



Little Sisters of the Poor

Holy Family Home * 5300 Chester Ave. * Philadelphia, PA 19143

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2011 Annual Appeal and Novena

Our annual appeal is now underway. As in the past, we have a nine-day novena of Masses for your intentions – the only and best way we have to thank you for all your help and support. This year the novena will be held from August 21 – 29, before St. Jeanne Jugan's feast day on August 30. We invite you to join us at our daily 11:00 a.m. Mass and Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass. A form is enclosed for you to complete with your intentions, which will be placed before the altar during the novena. A holy card with the novena prayer is also enclosed.

The proceeds from the annual appeal will go towards a **new nurse call bell system**, to replace our 35 year old equipment, which has become obsolete. It is important for us to be able to respond to the needs of our Residents, as well as provide them with a quiet environment. The new system will be a wireless one, using beepers instead of the traditional overhead audible system, which is very loud and disruptive.

Thank you for your support of our annual appeal and for all you do for us throughout the year. May God bless you and your loved ones!



We Welcome New Sisters!

The Little Sisters of the Poor make four vows – poverty, chastity, obedience, and hospitality. Part of the vow of obedience is the openness to go to whichever home they are sent. Thus, in May, we welcomed three new Sisters to Holy Family Home (above, l to r): Sister Cornelia, Mother Marie Edward, and Sister Elizabeth Anne.

Dear Friends,

What a joy it is to return to Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, after 30 years since my last trip here! I look forward, with God's grace, to working with all of you in caring for our dear Residents. Together we can make St. Jeanne Jugan's wish a reality – "Making the Elderly happy, that's what counts!"

My journey with the Little Sisters of the Poor started like the young people in this newsletter – as a member of the "Girls Auxiliary", a group of young, vivacious, generous girls seeking a way to make a difference in the lives of the Elderly at the Little Sisters of the Poor.

What struck most of us was the "spirit of joy" that emulated from the life of the Sisters, despite their arduous labors, which were a work of love. Volunteering at the Home cultivated in us a spirit of responsibility, as well as a spirit of generosity. We learned firsthand that there is more joy in giving than in receiving!

*We thank you for **your** generous spirit! Please be assured of our prayers as we confide your special intentions to our Heavenly Father through the intercession of St. Jeanne Jugan.*

*Gratefully,
Sr. Marie Edward
Superior*

Memories From Past Student Volunteers



(Above, left): Sheila Fair (now MacMaster) was a member of the Holy Family Auxiliary at our Chester Ave. Home, then known as Sacred Heart Home. Sheila is currently our Social Worker designee.



(Above, l-r) Kathy Quinn Kagel, the Home's Director of Nursing, and Cathy Moffit, Admissions, were Auxiliary members/Marian aides in our Germantown Home in the 1970s, along with their friend, Mary Anne Hogarty, who became a Little Sister of the Poor. Don Carter, Plant Operations Director, started working at our Chester Ave. Home in the late 1960s through West Catholic High School's work study program. Between them, they have been associated with the Little Sisters of the Poor for over 120 years... and counting!

Having students volunteer at our homes is a time honored tradition. Marian aides were young girls who came and stayed the weekend to help the Sisters at a time when few employees were hired. Seminarians from St. Charles Seminary came every Thursday for their service project. Altar boys from Most Blessed Sacrament School remember getting up early to serve at the 6:30 a.m. Mass at the Home, teasing our dogs, and climbing our walls.

Some of these students became Little Sisters of the Poor, while others were ordained priests. Some returned as staff members or volunteers. Still others had their parents come into our Home as Residents. We are happy that we have been part of each other's lives for so many years.



I have been privileged to know the Little Sisters of the Poor for over 50 years. As a young boy I served daily Mass and Benediction on Sunday afternoons in their chapel. Anyone who enters Holy Family Home senses immediately that they are walking on holy ground. The Sisters live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy as they care for their elderly clients. Our world is truly in need of their faithful witness to the person of Christ in the elderly. By their example, they show their belief in the dignity of human life in all of its stages. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia we are truly blessed to have the daughters of St. Jeanne Jugan in our midst. We pray that many more young women are inspired by their example and join them as companions on their blessed journey.

– Fr. Michael Murphy

(Left): Former altar boy, Father Michael Murphy, and his mom, a Resident at Holy Family Home, congratulate Pearlle Jarrell on her retirement after 44 years of working for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Were you an Auxiliary member, Marian aide, seminarian, or altar boy at our Homes? Come back and visit! We invite you to join us on **Saturday, September 17, 11:00 a.m.** Mass followed by a little luncheon. Join us in prayer and thanksgiving, reminisce and share your stories. Please RSVP by 9/2 to (215) 729-5153, ext. 1115, or e-mail phadminsecretary@littlesistersofthepoor.org. Thank you!



Young Jimmy Matteo (the late Monsignor James Matteo) was sent by his teacher to volunteer for the Little Sisters of the Poor, thus starting a lifelong bond and friendship. As a seminarian and later as a priest, he recruited his fellow classmates and priest friends, most notably Fathers William Wright and William Kaufman, to also help and support the work of the Sisters.

Cathy Halloran volunteered as a high school student, and decided to join the Little Sisters of the Poor. Who knew then that she would now be Mother Provincial Margaret Regina?

Community Outreach of Villanova

At Villanova University, the Community Outreach of Villanova (COV) is a weekly service program which sends student groups out around the Philadelphia area almost every day to soup kitchens, shelters, schools, community centers, urban gardens, animal shelters. Since January, 2010, a faithful group comes every Saturday to Holy Family Home.

The students come early and do some “chores”, such as vacuuming and dusting the chapel, or washing wheelchairs. They then attend Mass with the Residents, help serve lunch, eat lunch with the Residents, and spend the early afternoon visiting or leading simple activities or games.



Villanova students visit weekly, performing various tasks, such as cleaning wheelchairs.



A Resident enjoys swinging to the tune of an oldies song with a University of Pennsylvania student.

The Penn Catholic Student Association is a University of Pennsylvania organization founded two years ago to offer students a university-sponsored forum to meet other Catholics and live their faith through service to the community. Members participate in service, spiritual, and service activities. Members of this group come once a month on a Friday evening, providing music during the Residents' supper and then sharing an activity with them later that evening.

I am amazed by what a happy, loving group the Sisters are and how hard they work to provide the elderly with a comfortable, dignified, joyful home. It is very easy to see the face of Christ in the Residents and I think I get just as much joy out of our time together as they do. – Stephanie Cipolla

The elderly are our society's most forgotten and overlooked group of citizens, but they need love and human kindness as much as anyone. The evenings I have spent with these wonderful people have helped me grow in faith and strengthened my resolve to live a life in the service of others. --John Dilulio

*“Being with the Residents and the sisters at Holy Family every Saturday has become the highlight of my week. I've grown to love sharing life, stories, smiles, and prayers with the Residents, many of whom I am blessed to count as close friends, and I am constantly in awe of how many miracles God makes happen every day at Holy Family in the lives of everyone who enters the home with an open heart.”
– Lauren Adderly, VU '12*

Holy Family is a unique nursing home filled with caring and compassionate people who embrace the elderly, and respect life. Before visiting Holy Family I thought nursing homes were sad, and a reminder of the hardships of aging, but Holy Family has changed my outlook. The Little Sisters of the Poor excel at making their home a welcoming and loving environment, and I enjoy listening to the stories of the elderly and gaining an understanding of our past through their life experiences. – Sarah Leone, VU '13

Save the Date!

Rock, Roll, Remember Dance Event with Jerry Blavat
Friday, November 4, 2011, 7 p.m.

Also, visit our website,
www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org
for information on our
St. Jeanne Jugan – Pot of Gold Raffle!



Members of Temple University's Delta Mu chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, an international music fraternity for women, come and make beautiful music together with our Residents. Here they enjoy a Mardi Gras party!

(Printing of this newsletter generously provided by TGI.)

Seniors and Students Sharing Gifts

Nursing homes can be quiet places. Here at Holy Family Home, however, our Residents are energized by the numerous groups of young people from local schools and colleges, who come and visit, entertain, and interact with them.

These students provide a variety of service to our Home. First and foremost, they provide socialization, friendship, and stimulation for our Residents.

Second, they help around the Home, cleaning the chapel, washing wheelchairs, painting and doing work on the grounds.

Finally, they donate much needed items. They hold drives and fundraisers, collecting toiletries, coffee, Christmas gifts, etc. which help us keep our expenses down.

In the Pontifical Council for the Laity's document, *The Dignity of Older People and Their Mission in the Church and in the World*, "intergenerational solidarity" was encouraged: "Young people who have opportunities for involvement with older people will appreciate the value of a formative experience by which they gain in maturity and are helped to develop an awareness of others that remains with them for the whole of their life."

We are heartened to see the care, concern and interest our young friends have for the elderly. In spending time together, both the elderly and the youth form a close bond and a deeper understanding of each other's needs and gifts. We are blessed and grateful for the special blessings that the student volunteers are to our Residents.



Students from Country Day School spend a day with our Residents.



Hospitality Club members put on an annual Christmas play for our Residents.

Holy Family Home's Hospitality Club

Five years ago, following a Vocation Day sponsored by the Little Sisters of the Poor, a group of girls between the ages of 10-18 were approached by one of the Sisters to see if they were interested in forming a Hospitality Club to serve the Residents of Holy Family Home. Thus started a special group of about 15-20 girls who spend a Saturday with the Residents.

Each month the girls come and escort Residents to Mass, serve lunch, and participate in activities with the Residents, including games, arts and crafts, nail painting, as well as planning and performing an annual Christmas play.

"By volunteering at Holy Family Home, I have been able to experience the rare opportunity of working with the elderly in a Catholic environment. This experience has taught me that life is precious at all ages." – M.G.



Students from West Chester University come for a day of socializing with the Residents. Here one of our Residents enjoys an afternoon of Bingo with a college volunteers.