



# Little Sisters of the Poor Sharing Family News

Jeanne Jugan Residence • 4200 Harewood Rd., NE • Washington, DC 20017  
Phone 202-269-1831 • Fax 202-269-1134 • [www.littlesistersofthepoor.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org)



Volume 2 Issue 3  
Summer 2009

As Little Sisters of the Poor we care for the needy elderly in the spirit of humble service that we have received from Jeanne Jugan. We welcome the elderly as we would Jesus Christ himself and serve them with love and respect until death.

## NEW ALTAR DEDICATED TO JEANNE JUGAN

The Little Sisters of the Poor of Washington, DC took part in a bit of modern history on May 23 when we participated in the dedication of a new altar containing a first class relic of Jeanne Jugan. We were thrilled when we initially received the call from Msgr. Charles Antonicelli, Pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill, giving us the exciting news. "This is a beautiful way to celebrate and recognize the canonization of Jeanne Jugan," said Sr. Benedict, Superior of our Washington, DC home. "This is the first altar that we know of to contain a relic of Blessed Jeanne and we feel honored to take part in this historical event."



Archbishop Donald Wuerl blessed the altar at a special Mass where the relic, a tiny bone fragment from the future saint, was sealed in the altar during the ceremony. Mother Benedict carried the precious relic to the altar in a procession at the start of the Mass.

This is the altar in which a relic of Jeanne Jugan is now permanently encased. The altar is made of white Carrara marble from Italy and is the kind sculpted by Michelangelo. The new altar is part of an ongoing restoration project for the parish.

Jeanne Jugan had a special devotion to St. Joseph, provider and head of the Holy Family, making the altar dedication an especially significant event in this year of her canonization. The Little Sisters maintain that devotion to this day, calling on St. Joseph's intercession whenever we are in need.

## Please Join Us For Local Canonization Events!



- **October 25 at 2:00 PM in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Michigan Ave., NE, Washington, DC** - please join us for a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the canonization of Jeanne Jugan. Archbishop Donald Wuerl will be the principal Celebrant and will be joined by other Bishops and clergy.
- **November 22 at 1:00 in the John Paul II Cultural Center on Harewood Rd., NE, Washington, DC** - "Little Saint of the Poor" a play produced by Theater of the Word about the life of Jeanne Jugan. Reception will follow.

To read an interesting story about Dr. Gatz, whose cure of terminal cancer paved the way for the canonization of Jeanne Jugan, please visit our website: [www.littlesistersofthepoor.org/locations/downloads/Dr\\_Gatz\\_Creighton\\_University\\_Article.pdf](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org/locations/downloads/Dr_Gatz_Creighton_University_Article.pdf)



Sr. Benedict Armstrong, Superior, looks at the tiny relic — a small piece of Jeanne Jugan's bone — just before it was permanently sealed in the altar.

Please visit our recently updated website at [www.littlesistersofthepoor.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org) for the most current information about the canonization as well as photos and historical information about Jeanne Jugan and the Little Sisters of the Poor.

# SUMMER TIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY.....

Colleen Kemp, Director of Activities, and Carolyn Hobbs, Activities Assistant, may have the best jobs in the house because they get to plan and participate in fun and meaningful activities with our Residents every day. Whether they schedule an activity in the home or take the Residents out on the road, you can always be sure that everyone is going to have a great time.

Over the past several months, the Residents took advantage of the nice weather to spend some quality time outside. One outing took them to the Bladensburg Waterfront Park where they enjoyed a picnic lunch while relaxing by the water. Another outing took them to the Smithsonian Butterfly Habitat Garden where they enjoyed spending time among butterflies and flowers.

Back home in the Jeanne Jugan Residence, there were a couple of new activities on the calendar this summer, including regular Monday morning visits from children and monthly pet visits with Meeko the dog and rabbits, Madeleine and Elliotte.

The visits from children are really special for both the Residents and the children. At a time when families tend to spread out and migrate to different parts of the country, Sunday dinners at Grandma's house are less and less common. Recently, a young visitor from the Cardinal Hickey Academy told us that she enjoys visiting the Residents because her own grandparents live across the country and she doesn't get to see them very often.



Our Combined Federal Campaign Number is 53116.

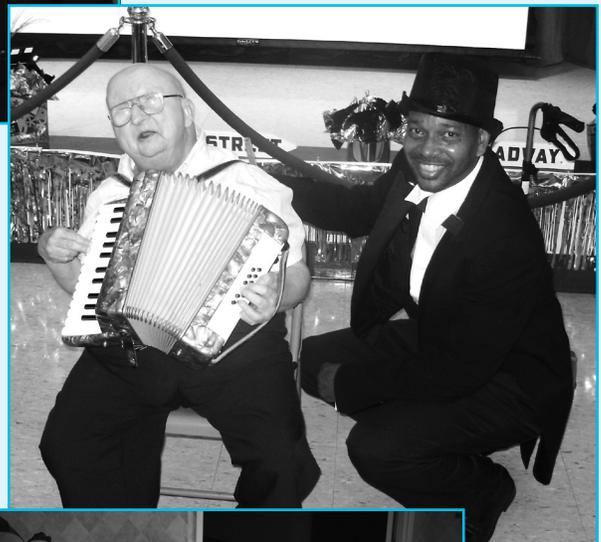
Please remember the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Residents of the Jeanne Jugan Residence

Colleen and Carolyn, along with the Little Sisters, do a great job of keeping the Residents busy with fun and stimulating activities. Recently we held a talent show entitled “Jeanne Jugan – A Heart as Big as the World” where Residents and staff members joined together to highlight the talent that exists within our home.

The show began with a parade of nations where staff members and Residents wore the dress of their native countries and strolled around the audience for all to enjoy. The day continued with various group choral presentations and a couple of piano solos. The grand finale was a surprise visit from Jeanne Jugan herself, who thanked the crowd for attending and for keeping alive her mission. She then shared her basket of chocolate bars with everyone.

Later, two of the talent acts were chosen by a panel of three judges to perform for Mother Provincial in Baltimore. As the anticipation grew about who would win, strawberry shortcake and punch were enjoyed by all in attendance.

Other recent summertime activities included our “Fun in the Sun” weekend — a service/retreat weekend for Young Catholic Women — complete with beach ball volleyball, Beach Blast Bingo, a candy filled pinata and a hot dog cookout. The twelve young women in attendance were dedicated to making the elderly happy. We’ve also enjoyed our group Bingo and Pokeeno games and a Strawberry Daquiri Party on the front patio.



## “If God Is With Us, It Will Be Accomplished”

Common sense would tell us that opening a home for the elderly with no money and no plan during a politically and financially turbulent time would be a bit crazy if not impossible. And yet, that is precisely what Jeanne Jugan did when she brought her first Resident, Anne Chauvin, into her tiny apartment to care for her in 1839. Jeanne saw only the need to reach out and help a poor blind elderly woman who could not care for herself, and from that simple beginning the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor was born. Jeanne put her faith in God and, knowing that He would not disappoint her, she trudged forward.

In an increasingly secular world, and especially during the economic crisis in which we find ourselves, some might worry that the Little Sisters' reliance on God for all our needs is naive or even outdated. After all, the Constitution of the Little Sisters of the Poor forbids us from having any continuing income or endowments — a practice that many people would consider risky in today's world. By maintaining this requirement, we rely on God and surrender ourselves entirely to our Faith in His Divine Providence.

For 170 years, the Little Sisters have been able to care for the elderly poor — those who have the least ability to change their circumstances during hard times — precisely by relying on the Providence of God for all we need.

During this difficult economic time, you — our friends and supporters — have made it possible for us to continue our work because you have shared in our mission as instruments of God's Providence. You have made it possible for us to continue our care for the elderly poor. Because of you, there are 100 needy, elderly men and women who can call the Jeanne Jugan Residence and St. Joseph's Villa “home”.

Please remember that we rely on donations and that whatever isn't donated, we have to purchase. We are always in need of financial contributions because they allow us to purchase exactly what we need, as it is needed, but these are some of the items we use on a regular basis of which we greatly appreciate receiving donations:

- **All personal care items** such as roll-on deodorant, shampoo, Dove soap, mouthwash, Polident tablets, razors, pre-electric and after shave lotion and kleenex tissue.
- **Skin lotion** - we use a lot of this.
- **Canned food** - soups, fruits, vegetables, tomato sauce, etc.

We thank you for your continued support of our mission!

*If you have a question about a donation you would like to make, or a service that you can provide to the Little Sisters of the Poor, please contact our Director of Development, Kimberly Walhout: by phone at 202-269-1831 or by email at [devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org).*

## In Memoriam



**Jennifer Marie Duffy**  
(11/13/1964 - 7/27/2009)

The Little Sisters of the Poor lost a very dear friend and patron recently when Jennifer Marie Austing Duffy passed away on July 27, 2009 after a courageous 2-1/2 year struggle against cancer.

During a standing room only Mass at The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Bethesda, MD, Mrs. Duffy was remembered lovingly by her friends and family. They recalled how she could light up a room with her smile and personality and how she made friends quickly with everyone she met.

John Duffy, Jennifer's husband of 23 years, shared how much she enjoyed being a mother and how their home was always filled with friends of their four children. He read a note that one of those friends had written to Jennifer, confiding that she was like a second mother to her.

Jennifer's energy and good humor were contagious. Even during her illness, she remained joyful and heroic, many times cheering friends who had come to spend time with her.

Jennifer spent countless hours at the French Café in the Jeanne Jugan Residence on Sunday afternoons, where she shared kind words and conversation with the Residents. She was a very active member of the Blessed Sacrament Mother of Grace Sodality, whose service project has been to open the Café each Sunday afternoon and bring treats for the Residents, their families and friends.

She also formed a holiday gift-retailing business with four friends, known as the Cummings Collection, to provide a personalized gift selection service to friends, neighbors and relatives. At the conclusion of the Cummings Collection show these last few years, the Cummings Collection ladies donated lovely items to the Little Sisters for the Residents.

Jennifer was also a founding member of “Tea & Tulips – A Friend–Raiser” held each year at Columbia Country Club for the benefit of the Little Sisters of the Poor. This past April, the event drew over 180 “Friends” of the Little Sisters. Despite her battle with cancer, Jennifer still volunteered at the tea and also volunteered the help of her daughters and their friends.

Her family honored Jennifer's love of the Little Sisters of the Poor and their mission by asking friends and family to make memorial donations in Jennifer's name in lieu of flowers.

Please keep the Duffy and Austing families in your prayers.