

Mother's Corner

By: Mother Mary Michael



As the Year of Faith 2012-13 ended, we happily hosted several pilgrimages to sacred places that reminded us - we are all pilgrims on a journey that begins and ends with God. Most recently, we were delighted to welcome 56 Residents, Little Sisters and volunteers from our home in Pittsburgh who stopped by for lunch as they traveled to The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A few days earlier, a similar group of pilgrims from our Home traveled to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes located in Emmitsburg. There we delighted in the beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart and marveled that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Mother Teresa trod the holy ground we walked. It was a wonderful occasion of prayer, peaceful quiet and contemplation.

On September 8, several Little Sisters were honored to share with the Knights of Columbus in their Year of Faith Pilgrimage & Knights Tower Carillon 50th Anniversary Celebration held at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It was a pleasure to meet Carl A. Anderson, their Supreme Knight, who presented us with a generous check given in honor of our much beloved Resident William Cardinal Baum. We are so very thankful to the Knights of Columbus for their generosity, which will help us complete urgent repairs to our aging building.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I reflect on our many blessings including our friends in the community whose generosity enables us to bring joy and happiness into the lives of our dear aged. I thank you and wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving!

Planned Giving

You can help ensure our future by planning a special gift – create a trust while you are living or make a simple bequest to the Little Sisters of the Poor in your will.

Although cash contributions to the Little Sisters of the Poor are always appreciated, there are other creative and flexible options that can benefit you and The Little Sisters of the Poor.

Funds generated through planned gifts are devoted to current funding needs as well as capital projects. In fact, we rely on legacy gifts, which often arrive just in time to pay unexpected expenses that are outside our regular budget, like the costly repairs to ‘brick and mortar’ or ‘tuck-



pointing’ that we began this summer to protect our home from periodic leaks and additional water damage. We expect the scaffolding to return later this year when repairs resume.

Please let us know if you make a provision for us in your estate plan. For details please contact Heather Cave at devashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org or 202-268-1831.

Upcoming Events

Fall Sweepstakes

November 4 - January 6

Watch for Sweepstakes tickets due in mailboxes this November! Sweeps drawing is January 8. All money raised goes to our Fuel Fund.

Sr. Celestine Celebrates 50 Years of Vows

October 15

Sr. Celestine Mary of St. Patrick, a native of Manhattan, made her first vows in 1963 and since has assisted the elderly in various cities throughout the United States. Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn, D.D., Archbishop Emeritus of St. Paul & Minneapolis will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving, Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 11 a.m.

Thanksgiving

November 28

We have a delightful celebration planned for Residents complete with traditional foods from turkey and cranberry sauce to sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. Thanksgiving Day Mass at 11 a.m.



Thanksgiving, pie and whipped cream.

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Duffy Celebrates 60th Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood

December 8

His Eminence, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving Dec. 8 at 12:30 p.m., The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 3630 Quesada Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Most Rev. Leonard J. Olivier, SVD Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Installation as Bishop

December 15

Bishop Olivier will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving on Dec. 15 at noon, The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC.



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JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE
4200 Harewood Road, NE
Washington, D.C. 20017



JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE

For The Love Of Our Residents

A New Gazebo In Memory Of Our Beloved Resident Carmen Febles

A Lemonade Social marked the official opening of our new gazebo, a lovely space for our Residents to gather with their friends and families or to reflect and enjoy nature.

The gazebo is a fitting memorial to Resident Carmen “Mami” Febles, who passed away at our home in early February. Ninety-eight-years young on the day God called her home, Mami was surrounded by her loved ones — son Juan and dear friend Mel Jenkins — and the Little Sisters, praying at her side.

“What a blessing the Little Sisters were in her life,” Juan said. “They will always remain in our remembrances of our dear mother.”

Added Mel, “It was so peaceful when Mami passed. I was touched so profoundly that I said to Sr. Joseph, ‘We are in the presence of God!’ It

was such a beautiful transcendental moment, I will always remember.”

“What a blessing the Little Sisters of the Poor were and will remain in the life and remembrances of our dear mother.”
- Juan Febles

Juan visited his mother frequently to talk, attend to her needs, or simply to offer the comfort of his presence, consistent as the comforting rhythm of waves on the beach. They would sit on the bench in the garden near the statue of Saint Jeanne Jugan, or in the little garden dedicated to Edith Hart, Msgr. Hart’s mother. When the weather didn’t oblige, they simply sat on the settee in the front lobby, a son very much devoted to his mom.

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Residents enjoy a cool glass of lemonade, the company of good friends and a gentle breeze on a beautiful summer's day. Our gazebo provides welcome shade and relief from the hot August sun.



Juan welcomes Resident Peggy Joseph to a Lemonade Social, the first “official activity” held at the gazebo, a site of future services, socials and personal reflection. “It is for all the Residents whom we fell in love with while visiting Mami,” he shares.

Brimming With Love for the Elderly Poor... Six "New" Little Sisters Pronounce Vows



You might recognize the six new novices and the newly professed – pictured with Cardinal Dolan - as the young Postulants who spent several months in our Home and found a place in all our hearts.

They are (l to r) Sr. Mary Matthew of the Cross, from Florida; Sr. Maria of the Cross, from Montana and Sr. Jessica Marie, from Boston, Sr. Malia Cecilia, a native of Tonga, an island kingdom in the Pacific; Sr. Mary Gerard of the Cross; a native of Syracuse, NY; Sr. Mairéad Regina, from Tralee, Ireland; Sr. Elizabeth Mary de la Croix, originally from St Louis, MO; Sr. Sharon of the Sacred Heart, from Queens, NY; Sr. Malia Makalita, also from Tonga; Sr. Rachael du Bon Pasteur, from the state of Washington and Sr. Mercy Marie, from Connecticut.

We welcome with happy hearts six new Little Sisters into our Congregation.

His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York presided over the Profession Mass in June, telling the young Sisters that they are the "heartbeat of the Sacred Heart, bringing tenderness to the elderly" they will serve.

The Sisters professed vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and a special fourth vow, hospitality, during the ceremony at St. Ann's Novitiate in Queens Village, N.Y.

After Mass, the Sisters learned their assignments, which placed them in Little Sisters' homes for the aged in Dublin, Ireland;

"You are the heartbeat of the Sacred Heart, bringing tenderness to the elderly you will serve."
- Cardinal Dolan

Sydney, Australia; Totowa, N.J.; San Francisco and San Pedro, CA.; and Pittsburgh, PA. Families of the two Sisters from the South Pacific presented leis to the new Little Sisters and Cardinal Dolan.

A day earlier, five postulants entered the novitiate to begin two years of formation in Queens, N.Y. Please keep them in your prayers!

Little Sisters Community News

- Our Centenarian Little Sister, Sr. Marie Mathilde de la Croix, celebrates 75 years of final vows November 21. We had the great joy of celebrating Sister's 100th birthday earlier this year and thank God for the joy she sows in our lives.
- All the Little Sisters, Residents and staff gathered at the front door early in May to bid a fond farewell to our much-loved Sr. Marguerite who departed for her new assignment at our home in Pittsburgh. "We are so grateful for Sr. Marguerite and for the five years of tender care she's given to our Residents on the Guardian Angel unit," says Mother Mary Michael.
- Within weeks we gathered again at the front door to welcome two Sisters joining our community. Sr. Mary Alexandra comes to us from our home in Newark, DE., and is caring for the Residents on the Guardian Angel unit. Sr. Mary Bernard comes to us from our home in Latham, N.Y., and attends to the Residents of St. Joseph's Villa.

"We welcome them with great joy to our home and to Washington, D.C., and are blessed to have them as part of our family," says Mother Mary Michael. "They bring a host of skills, experience and gifts that will benefit everyone as we work together as a family in the spirit of Jeanne Jugan."



One of our amazing volunteers helped by planting one of the more than 50 plants that now surround the gazebo and line the walkway, including 40 rosebushes, dogwoods, 3 crepe myrtles and a 'Green Giant' cyprus.



After many hours of excellent work under a broiling sun, determined and hardy volunteers — Brad Patrick, Rick Lowman, Alpha Mansary, Donald Hardy and brothers Jose and Elsito Jovel — still have the energy to begin shingling the roof. Praise God!

Wonderful Friends and Volunteers Make it Happen "A Special Place to Reflect and Enjoy Nature"

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As a tribute to Mami, Juan and Mel asked friends, family members and co-workers to donate funds, materials and their carpentry, electric and planting skills to build and landscape the gazebo. "Mami loved to be outside, to ride horses, swim and most of all to gather with her friends and be mischievous," Juan said.

Juan and Mel's energy and passion for the project made them highly successful at raising the necessary funds and recruiting a legion of volunteers. Constructed in July, the gazebo features electricity and a sidewalk with curb cuts that make it handicapped accessible.

Mel made another very special contribution to the project: providing funds in his will to pay for the gazebo's upkeep in perpetuity.

The gazebo is perched on a tiny hill surrounded by rosebushes, benches, an

angel to watch over us and chimes that beckon our Residents. It's a place of respite where even on the hottest days a gentle breeze seems to find you.

Juan said that he had come to love the Residents so much during visits with his mother "that I just want to provide them a peaceful place outside to reflect and to watch squirrels play," a pastime his mother loved.

A final, important addition to the gazebo is yet to come. Juan and Mel said that a stone with an inscription will be affixed to the small wall built near the gazebo. Following Mother Mary Michael's suggestion, it will quote Daniel 3:76 from the Bible: "Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord."

We thank our wonderful friends and incredible volunteers who have created this special place in memory of Mami and meant for our Residents to delight in the simple wonders of nature.

The Award Goes to... Daisy Alzate, Nurse of the Year

Our own Director of Nursing, Daisy Alzate, has been named "Nurse of the Year" by the District of Columbia Health Care Association (DCHCA). The award honors individuals who exhibit excellence in the practice of their profession.

Daisy was chosen from a field of candidates nominated by leaders and administrators in the nursing field throughout the city. In their nomination, Daisy's peers at our home cited her "skills, competence and spirit."

The award was presented to Daisy by the DCHCA in the presence of her colleagues at their 23rd convention and trade show, "the Art of Caring," in June.

During a surprise party in August celebrating Daisy's award, Mother Mary Michael proudly declared, "Our Director of Nursing's leadership is unmatched."

Sr. Celestine added that even though our home received a five-star rating from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, "We believe there is always an opportunity to improve, and Daisy's empowering approach and leadership by example inspire her team to strive for their very best."

"Perhaps the most striking quality Daisy offers is the absolute joy she brings to her work each day," Sr. Celestine continued. "She truly rejoices in our Residents and they know it. Her profession as well as her choice to work in long-term care is not about a job, it is truly her vocation."

Daisy, a native of Bucay, Philippines, received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the United Doctors Medical Center in Quezon City. She attended Our Lady of Fatima in Bucay for primary and secondary school.

Daisy lives in Herndon, Va., where she enjoys spending time with husband Joseph and son Mark, and also cares for our two therapeutic dogs, Silas and Paul.



After being surprised by our "little family," of Residents, Little Sisters, and employees and her own family, all secretly gathered to celebrate her award. Daisy fights back tears as she, Mother Mary Michael and Sr. Celestine hold up her "Nurse of the Year" award for us to see.

Tea & Tulips 8th Annual "Friend-Raising" a Beautiful Success ...



Our wonderful Awareness Committee pictured here with Sr. Janet, Sr. Joseph and Mother Mary Michael are (l to r) Patti Farrell, Suzie Squier, Genevieve Murphy, Alice McDonnell, Cathie Lively, Susan Gorman, Ellen Cullen, Mary Beth Donnelly and Aimee Dominick. Not pictured: Nancy Itteliag Donnelly.

Our 8th Annual Tea & Tulips "Friend-Raising" event held at Columbia Country Club in April was a beautiful success. This year, more than 260 women — old and new friends — enjoyed a buffet of savory sandwiches and treats and raised more than \$31,750 during a lively raffle of 20 fabulous baskets created by the committee. "We continue to be blessed with so many wonderful girl friends who enjoy getting together to raise

money for D.C.'s elderly poor," says Chairperson Genevieve Murphy.

Our hearts fill with gratitude for you who so generously support our mission to welcome the elderly poor, to make them happy, to care for them and to honor their dignity.

Join us for our 9th Annual Tea & Tulips Friend-Raiser on April 13, 2014! To receive an invitation call Alicia Hooks 202-269-1831.