

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor
in Philadelphia since 1869*

Spring, 2018

HOLY FAMILY HOME
5300 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
19143

littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org



HOLY FAMILY HOME



SAVE THE DATE

Legacy Seminar
Saturday, April 28
See info on last page

Family Picnic
June 10, 2018
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Pot of Gold
September 9, 2018
Drexelbrook, Drexel Hill

A Novena of Masses Praying for Each Other as a Family Does

Saint Jeanne Jugan's humble act of charity on behalf of a blind, elderly woman led to the formation of our religious community and the establishment of homes for the elderly poor in countries all over the world. Little Sisters have been caring for the elderly here in Philadelphia since 1869. Today our Home reflects the growing multi-cultural face of the United States. We have Little Sisters from a number of countries, Residents who have immigrated from other lands, and staff of various ethnicities. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to learn about other cultures.

Despite our differences, we all value family. Here we foster the family spirit by embracing everyone with open arms, hearts and minds and fostering participation in the life of the home.

Like a family we look out for each other. The Little

**Novena to
St. Joseph
the Worker
for you
and your
intentions -
April 22-30**

Sisters and staff provide for the spiritual, medical, and social needs of our Residents. Our volunteers participate in myriad ways, while our benefactors provide the financial means needed for this labor intensive work.

We also pray as a family. During our Annual Appeal we offer a novena of Masses for your intentions. The novena is made through the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker, whose feast is celebrated on May 1. St. Joseph took care of Mary and Jesus, and we place our Home, as well as your needs and intentions, under his fatherly care and protection.



Sister Veronica shows our driver Doug the finishing touches on our new begging van, purchased through the efforts of the Knights of Columbus. The van holds the many donated items from the market and other businesses.



Students from Boston University spent their spring break week providing service to our Home. They brought a lot of joy to our Residents, spending much one-on-one time with them and helping with activities.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



KiSeoung, Patrick, and Ida are apartment Residents. They enjoy attending daily Mass in our Chapel, and they share meals with other apartment and nursing home Residents in the main dining room.

Many Cultures Living Together Speaking in Smiles

Our Home here in southwest Philadelphia was established in a predominantly Irish neighborhood, and the Resident population reflected that for many years. Now, however, we happily note that our Residents come from a mix of ethnic backgrounds.

KiSeoung K. and his wife came to Philadelphia from South Korea fourteen years ago to be with their daughter who had just had a baby. Learning a new language was a big challenge, one with which he still struggles, but he gets by with plenty of smiles. The food here is also very different. Korean food is spicier, less greasy, and more abundant in vegetables. Although he may not speak English, KiSeoung shares a universal language with the others at the Home — the Catholic faith. He attends and serves at daily Mass and holy hour here in our chapel.

Sergia H. hails from Puerto Rico. Her husband came here first and she soon followed. They raised a family of three in Philadelphia. It was hard leaving the island and she missed her family and relatives. The weather was also an adjustment — coming from a tropical climate and going to a city with such cold winters!

We continue to have Residents of Irish descent. Patrick M., born in Donegal, came to Philadelphia in 1952 looking for work. He worked as a truck driver for a bit until he was able to get a job in his field as an electrician. The first year was hard; but “the good Lord was good to me. I was never out of work a day in my life,” he reflects. His wife eventually joined him and they raised a family of six.

Born in Italy, Zaira S. moved to Devon, PA, when she was fourteen. The family came to

join her father, who had come over first to set up shop as a tailor. She was happy the family was together, but she missed her friends. She learned English quickly and speaks fluently with a charming Italian accent! She was an active member of Our Lady of the Assumption parish before coming to the Home.

Ida B. was born in Philadelphia and later lived in Germantown. An African American, she has seen the diversification of our neighborhoods, with more people from Africa, Puerto Rico, and India. Living across the street from the Miraculous Medal Shrine, she saw people of various nationalities coming together to worship. She feels the different ethnicities here at Holy Family help to enrich the Home.

Frances L. was born in Shanghai, China. When the Communists took over the country, a priest friend helped her get a scholarship to a Catholic college in the United States, where she studied chemistry. Later, her parents and siblings were also able to leave China, settling in Philadelphia. She loves the cultural offerings in the United States and has enjoyed going to operas and symphony concerts.

Looking at this rich cultural diversity, as well as the family spirit of our Home, we are reminded that we are all children of God, sons and daughters of the same heavenly Father.

Annual Appeal Novena Prayer

*We invite you to join us in our novena for your intentions in person or in prayer:
April 22 - 30, at our 11 a.m. daily Mass
(10:30 a.m. on Sunday).*

God, Creator of the universe, you will that through his work man give you glory in continuing your work. In your kindness, grant that following the example of St. Joseph and under his protection we might accomplish the tasks that you give us and receive the joy promised the faithful servant. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us.

St. Jeanne Jugan, pray for us.





HOLY FAMILY HOME



Sergia H. surrounded by some of our staff (l-r): Nancy (Philippines), Sr. Zenaida (Philippines), Mary (Italian-American), and Nana (Africa).



Harry (Bosnia) and Zaira S. (Italy) may not speak the same native language, but their smiles communicate volumes.

Grateful for our Diverse Staff

Nana is a CNA who came to our Home from Niger, Africa, via our Home in Washington. She moved to Maryland with her aunt and uncle in 2004. Since she did not speak English she attended English classes as she adjusted to American culture. Although she missed her family and friends back home, America offered her many opportunities, including higher education, employment, and the possibility of a more robust diet than she had back home in Niger. She is learning much from the different cultures that she encounters here.

Harry, who works in our maintenance department, hails from Bosnia. He, his wife and two children moved to the United States in 1999 due to the war in his country. When asked how he learned English he said, "My kids taught me!" He did not expect to see so many different cultures in the United States. Having lived in an oppressed country, coming to America was like his eyes opening up to see something beautiful — personal freedom!

A nurse in our personal care unit, Nancy came here from the Philippines in 1993 after marrying her American pen pal. Although she knew English, she was not used to how fast people speak it here! Back home, Nancy worked on her family's farm, but coming here gave her the opportunity to study to be a nurse. "With hard work and determination, you can reach whatever you want," she says.

Bea is a long-time CNA on our nursing unit. She, her husband and children came to Philadelphia from Liberia. She arrived in June, and on the fourth of July she woke up, frightened by the sound of fireworks, which sounded like the gunfire she often heard in her war-torn country. She tries to keep her culture alive for her family, and attends a monthly traditional Liberian Mass at Divine Mercy parish.

Our 110 employees come from 23 different countries.

Our diverse staff members share a common goal - working together with the Little Sisters of the Poor to provide quality care to our Residents. We are grateful to have them.

French Connection

Our motherhouse is located in Brittany, France, where the Congregation was founded. Saint Jeanne Jugan, spent the final years of her life at the motherhouse and generations of Little Sisters from all over the world have spent a year there in preparation for perpetual vows.

Sr. Zenaida is from the Philippines. She moved to Montreal when her sister wanted her to come join her. Providentially, the Little Sisters of the Poor had a home in Montreal, and she started volunteering there. After making her final vows in France Sr. Zenaida was assigned to homes in the United States for several years. She says that even though in each community there are Sisters of different nationalities and ages, the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan is present there; she learns from them and they help her grow in her faith and spiritual life. She has found it interesting to learn about the different cultures, despite the sacrifice of being so far away from her family.

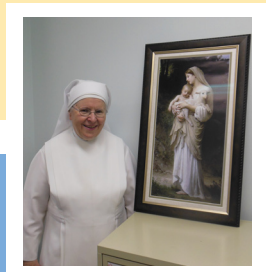
Sr. Elizabeth Teresa agrees that the Little Sisters who come from other countries make significant sacrifices, such as the separation from family and friends, having to learn a new language, and adapting to different foods. For her, being in France and in communities with Sisters from different countries has been a good learning experience. Despite the cultural differences, community life is the same all over the world, she said — the Sisters feel united in their vocation and mission, they share each others' joys and sorrows, and they maintain the spirit of Saint Jeanne Jugan.

Sr. Marie Ignace was born right here in Philadelphia. She served in Asia for over thirty years, living in Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Hong Kong. The experience was a good one for her and she enjoyed learning about the customs of each country. She has many fond memories of her time overseas.

Saint Jeanne Jugan chose the Holy Family as our model for community life: "See how Jesus, Mary and Joseph loved one another," she said, "In our little family, it must be the same."



Living as One Family



Dear Friends,

“As Little Sisters we believe that Christ calls each of us individually and then gathers us together, from all over the world, to share a common vocation and witness to his love.

“Each day we cross cultural and generational boundaries to form one family in the Lord. Jesus Christ — present in the Eucharist and served in the person of the elderly poor — is the center and source of our unity” (from www.littlesistersofthepoor.org).

On September 13, 1868, our brave troupe of Little Sisters, some of whom had just made their Perpetual Profession before leaving our motherhouse in France, arrived on the shores of America. They were welcomed by the people even though they did not speak a word of English.

Today we continue to be helped in the same welcoming manner by benefactors from all cultures and nationalities, who support the needs of the elderly poor. Along with our diverse staff, together we care for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

When we look back, we constantly thank God for you and all those wonderful helpers through the years who helped to support the love and care we provide to our Residents. You are continually in our prayers as we ask the Lord and His Mother Mary to bless each one of you.

May you and your loved ones have a joy-filled and holy Easter.

Gratefully,

Mother Catherine
Superior

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org

A Special Event

Please remember us in your will and estate planning, so that many Residents in the future can be cared for. See how to do this by attending our “**Leaving a Lasting Legacy**” seminar to learn:

- why having and updating a will are important;
- tips on creating or reviewing an estate plan to assure it meets your stewardship vision;
- contribution options to fit your interests and give you peace of mind.

Presented by the Catholic Foundation here at Holy Family Home on Saturday, April 28, at 10:30 a.m. This also provides you an opportunity to visit the people and place you have been so generously supporting through the years! RSVP - Jane Schneider at 215-729-5153, ext. 1120.

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



By naming Holy Family Home in your will, many Residents in the future can continue to be cared for through your remembrance.

Needs Met

We have been blessed to receive the support of many foundations and donors. In addition to much needed donations for general operations, we have received the following capital funding:

Through the generosity of the Beneficial Foundation and donor Patrick Hughes we have been able to purchase two kitchen hot food serving counters and one mobile heated cabinet.

With the assistance of the Scholler Foundation and donor John Heenan, we will be buying a new bladder scan machine which will feature 3-D bladder image projection to help provide more accurate assessment of bladder retention issues.

Funding from the Bernard W. and Dr. Bernadette H. Loeb Foundation will assist us with the replacing of several outdoor lighting fixtures with new energy efficient LED lights and fixtures.

Grants from the Kirby Foundation and St. Thomas of Villanova Parish will go towards a new whirlpool for our second floor nursing unit.

Through the kind support of the Kirby Foundation, the Scholler Foundation, and donor John Heenan, we have received funding for new dental equipment, chair, and portable light.

We are most grateful for your generous help!



Meals are served from one of the new portable hot food steam tables, which help keep the food at appropriate temperatures.



With the help of grants and donations, we will be updating our dental office with new portable equipment, chair and light.