Belgium was next, and then Spain, Ireland and North Africa. The first group of Little Sisters destined for America left the motherhouse on August 28, 1868; Jeanne Jugan was there to bid them farewell. She found great joy in standing by an open window in her room, waving goodbye and wishing them well. After a long journey by boat, they set foot on American soil in Brooklyn, New York, on September 13, 1868. No one spoke English.

It was after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that the Little Sisters first arrived in Chicago. They came in response to Bishop Thomas Patrick Foley's pleas for help in caring for the elderly who were effected by the devastating fire.

Today, over 2,000 Little Sisters of the Poor care for 12,000 needy elderly in 30 nations, spanning six continents.



Just like the internationality of our Little Sisters, 15 of our Residents were born in other countries. Sr. Rose wishes Mary, who was born in Scotland, a happy birthday.

SAVE THE DATE: AMAZING GRACE GALA - APRIL 22, 2018



Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, April 22, 2018. That is the date for our Amazing Grace Gala which will be held at the Stongate Conference Centre in Hoffman Estates, IL.

The Amazing Grace Gala is our largest fund-raising event. Since 1994, the generosity of our guests have helped raise \$3 million for our Residents.

Look for more detailed information to be mailed out in mid-January and on our website at www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org.

Around Our Home



Our apartment Residents are all smiles, as they place their special ornaments on their Christmas tree. Your generosity helps us to provide these Christmas joys in a loving Home.

You've Made a Difference!

As the year draws to a close, we reflect with prayerful appreciation on all of the gifts that we have received. Our hearts are filled with wonder and gratitude. Through your financial help, we have replaced the air conditioning system and the double ovens in our kitchen. We purchased a 14 passenger handicap bus, a refrigerated collecting van and a handicap mini-van. With close to 10,000 volunteer hours, you hosted parties, built fences, updated our landscape, collected food, played bingo, spent time visiting with our Residents and much more.

In the spirit of Christmas joy, we assure you of our daily prayers. May the coming year find your heart deeply rejoicing in the glory of Christ's birth and the knowledge that God is working in your life and the lives of those you cherish.

#GivingTuesday

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities in all 50 states and countries around the world. #GivingTuesday is held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (in the US) and after the widely recognized shopping events, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This kicks off the holiday giving season and inspire people to collaborate in improving their local communities and to give back in impactful ways. This year #GivingTuesday falls on November 28.

We joined #GivingTuesday three years ago and have raised over \$11,500. We are happy to welcome 96 needy elderly into our Home. But as the cold winter weather approaches our heating costs rise. Our heating costs are close to \$50,000

from October through March. Your #GivingTuesday donation will help us to provide a comfortable Home for our Residents.

Every act of generosity counts! Like the loaves and fish, the Lord will bless your gift and together all the gifts add up. You can help by donating online at www.LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org or mailing your donation in the enclosed envelope.



Will you help us to continue to provide a loving home for the elderly by making a #GivingTuesday gift on November 28th?



The Mercy Cross has become a symbol of the continual graces of mercy pouring out on the world even and especially after the Jubilee Year of Mercy .

Jubilee Cross of Mercy

We very were blessed to host the Jubilee Cross of Mercy on October 23-26th. This cross was specially designed to accompany the faithful on pilgrimages through the Holy Doors of Rome during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This cross was one of the 33 blessed by Pope Francis. The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, the office of the Holy See that organized the Jubilee Year of Mercy gave this cross as a gift to the United States. This cross continues to travel across America, reminding and challenging us to allow God's mercy into our hearts prompting conversion of life, a conversion to a new way of living, that of mercy.

How providential that the Jubilee Cross of Mercy was in our chapel sanctuary as we celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving on October 25th in honor of the 225th Anniversary of the birth of St. Jeanne Jugan.

By practicing daily the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, Jeanne Jugan's love for God was manifested by her service to the elderly poor. She hoped to win the elderly over by those acts of love, opening up their hearts more and more to God's love. We are privileged to continue Jeanne Jugan's ministry and practice works of mercy on a daily basis. We welcome others to experience firsthand how the works of mercy are intimately incorporated into our life of hospitality.

Love is the greatest of all mysteries. Every one yearns to be loved and to know there is a meaning to their life. In a spirit of faith, Jeanne Jugan assumed the duties of the works of mercy in special manner and we have a mission to follow in her footsteps to continue the work of Christ on earth.

A Moment with Mother Margaret



Mother Margaret Charles with Resident Anna, who was born in Italy.

Dear Friends,

Christmas, like life and faith is a mystery. The mystery of the Incarnation is far beyond our intellectual grasp. We can't explain it, but we can embrace it. St. Francis experienced a deep conversion when he meditated upon the Incarnation, and was inspired to create the first Nativity scene. Saints and holy men and women throughout the ages have been touched profoundly when they gazed upon representations of the Nativity. Blessed Antoine Chevrier wrote that it was gazing upon the

Infant Jesus one Christmas evening when everything changed for him. Father Chevrier discovered in a flash, the identity of God and poverty in the Christ-child's cradle. Jeanne Jugan recognized the image of her God, already entirely occupying her heart, in the poor, blind first elderly woman she encountered. On this cold winter evening, in a hovel no better than a stable, Jeanne recognized the face of Jesus. God was in her midst and she was touched profoundly.

This Christmas I pray that each of us delve deeper into the mystery of Christmas. God is truly with us. May our eyes be opened to God's wonderful presence. Here at St. Joseph's, He reveals His presence in the lovely, gentle faces of the elderly. He is with us in the Nurses' Aide who has come to work faithfully for 20 or more years, because she loves the Residents. He shows Himself in the benefactor who helps keep our elderly happy and comfortable, and in the Volunteer who offers service wholeheartedly and often in hidden ways. We see Him in the Little Sister who continues each day to love and serve the Residents. Indeed, it is a mystery, a magnificent mystery-He is here among us.

We are planning a Christmas Open House this year, but unlike the Inn at Bethlehem, all are welcome! We would like you to meet our elders and see firsthand our Home. We want to be able to express our gratitude to you and invite you to share with us the joy of Christmas. Together let us celebrate the great mystery, our God is with us! Thank you for revealing His love to us through your generosity throughout the year.

As we mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the many monthly Masses that are offered for you are the best gift we can give. We also add the prayers of each Little Sister and Resident here. May your Christmas be filled with wonder and joy, and much grace. We hope to see you on December 10th.

Gratefully,

Mother Margaret Charles

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... and we would like to invite you to join us for some Christmas cheer.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2-4 PM

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH
SCOTT ARKENBERG AND A CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

SANTA AND GAMES FOR THE KIDS

**BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED
CHRISTMAS TREES THROUGHOUT OUR HOME**

COOKIES AND HOT CHOCOLATE



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