

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor  
in Philadelphia since 1869*



Fall, 2019  
**HOLY FAMILY HOME**  
5300 Chester Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA  
19143

[littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org](http://littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org)



## HOLY FAMILY HOME



### SAVE THE DATE

**Dining Out at  
La Locanda,  
Newtown Square**  
Tuesday, Oct. 22 and  
Wednesday, Oct. 23  
11:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Call 610-353-7033 to  
make reservations.  
Mention the Little  
Sisters of the Poor.  
10% goes to the Home!

## 150th Anniversary, Birthdays & More Celebrating in Prayer and with Gratitude

What an exciting six months it has been since our last newsletter! If there's one word to describe that time period, it's celebratory. We all have events in our lives that bring joy and excitement and are a cause for a party or celebration. For us, the 150th anniversary of the Little Sisters of the Poor coming to Philadelphia was a perfect reason for giving thanks and marking the occasion with all who make our ministry in Philadelphia possible.

Many of us enjoy a good party on our milestone birthdays, as did two of our Residents – one turned 107 and the other 100 – who celebrated with festive themed parties. It was a time for their families to look back on their family member's life and reflect with gratitude on the love, guidance, and good times they received from and shared with their loved ones.

**Thank  
you for  
joining and  
supporting  
us in our  
various  
celebrations.**

Finally, our fundraising events – the Family Picnic and the St. Jeanne Jugan Gala/Pot of Gold Raffle – provided us with the opportunity to mingle with family members, friends, and benefactors in fun, relaxing settings.

We thank you for joining and supporting us in our various celebrations, which are highlighted for you in this newsletter.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor, that they may continue to serve the elderly poor of Philadelphia for many more years to come.



*Family members enjoyed spending Mother's Day with their loved ones at Holy Family Home. Our volunteer, Tom McGinn, took family photos, providing them with a treasured memento of the afternoon.*



*The ingredients for a perfect Family Picnic were all there this year - a nice sunny day with a cool breeze, the smell of hamburgers on the grill, the sound of children laughing, music bringing people to their feet. What a great time!*



# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



*The offertory gifts were brought up by representatives of the various groups that make up Holy Family Home - an Association Jeanne Jugan member, a Resident, a Little Sister of the Poor and a volunteer/benefactor.*

## Anniversary Mass and Gala A Family Gathering

It was with great anticipation that we approached the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Philadelphia. The excitement began with the arrival of the "Pilgrim Tapestry" to the Home, where it was prominently placed in the front of our Chapel by the statue of the Holy Family.

Then, on August 24, the actual date that the Little Sisters arrived in Philadelphia back in 1869, an anniversary Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. Archbishop Charles Chaput, Bishops Michael Fitzgerald and Timothy Senior, twenty-two priests, Little Sisters from nearby Homes, Residents and friends worshiped together in thanksgiving.

Before Mass started, Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica read a letter from Mother General Maria del Monte Auxiliadora, in which she thanked everyone for their presence. She also expressed gratitude "to all our collaborators, past and present, who are intermediaries of Divine Providence for us. Without you all, we would not still be here today!" She concluded by asking everyone to pray for vocations, "so that our work may

continue to flourish throughout the United States and all over the world."

The Mass was a beautiful spiritual celebration. Archbishop Chaput tied the feast day of St. Bartholomew and the readings beautifully to St. Jeanne Jugan and the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor, first by noting that trying to remember the names of the apostles or the Little Sisters who first came to Philadelphia is less important than who they were and what they did. The Archbishop then

showed how the apostles and disciples came to know Jesus through someone else - St. Bartholomew (or Nathanael) came to know Jesus through Philip. We too come to Jesus through the good example of others, as St. Jeanne Jugan did through the people she came to know before starting the Congregation.

Enhancing the Mass was the Cathedral Choir and musicians, who in addition to playing the Mass settings, also learned two hymns dedicated to St. Jeanne Jugan.

After Mass, many proceeded to the Logan Hotel across the street for the reception, where a beautiful, festive atmosphere of joy, goodwill and comradrie ensued.

A few weeks later we had our St. Jeanne Jugan Gala - Pot of Gold Raffle at Drexelbrook, Drexel Hill. 600 people spent an afternoon together, with honorees Monsignor Francis Beach, Dr. Leo Conway, and Matthew Pinto. Everyone enjoyed the delicious buffet, Mummings music, raffles, and silent auction. Many people generously bought the \$150 raffle tickets and a record amount of sponsorships were received. We are humbly grateful

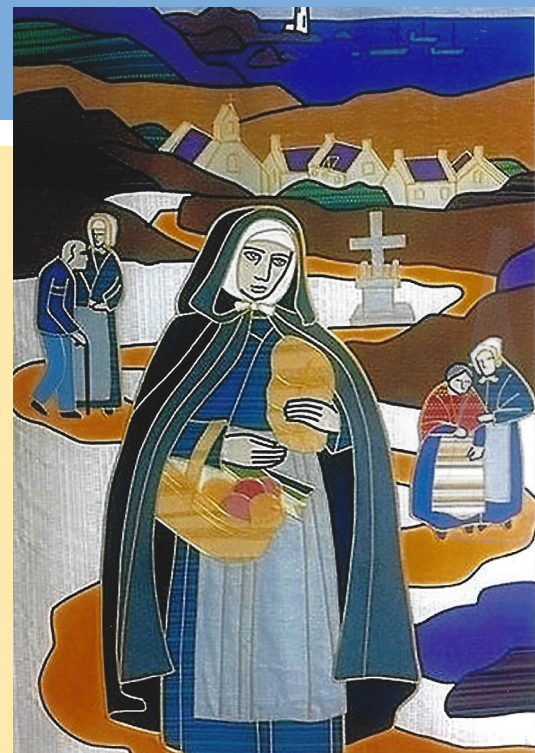
We thank God for the blessing of having the Little Sisters of the Poor here in Philadelphia.

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

## Saint Jeanne Jugan Pilgrim Tapestry

*The focal point of our celebration was a traveling "pilgrim" tapestry of the Congregation's foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. Before coming to America, the tapestry was taken on pilgrimage to Saint Jeanne Jugan's birthplace, the small apartment where she began the Congregation, and the Little Sisters' motherhouse, all in Brittany. It then made the journey to the United States, retracing the path of the first Little Sisters who came to America.*

*The presence of the Jeanne Jugan tapestry at our Homes symbolized the living presence of the foundress in each community of Little Sisters.*







**Marion Z. celebrated her 107th birthday in 1920s style, with Residents and staff dressing up in stylish attire from that era.**



**A true South Philly "girl," Philomena M. had a Mummersthemed party, with a trio of Mimmers in flashing costumes playing joyous tunes.**

## Celebrating 2 Centenarians

If there's any proof that people are living longer, it's in our two centenarian Residents. Marion Z. turned 107 in July. The Home threw her a 1920s themed party and she was surrounded by her two children, Toni, a Sister of Mercy, and Paul Joseph, family members, Residents, Sisters and staff. A DJ spun oldies but goodies tunes and the staff good-naturedly donned outfits from that era and entertained with some Charleston dance moves. An extra surprise was the presence of members of the Catholic Social Services (CSS), where she had worked in the accounting department for 19 years. She was presented with framed letters of congratulations and blessing from Archbishop Charles Chaput and from Auxiliary Bishop John McIntyre. Everyone admired how Marion was such a welcoming person, always full of gratitude for everything.

As wonderful as that party was, even better things were in store for Marion, as she passed away in mid-September and is now celebrating at the heavenly banquet!

**Joyfully reflecting on and celebrating the lives of two special Residents**

Our new centenarian celebrated her milestone birthday on September 20. Philomena M. is one of seven children. She was single and had no children but took care of everyone. It was always Aunt Phil to the rescue when you needed comforting or help with errands. She worked at Pincus Brothers in Olde City for many years, sewing men's clothing. She didn't like to cook, but the family could always count on her twice baked potatoes for holiday meals and potato salad in the summer. She was very religious, always saying rosaries and going on retreats.

Her family joined us at the Home for her Mummers themed birthday party. Three musicians dressed in shiny,

brightly colored costumes played festive Mummers music, bringing many to their feet to dance the Mummers strut, while others sang the familiar tunes. Everyone donned headbands with kitty ears, as Philomena is a big cat lover. A great Philly birthday party!

## Philly LSP Reflects

As a "Philly Girl," daughter of parents who lived their last years happy Residents of Holy Family Home, and myself a Golden Jubilarian Little Sister of the Poor, how could I not be filled with gratitude to our great God for bringing the daughters of Jeanne Jugan to my hometown?

What first drew the people of Philadelphia to welcome and support the Little Sisters was their humble service. What attracted me to follow the Lord with the Little Sisters was their humble service. What enhanced the last years of life for my Mom and Dad was the Little Sisters' humble service. What is the charism of the Congregation, but to be a sign, in the Church and in the present world, of the humility of our Savior. For me, that is the source of all the blessings of the past 150 years!

Looking at our polarized world of today and looking over the history of factions in our past, I can't help thinking that the humility of the Little Sisters has been a significant contribution to the overcoming of divisions. Our Homes have always been a haven of harmony among very diverse groups of old folks from all walks of life, races, and religions. The experience of my own father is just one example. Born into an Irish immigrant family that had suffered the anti-Catholic climate of the early 19th century, Dad was himself very influenced by the rampant racism of the 60's. When he came to live at Holy Family Home, the loving kindness of employees like "Pearl" and the consecrated caring of Sr. Mary Jeanette, an Afro-American Little Sister, changed his heart. Dad died converted from all bigotry!

All I can say is "Blessed be God! Thank you my God" for bringing the Little Sisters of the Poor to Philadelphia, for calling and consecrating me as a Little Sister, and for the countless blessings to my family and all the Residents of the Little Sisters for the past 150 years!

**Sister Kathleen Murphy, pictured below at the reception on August 24th, a Little Sister of the Poor for 50 years, reflects on the 150th anniversary of the Little Sisters coming to Philadelphia.**



# Remembering and Reliving



Dear Friends,

Anniversaries are for remembering and reliving. The celebration of our 150th has been just that – remembering the arrival of seven Little Sisters of the Poor in Philadelphia on August 24, 1869, recollecting the warm welcome they received, reminiscing over stories of the first old folks, reviewing the generous gifts of the early benefactors, realizing the awesome spiritual support of Archbishop Wood and all his successors and priestly collaborators, recalling the hardworking hospitality of generations of volunteer and salaried co-workers — all this has helped us to experience anew the Providential care of our wonderful Father!

Holy Family Home is indeed a living witness to God's merciful love! Yes, as we look to the past with gratitude, live in the present with renewed courage, and face the future full of trusting confidence in God, we thank YOU for YOUR part of the ongoing miracle of merciful love that is Holy Family Home.

May we ask you to join in our fervent prayer that God will call and consecrate many more young women to carry on the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Philadelphia and around the world? The work of Saint Jeanne Jugan has the same universal relevance as it did 150 years ago. Be sure of our prayerful gratitude for each of you. Every day, together with our Residents, we confide you and all your families and loved ones to the merciful heart of our Great God!

Gratefully,

*Mother Catherine*  
Superior

## LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org)

## Pilgrimage Trip

As part of their celebration of 150 years in Philadelphia, the Little Sisters of the Poor invite you on a pilgrimage to France to visit the birthplaces of their Order and their Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, with stops in Cancale, Jeanne Jugan's birthplace; Saint-Servan, where Jeanne Jugan took in the first elderly woman; and Saint-Pern, the site of our Motherhouse.

This October 3-13, 2020 pilgrimage will also include Lourdes, Normandy Beaches, Lisieux, Mont Saint Michel, and Paris. For more information, including itinerary and registration information, contact Susan ([susan@select-intl.com](mailto:susan@select-intl.com)) or Rebecca ([rebecca@select-intl.com](mailto:rebecca@select-intl.com)) at Select International (800-842-4842) or visit [www.selectinternationaltours.com](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com). Space is limited and registrations will be processed on a first come, first serve basis.



*Join us on a pilgrimage to France and walk in the footsteps of our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. See where the work began and where it continues.*

## Ways to Support

Here are some ways in which you can help us:

- **Checks or credit card donations** for our operating and capital needs.
  - Donate a **Tribute Brick** in someone's name.
  - **Matching gifts** – Your employer's generous employee benefit can help double your gift to us!
  - **Memorials** – In lieu of flowers, please have gifts made to Holy Family Home in memory or in honor of a relative or friend.
  - **United Way** – Our SE PA UWay # is 00307.
  - **Planned gifts** – Establish a will and leave a legacy gift to Holy Family Home, assuring that your assets are passed on to the people and causes cared about most, while also having tax benefits.
  - Name tax-exempt Holy Family Home as the **beneficiary** of an IRA, pension plan, or life insurance policy, usually the most taxed assets.
  - Set up **charitable gift annuities or a charitable trust**, which provide income payments to you during your lifetime and the residual to your beneficiaries and Holy Family Home.
  - **Pray for us**, for the needs of our Residents and the Home, and for vocations to our Congregation.
- We are most grateful for your generous help!



*Three special friends of the Home were honored at our Saint Jeanne Jugan Gala - Dr. Leo Conway, Monsignor Francis Beach, and Matthew Pinto.*



*Thank you for helping our Residents to live in a Home where they can receive care, socialize, feel secure and have their needs met.*