Our Needs

WISH LIST OF ITEMS
FOR OUR RESIDENTS

- Bath Towels and Washcloths (white)
- Body Wash and Dove Bar Soap
- Coffee
- Dish Cloths and Kitchen Towels
- Dish Soap
- Knee-high stockings
- Laundry Soap (ex: Tide)
- Lotion (Lubriderm and Eucerin are favorites)
- Mouthwash
- Post-Electric Shaving Lotion
- Tissues (Kleenex)

Thank you, thank you, thank you for helping us help others!

Donate Saleable Goods
Now for Fall Bazaar

Our home is accepting – now until November 11 – donations of saleable items for our annual Fall Bazaar. We are accepting:

- Spa items – soap, lotion, cologne, bath oil, body wash/body scrub
- Kitchen, housewares and home décor items – glassware, silverware and serving sets, frames, vases, collectible figurines, baskets, curtains, table runners, tablecloths and napkins, and napkin rings
- Greeting cards, gift cards, boxes, gift-wrap and ribbons
- Jewelry (costume or real) and accessories for men and women – wallets, ties, belts, scarves and gloves
- Display structures for jewelry, scarves and other accessories
- Donations of baked goods accepted November 17 at 9 a.m.

For more information about this event or to donate goods, contact A.J.J. coordinators, Therese Carey at mazzopitts@gmail.com or Carol Monaco at contaguer@starpower.net

Upcoming Events

Fall Sweepstakes
November 12 - December 19

Watch for your Fall Sweepstakes tickets due in mailboxes this November! The Fall Sweepstakes runs November 12 – December 19. The drawing will take place on December 21 — giving winners and our “little family” something extra to be thankful for during the holidays. All money raised through this drawing will go to the Fuel Fund of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Winners will be notified by phone and/or email.

Save the Date for our Fall Bazaar
November 17

Save the date and attend our Annual Fall Bazaar Saturday, November 17 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The day also includes a Bake Sale, Basket Raffle, Food and Refreshment, and at 3 p.m. the $5.00 Bag Sale.

Thanksgiving
November 22

A wonderful day of celebration is planned for our Residents complete with traditional fixings from turkey, cranberry sauce and dinner rolls to sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. Football game optional. Thanksgiving Day Mass at 11 a.m.

Serving the elderly poor in Washington, D.C. since 1871.

Our auditorium filled with excited chatter on October 18, as our “little family” of Residents, staff, A.J.J. members and volunteers began to gather, all in eager anticipation of our Mother General’s arrival. It is not too long before Mother General Celine and her companion, Mother Assistant Gerard Patricia, arrive. Our Sisters, Little Sisters visiting from other homes, and our five new Postulants, greet these extremely special visitors at the front door. Then it is on to the auditorium where happy faces, smiles and hearty applause greet Mother General Celine and Mother Assistant Gerard Patricia. Residents, Mary Nathan, wearing a gorgeous Indian sari, and Cecilia Joh, wearing a striking Korean hanbok, present Mother General and Mother Assistant with beautiful bouquets. At this point, Resident Leonard Donatelli steps forward, takes the microphone and offers a warm welcome, speaking on behalf of everyone present.

A Special Visit With Our Mother General

“Mother General loves us and takes such good care of us.” - Mary Nathan, Resident

Our little family delighted in the sunshine filled days, fan outings, and joyful fetes of summer – our 141st in this city! As temperatures soared, we were so thankful to our friends who made gifts to our Fuel Fund, which helps pay to keep the lights on and our Residents comfortable.

In early October, as the leaves began to brighten, we happily welcomed to our home five new Postulants. Here they share in daily life and are introduced to our spirituality and traditions. In fact, their arrival coincided with our announcement of this year’s Jeanne Jugan Award winner, Theda Thompson who shares Jeanne Jugan’s attributes of love and compassion for the elderly poor.

Several Little Sisters and Residents attended opening Mass for the Year of Faith at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on October 11, a start of a year for Catholics to deepen in daily life and are introduced to our spirituality and traditions. In fact, their arrival coincided with our announcement of this year’s Jeanne Jugan Award winner, Theda Thompson who shares Jeanne Jugan’s attributes of love and compassion for the elderly poor.

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In Step with Our New “Begging Sister”
Prayers to St. Joseph Bear Salmon… and Benefactors

They share an enthusiasm in getting new merchants to donate and are thankful that their next two visits are successful. The first with Peter Martone at ProFish yields several pounds of fresh Salmon and the second with Gustavo Balbuena at Mexican Fruits yields beautiful green, red and yellow bell peppers. “We will keep you in our prayers,” offer the Sisters after each visit.

Several more places and the van is nearly check-full, so we return home. Brother John and Calixte Jules our cook, quickly unload everything so the Sisters can leave to go visit with a few of our long-time benefactors. Bowie Produce Co., Inc., Cantwell-Cleary Co., Delta Produce, Keamy Produce Co., Ottenberg’s Bakery and Pete Pappas & Sons, Inc. generously give the many items that remain on the list, including vegetables, fruits, herbs, eggs and paper products. “Today’s food donations will help us to provide an entire week’s worth of nutritious meals for our Residents,” says Sr. Jeanne Véronique, “in these challenging economic times, we rejoice that God has provided for us through our generous friends and benefactors in the community.”

A driving rain and chilly temperatures greet us as Sr. Jeanne Véronique and Sr. Janet prepare to go begging. They don’t go on foot, or by a horse and buggy driven by a Resident as Sisters did in years past, rather they head out in a van driven by Brother John, a Carmelite Brother who has worked for us for many years. He starts today’s effort by praying for a safe trip and the continuing generosity of our benefactors.

The Sisters review the begging list — like a shopping list — provided by chef manager, Amy Otten, and dining services director, Tim Boykin, the begging Sister shares her plan for our day and then we are off to the wholesale food market in D.C. “As we walk to the door of each merchant,” Sr. Janet explains, “we silently pray to St. Joseph that people are good to us and give what is needed for our Residents. For example, we ask for fish, beef, pork and any special items needed that week.” Jeanne Jugan had a special devotion to St. Joseph, it was to his powerful protection that she confided all her undertakings and all her cares, considering him the great provider of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The Sisters call on a food distributor and a meat company and come away with chicken, onions, carrots and potatoes. The rain doesn’t slow our umbrella-wielding Sisters. When confronted by a river of water flowing between the van and us, Sr. Jeanne Véronique suddenly takes to the air, leaping flowing between the van and us, Sr. Jeanne Véronique suddenly takes to the air, leaping across as much taller Sr. Janet simply skips over the water, while instinctively reaching out a hand to steady her Sister — neither says a word. I follow.

“It is with happy hearts that our “little family” of Little Sisters, Residents and staff welcome five Postulants to our home this week — Maria Krassowski from Montana, Jamie Charest from Connecticut, Jessica Ruggiero from Massachusetts, Rachael Lowe from Washington State and Danielle Byrd from Florida. Here, they will share in our daily life and be introduced to our spirituality and traditions.

“Placing All One’s Confidence In God

Saint Jeanne Jugan founded the future of her work on an evangelical challenge to live from day to day, never amassing goods or money, rejecting perpetual endowments, placing all one’s confidence in God. She traveled the roads on foot seeking alms, food, clothing and other items essential to the home.

If you’d like,” Jeanne Jugan said one day to a businessman, “we can share the elderly today; you can feed them, and I’ll take care of them.” As our new begging Sister, Sr. Jeanne Véronique carries on this 173-year-old tradition by begging for all the needs of our home.

Blessed be God! Thank you, my God! Glory be to God! — Saint Jeanne Jugan

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“It is such a privilege to pass on to them the beauty of the charism of St. Jeanne Jugan,” says Sr. Maria Grace. “We Little Sisters here in Washington are delighted to share this part of their journey, and the Residents just love having them here in our home.” So, if you see any new smiling faces around our home it is probably one of our Postulants; be sure to say “hello.”

Postulancy is a first step on the journey through which Jesus reveals his loving plan to those who really seek him. For those who feel called to follow Saint Jeanne Jugan as a Little Sister of the Poor, formation is a process of progressively taking on the mind and heart of Christ. It means living charity, humility, and devotedness to the poor and unconditional trust in God’s loving Providence, just as our beloved foundress did. Also, it is a time of transition and usually lasts about 9 months — the final months spent in the novitiate, located in Queens Village, New York.

Opening Day of the 2012 Postulancy on October 25.

Please keep them in your prayers!

Sr. Jeanne Véronique, Brother, Jules and Sr. Janet unload much appreciated food donations from the begging van. Following Jeanne Jugan, “she says, “we always thank our benefactors by praying for them every day.”

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Theda Thompson, a 25-year veteran of our home in charge of Resident Accounts, is the recipient of this years’ Jeanne Jugan Award for “best living out the spirit of our Mother Foundress as an employee of our home.”

“The Dead emerged from a pool of fourteen nominees,” shares Mother Mary Michael, “because she shares Jeanne Jugan’s attributes of love, kindness, and compassion. I’m so very happy for you, for all that you do for our Residents and for our staff, hidden work,” explains Mother Mary Michael, while presenting the award.

This is the 10th anniversary of the Jeanne Jugan Award. Each year the employees of our home are invited to contemplate the virtues and vision of Jeanne Jugan, and to nominate a co-worker whom they feel contributes to living her spirit. Several weeks later, our little family gathers near the statue of Jeanne Jugan and our Mother proclaims the recipient of the honor.

“I’m so excited,” several employees spontaneously exclaim, “she is so deserving,” as a moved and misty-eyed Theda steps forward to accept the award, wipes at her tears and quietly says “Thank You!” Later, Theda shares, “it was a most unexpected and pleasant surprise, there were so many other deserving people!”

For those of us that know her, it is no surprise that Theda’s immediate plans include participating in the Annual Walk for the Homeless, which raises funds to provide families with small children a safe place to stay, or to know that she puts her kindness and compassion to noble use as a member of the Bereavement Committee of the Emory United Methodist Church.

Theda is a native of Jamaica and attended John Jay College in New York. She lives in Beltville and enjoys spending time with her family and traveling.