

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor
in Philadelphia since 1869*



HOLY FAMILY HOME

Changes at Holy Family Home Being led by the Holy Spirit to new growth



SAVE THE DATE

La Locanda Dinner
Wednesday, Oct. 26
11:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
4989 W. Chester Pk.
Newtown Square, PA
610-353-7033

Spring Concert
April 1, 2017
Scythian and RUNA

We all go through various changes and events in our lives, which shape us and help us to grow. The changes are met with a mix of emotions, but hopefully we see God's hand in every change we experience and we place our trust in him. As Jesus says, "new wine is poured into fresh wineskins (Mark 2:22)."

St. Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, also underwent many life changing events. A significant one was when she, at the age of 47, carried home an elderly beggar woman and gave her bed to her. This generous gesture was the start of her work of caring for the elderly poor. This humble beginning eventually led to the forming of a Congregation, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the opening of homes throughout the world.

A second important occurrence in her life was when

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a priest, Abbe Le Pailleur, who had been helping the Little Sisters, used his authority to appoint another Sister as Superior in place of Jeanne Jugan. Eventually he also had Jeanne Jugan banished to the motherhouse, where she lived out the rest of her life among the novices in littleness. However, this led to her being an example to the novices,

future Little Sisters of the Poor. In word and deed she showed them about humility, prayer, begging, and caring for the elderly with love and respect. May we follow her example of trusting in God's divine providence in whatever should come our way!



Residents greet Mother Alice Marie Monica, the new Mother Provincial of the Brooklyn Province. She spent a few days at Holy Family Home, visiting with the Sisters, Residents, and staff.



The Residents went on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, which is a designated shrine with a Holy Door for the Year of Mercy. They have also visited St. John Neumann Shrine and Miraculous Medal Shrine.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Residents and Sisters share stories on how it felt coming to Holy Family Home and becoming part of a "new family!" Front, l-r: "Buzzy", Evelyn, Sr. Mary Gerard, and Larry. Back, l-r: Sr. Amy and Marie.

Adapting to Changes Part of a new family

At Holy Family Home, there are many comings and goings of Residents, Sisters, and staff. What were these changes like for them?

Evelyn S. moved to our personal care unit in November. "The Sisters are lovely; they bend over backwards for us. It's great having a chaplain on-site. I love the religious atmosphere and the spiritual opportunities. It's a place where I can still have solitude, but I can also have community. It was hard getting used to a meal schedule, but at least I don't have to cook!"

Sister Amy professed first vows two years ago and was assigned to Holy Family Home for her apostolate. In the novitiate she had a structured schedule. But at the Home, "I had to learn to coordinate and balance the work with my prayer life, which supports me and keeps me rooted in God." She learned to prioritize and to become more flexible. Her next change was to DC for a year of spiritual formation.

One big change in Larry W.'s life led to another change. When his wonderful bride of 65 years died last year, Larry and his children felt that he could not live alone. His son-in-law brought him to see Holy Family Home.

"I was favorably impressed. Everyone was so nice and friendly." Larry moved in last October. He finds that the staff will do what they can for the Residents: "One of the dietary staff said to me, 'This is your new family!'" Larry especially appreciates the activities, which "help lift our spirits and pull us into the mix." The change has also taken a load off his family, knowing that he is well taken care of.

Keesha came to work here in a series of God-incidence steps. She was on the trolley

when she noticed our building. She came and volunteered in activities. A pantry aide position opened up; she applied and was hired. Soon after, we needed a chef, and Keesha was offered the position. She is so happy that she is doing what she loves – cooking! She had to get used to preparing meals for a lot of people in a certain amount of time, but she soon developed a routine. The Residents love the flavors and spices she uses on the food.

When Marie R. attended her Aunt Agnes' funeral at Holy Family Home, she was so impressed by the place that she put in an application. In March an apartment finally opened up for her. She has had to adjust to some things, such as city living instead of a small, quiet town, and limited closet space. But she loves the sense of security she has here, the feeling that she is and will be taken care of by the Sisters, staff and other Residents.

It took many twists and turns before Sr. Mary Gerard finally became a Little Sister. She has learned "to stop seeking my own way, to listen, and to let God lead me. He then opens up amazing doors and brings you to where he wants you." In her short time here, "I had the opportunity to help in so many areas! I found I could do a lot more than I thought." She left 9/1 for DC for her juniorate year, ready "to let God be in control." Wise words for us all.

Ways You Can Help With Our Needs

Thank you for helping us care for the elderly at Holy Family Home through your financial donations. You can also help through: your company's matching gift program; gifts in memory or in honor of a loved one; United Way contributions (our SE PA UWay # is 00307); legacies (see enclosed brochure); purchase of a tribute brick; volunteering; and most importantly, praying for our needs and for vocations to our Congregation.

An easy way to contribute is by signing up for **AmazonSmile** (smile.amazon.com) and choosing Holy Family Home as your charity. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the cost of your purchase to us!



K of C Van Drive

By Stephen Finley, Knights of Columbus

Founded in 1882, there are now nearly two million Knights worldwide. Locally, there are more than 100 councils serving within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Sister Veronica contacted me after we met at a 2015 Christmas party the K of C hosts for area religious sisters. She shared Holy Family Home's need for a new cargo "begging" van and asked the Knights in our area to fill this need. The Knights have helped the Little Sisters of the Poor with vehicle purchases in other parts of the country. The Father John E. Doyle Council, No. 9715, Lansdale, PA, agreed to take the lead in organizing this effort. Through the generosity of the members of the Doyle council, outreach to other councils in the area and collections at the parishes the Doyle Council serves (St. Rose of Lima, North Wales and Corpus Christi, Lansdale) we are working to meet the Sisters' needs. Sister Veronica's brother, Dan, is a Knight in Georgia. After hearing about this project from his sister, Dan arranged for his council to also contribute.

On a national level, the selfless charity and intrepid spirit of this congregation of religious sisters were recognized at the August 2nd States Dinner as the Knights of Columbus bestowed its highest honor, the Gaudium et Spes Award, on the Little Sisters of the Poor. The congregation was chosen as the 12th recipient of the prestigious award for its witness to the Gospel in caring for the elderly poor, and for standing up in recent years for religious liberty against a U.S. government mandate that would require them to violate their consciences.

The Little Sisters of the Poor dedicate their ministry to caring for the elderly poor with love and respect, while offering a daily witness to the culture of life. The Knights are pleased to support the Sisters in their work.

Below: Mother Loraine Marie Maguire, mother provincial of the Baltimore Province, accepts the Gaudium et Spes Award on behalf of the congregation from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.



Don Carter, Plant Operations, shows Daria Walsh, our new Grant Writer and Major Donor Developer, the need for a new whirlpool tub.



Bishop Timothy Senior greets Resident Dorothy and Sr. Elizabeth John the Baptist on the feast of St. Jeanne Jugan, August 30.

Gospel Call to Stewardship

By Daria Walsh, Grant Writer

The blessings of our Lord be with you. As I draft this letter, it is early summer, and yet I know you will be reading this in the fall, when the days grow shorter, and the air has a nip to it.

It's a great feeling to know that our residents, as the days grow shorter, will be in the good hands of the Little Sisters of the Poor. How grateful I am to know they exist! I can't imagine that I wasn't aware of these good Sisters and their devoted caring for the elderly.

As a fundraiser I've realized that not only is this my job, but in working with the Little Sisters it has turned into more. For those like me, there is a National Catholic Development Conference where Catholic fundraisers from all over the country will meet this fall to talk about fundraising and ethics. Their website describes the profession of fundraising for Catholic causes: "As Catholic fundraisers we believe that what we do is a ministry because it is a response to Christ's invitation to build the

kingdom. Inspired by the Gospel call to stewardship, we invite others to receive God's gifts gratefully, nurture these gifts responsibly and share these gifts justly and charitably for the sake of the realm of God. We serve the Church by respecting the hallowed ground on which donors and the mission meet. We hold sacred the trust established between the donors and mission they choose to support."

Isn't that beautiful? When you donate your "gifts" to Holy Family Home and the Little Sisters of the Poor, you are indeed nurturing your gifts responsibly, sharing them justly, and are forming a trust between the Residents, the Sisters, the staff, and the friends of the Home.

I plan to become more acquainted with all the wonderful donors to Holy Family Home, and to keep you informed on how your gifts are being used. I want you to know that every gift counts. I'm thankful to be part of a community who cares deeply, gives freely, and prays together. May God bless you!

"You nurture these gifts responsibly and share these gifts justly and charitably."

Encountering Christ



Dear Friends,

Pope Francis, in speaking to our novices last year, said, “Our Lord said, whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me. When you sing to the elderly, when you pray to them, when you caress them or show them tenderness, you are doing it to Christ. You will have a surprise, one day. You will find that in caring for the elderly, doors will be opened to an encounter with Christ.”

This year we had the joy of having two young sisters with us. They have now left to continue their formation in Washington, leaving a big void, indicating that we need lots more vocations. Join us in asking the Spirit of love to listen to our needs.

This year we said good bye to Mother Margaret Regina who was our Provincial for 12 years and is missed very much. Mother Alice Marie Monica is taking her place and I am sure she will be a wonderful channel of grace for all of us.

We will see many changes as the needs of the elderly are very real and there are many dear elderly who need care. Without the wonderful help of our friends and benefactors those needs could not be met and we are so very grateful for all the wonderful help we receive. On August 30th we celebrated the feast of our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan. We remembered you in prayer and took all your needs to the Lord, for as Jeanne Jugan always said, “we have need of prayer.” May God bless you.

Gratefully,

Mother Catherine
Superior

Our Needs

Thank you for helping us with our many capital improvement projects. The elevator that was down has been fixed (see our happy group photo on page 2!) and paid for with your generous gifts.

New windows and roofs were installed for our Chapel, with a grant from Connelly Foundation.

Changes and repairs never end and we plan to:

- renovate our kitchen and purchase much needed dietary equipment;
- install a whirlpool bath for the 3rd fl. unit;
- pave our parking lot and driveway;
- replace several heavy metal doors.

With God’s help through your generosity, his work will be accomplished!

With grateful thanks to TGI, Today’s Graphics, Inc., for its generous printing of this newsletter!



Dietary supervisors Brandi and Tom examine the steamer which needs to be replaced. Much needed kitchen renovations are being planned.

Auxiliary Group

By Peg Heldring, Pres., Board of St. Francis

The Board of St. Francis – previously known as the Women’s Auxiliary of St. Francis Country House, was founded in July of 1913. They served as a supportive organization in that capacity for 100 years. Our Board of St. Francis membership, in its recent reorganization, has committed itself to Holy Family Home and the Little Sisters of the Poor. This has brought energy and renewal to our organization and we are looking forward to enthusiastically serving its residents.

We have started by pursuing one of our Board’s most favored traditions – that of in-home luncheons for some Residents. One of our members opens their homes and invites Residents for a home cooked luncheon. Other Board members attend and serve those Residents who have joined these monthly outings. We all greatly enjoy meeting and interacting with the Residents in this small group setting. Some Holy Family Residents enjoyed the St. Patrick’s day sing-along, while others got to meet the dogs of one Board of St. Francis hostess!

At Christmas, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, we have brought gifts for the Residents. We look forward to expanding the Home’s gift shop and undertaking a personal birthday wishes program.



Residents have enjoyed meeting the Board of St. Francis auxiliary and have been treated royally at the luncheons hosted in their homes.



Smiles abounded on Mother’s Day as the Sisters passed out beautiful corsages provided by the Board of St. Francis auxiliary.