

“Give us the house – if God fills it,
God will not abandon it!”

St. Jeanne Jugan



UPDATE ON OUR BUILDING RENOVATIONS

As anyone who has made renovations to their own home can tell you, the excitement and enthusiasm that accompanies the decision to make improvements is often tempered by the reality of the amount of time and work that is involved in preparation.

For at least several years, we have known that our aging building would require some major work: tuck pointing to repair the mortar in some areas of the building facade, an update of our heating system, replacement of our windows and a complete update of our fire alarm system, to name just the most important items.

Last year we contracted for a comprehensive evaluation of our building to help identify and prioritize each project. Upon receiving the evaluation in January, we began the arduous task of collecting bids for the most urgent work.

We are happy to report that the plans for one of the most urgent items — the new fire alarm system — were just approved and that eight months after we began this process, we have now solicited bids and should begin the work shortly.

Other projects are also being bid and we will report on those at a later time.

Unfortunately, renovations come at a high price. Even though we were blessed to receive several large legacies in the past few years allowing us to put some money aside, we are approximately \$3.5 million short to complete the work that is needed. Is it possible for you to help us meet this expense?

The cost of these repairs is well above our normal operating budget and while our building undergoes this important work, we will still be maintaining a home for our 100 elderly Residents.

The special reply form that is enclosed with this newsletter has a space in which you can choose to make an additional gift that will be used specifically for our renovations and repairs. We greatly appreciate anything additional that you are able to do.

If you have any questions about making a donation, please contact our Development Director, Kimberly Walhout, at 202-269-1831 or by email at devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org

By the time you receive this newsletter, our newly revised website should be live and ready for viewing. The website project was undertaken to help our home stay more closely connected with our friends and benefactors.

The Little Sisters understand that we could not continue our mission to care for the elderly poor without the help of many good people who donate their time, knowledge and money to keep us going. We want you to feel at home in the Jeanne Jugan Residence and we hope that you will visit our new site often to see how your support is making it possible for us to bring comfort and happiness to the elderly poor.

Our plan is to update the website regularly with photos of events that have occurred during the week. The site will feature a “blog” (computer terminology for a section that can be quickly updated with photos, commentary and news of current events). You will also have the ability to register to be a volunteer, add your name to our email list, or make a prayer request. One feature that is being added at the request of quite a few people is the ability to make online donations, either one time or monthly.

As many people have realized over the past ten or so years, the world has become reliant on technology for the transfer of information and for staying in touch with our friends, family and business associates. Even the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, was widely known for his embrace of technology which he felt essential for reaching younger Catholics.

Initially, we may not be as fast as we would like with updating information, but as we get used to having this resource, we will improve.

Please make frequent use of this website to stay in touch with the Jeanne Jugan Residence and to enjoy viewing photos and stories of our Residents enjoying life every day.



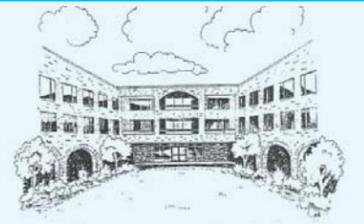
There are many ways to help the Little Sisters of the Poor provide loving care to our Residents. Here are just a few:

- Please remember us in your Estate Planning. The simplest and most common way is to include us in your will, but your financial advisor or attorney can help you determine what's best for you and your family. Our legal name is: *Little Sisters of the Poor of Washington, DC, Inc.*
- We love to have parties on special days and we can always use birthday candles, party hats, and other party decorations.
- We can always use assorted candy bars and cookies for our Residents who like to have an occasional snack.
- Gas cards are a big help because we use a lot of gas getting our Residents to and from outside appointments.
- Visa gift cards are always useful because they can be used wherever credit cards are accepted and are a convenient way for the Sisters or Residents to pay for groceries and other necessities that aren't donated.



Little Sisters of the Poor Sharing Family News

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Spring Being A Tough Act To Follow, God Created June...

Al Bernstein



Not long after the last snow had melted, we started to notice new growth of greenery and flowers around our property. We have an abundance of flowering plants on site, including crape myrtles, azaleas, rhododendron, hydrangeas, butterfly bushes, miniature pink roses, tulips and various other bulb plants. Everyone looks forward to the spring because our property comes alive in a wash of bright colors.

The Jeanne Jugan Residence is located on a wooded seven acre lot in Washington, DC. Over the years, we have taken great care to make sure

that the gardens always look their best for the enjoyment of the Residents who enjoy spending time outside in quiet thought. Some of the garden maintenance is handled professionally, but much of the work is done by volunteers and benefactors who generously donate their time and talent to us.

One of our benefactors, whose mother lived in our home in her final years, recently donated a statue of the Holy Family (photo to the right). The statue sits to the side of the main garden in front of our building. We have placed a bench in front of the statue to provide an additional location where our Residents and guests can enjoy quiet meditation outdoors. We invite you to stop by and see the new statue and garden on your next visit into the city.



In Your Easter Bonnet, With All The Frills Upon It...

It wouldn't be spring without Easter bonnets!

Just like Judy Garland in her magnificent hats in the movie “Easter Parade,” the ladies of the Jeanne Jugan Residence enjoy donning their fancy bonnets on Easter morning.

These are just a few of the hats that could be seen around our Home that day.

In the Jeanne Jugan Residence, we know that looking good helps to keep our Residents feeling good. The ladies, especially, enjoy dressing up on special occasions.

They also enjoy having their hair and nails done and we maintain a salon right here on our premises to make it convenient for them. We are blessed to have several volunteers who come to the home and generously donate their time to do hair and nails a couple of days each week.

Please keep us in mind if you have any beautiful hats or costume jewelry that you would like to donate for future celebrations.

For questions about donations, please contact our Director of Development, Kimberly Walhout, by phone at 202-269-1831 or by email at devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



Be sure to visit our newly designed local website at www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org

Here's A Peek At What We've Been Doing Lately...



Visitors who come to our Home for the first time are often struck by the mobility of the Residents and the fact that nobody is ever just sitting around unless that's what they want to be doing at that particular time. Each day there are a number of fun activities planned, both inside the home and out so that Residents don't have a moment to be bored. In March, we welcomed Liz Lofton as our new Activities Aide to work with Sr. Camille Rose, Activities Director; Colleen Kemp, Joyce Miles and our Volunteer Coordinator, Elise Maloney. Liz will assist with the many activities that are planned daily for our Residents.

The Jeanne Jugan Residence went "green" this year when Residents dressed in that color in celebration of St. Patrick's day. The morning started off with a St. Patrick's Day sing along. At the noon dinner, corned beef and cabbage were on the menu for anyone who was feeling Irish that day. Later, we were treated to a presentation of Irish dance by the Culkin School of Irish Dance. The children represent a wide range of age and experience, and their bright traditional Irish costumes sparked from the stage.



On Friday, March 26, we hosted the St. Joe's Swing Choir from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Western New York. St. Joseph's is a boy's school, but the choir also includes very talented girls from high schools in the same area.

It couldn't have been a better day for the group to visit. The weather was a little dreary — there was a slight chance of some final spring snow flurries and everyone really needed a little cheering. As

the Choir began to warm up, the entire home could hear the beautiful sound of the music. The auditorium started to fill with Residents and staff members eager to hear the lively sounds.

The St. Joe's Choir performs at local functions near their hometown, but they also do an annual "Goodwill Tour" where they visit different cities around the country to share the spirit of Christian fellowship. The Choir's talent is amazing, but we also noted their maturity and the way they focused on the Residents. For the final song, they paired up with Residents and sang to them. It was really very touching to see the interaction between the Residents and the young vocalists.

Holy Week was a time of great solemnity around the Home. Sr. Pauline, our collecting Sister, prepared for the Easter meal by visiting local markets and asking for donations of food and treats for our Residents. This year she received a donation of Easter candy from a benefactor who called us looking for a special way to help out. Our Residents love special treats and receiving the candy added to the festivity of the Easter celebration. We also received donations of ham from a couple of good friends, ensuring that we could provide a delicious meal to our Residents. We were blessed with donations of beautiful Easter Lilies and colorful flowers for our chapel from Greenworks and Behnke's Nurseries, who generously help us with donations of flowers and help us to bring beauty to our Residents.

This year, there was also a visual treat made possible by volunteer, Rob Connor, who has been a regular onsite since last fall. Rob took it upon himself to surprise the Residents and staff with handmade butterflies that he designed, painted and embellished at home. In the days before Easter, Rob hung the butterflies with string from the center of the ceiling in our auditorium so that when Residents arrived for an afternoon tea on Easter Sunday, they were greeted by the sight. Pink table cloths were placed on each of the tables and the room took on a beautiful spring look, much to the delight of the Residents.



On May 5, Cinco de Mayo, the Residents celebrated by dressing in Mexican hats or costumes and enjoying a dinner of Mexican treats. The dining room was decorated in bright colors, balloons and Mexican inspired pictures and festive music was played. The Residents always enjoy a party and we have plenty of them here in the Jeanne Jugan Residence!



During the week of May 9-15, we celebrated National Nursing Home Week. This year's theme was "Enriching Every Day" and we celebrated by planning a week of fun and appreciation for our Residents and staff members. Each day had a color theme — red for Monday, orange for Tuesday, yellow for Wednesday, green for Thursday and pink for Friday. Employees were encouraged to wear the colors as part of their clothing for the day and the Sisters wore ribbons corresponding to the color theme. On Wednesday, an ice cream social was planned for the employees by the Residents. Our French Cafe turned into an ice cream parlor for the afternoon as Residents and staff enjoyed conversation and ice cream with all the toppings. Thursday featured a special buffet salad bar which was a special highlight of lunch. The week ended on Friday with a hamburger cookout, served in the auditorium with some of the best potato salad in Washington, thanks to Bill from our kitchen, and ice cream bars for dessert. Everyone agreed that the week was a lot of fun and helped to reinforce the feeling that we are all part of a big family.

In May we were told that our Administrator, Sr. Alphonse Marie, had received her obedience and would be moving to the Little Sisters' home in Cleveland, Ohio effective June 15. Sr. Alphonse will celebrate her 50th Jubilee this year and has lived almost half of those years in Washington, DC. The news came as a bit of a shock to many people who know Sr. Alphonse, but in a Congregation whose central belief is that God provides for all our needs, we also believe that He directs our lives.

It seems that Sr. Camille, whose duties in our Home include the formation of our Postulants and supervising activities and volunteers, also has tremendous talent for arranging musical presentations. When she heard that Sr. Alphonse was leaving, she knew that the Residents would want to prepare a happy send off for her, so she got to work immediately on pulling together a presentation.



Sr. Camille knew that Sr. Alphonse's father worked for Disney when she was a child. The family knew Walt Disney well and Sr. Alphonse and her siblings grew up immersed in Disney culture. It was only natural for Sr. Camille to decide on a Disney theme for the presentation. Not knowing at first how long Sr. Alphonse would have before leaving, Sr. Camille miraculously planned and orchestrated a Disney musical in four days time. The show was an enormous success, but we don't want too many people to know about the talent that Sr. Camille has for this sort of thing! We want to keep her right here!



Residents, staff members, volunteers, Association Jeanne Jugan members and even one of our Advisory Board members all got in on the act. Auxiliary Bishop Barry Knestout joined us to watch the show. There were songs, dances and marches; balloons, noise makers, beach balls and confetti. The finale erupted in a frenzy of music, bubbles and balloons that floated down from the upstairs balcony thanks to Sr. Marguerite and Sr. Bernadette.

At the end of the musical, a powerpoint presentation was played featuring staff members and Residents holding signs representing the seven fruits of the spirit and illustrating the ways in which Sr. Alphonse possesses all of them and is willing to share them with everyone she meets. We will miss having Sr. Alphonse in our Home, but we wish her well in her new responsibilities. We know that Cleveland will love her just as much as Washington, DC.

On June 7 we welcomed our new Administrator, Sr. Celestine, from our Home in Newark, Delaware.



Au Revoir means "until we meet again"

During the month of April, the Jeanne Jugan Residence also said "au revoir" to two long time employees who decided after many years of service to take it easy for a while. Jean Parlon began as a volunteer with the Little Sisters after retiring from a 33 year career with the government. She was quickly identified as the right person to fill a void in the Bookkeeper position and worked in that capacity for eight years. Afterward she continued to volunteer putting in a total of 28 years in the Jeanne Jugan Residence.

Sue Tyree, Assistant Director of Nursing (seen in the picture to the right with Resident, Leonard Donatelli), had been with the Little Sisters for more than 17 years before retiring. Her time with the Sisters began when she came to the Home one day to have lunch with a Resident and was offered a job on the spot!

Both Jean and Sue were well loved by everyone in the Home — Residents, Sisters and staff alike. We will miss both of them but we wish them happy and healthy retirement.

