

Little Sisters of the Poor, Jeanne Jugan Residence

Since 1871, the Little Sisters of the Poor have been providing compassionate care for the elderly poor in Washington, DC. First at St. Joseph's Home for the Aged on H Street, NE, near the US Capitol building, and since 1982 at the Jeanne Jugan Residence located on Harewood Road, NE. There are approximately 100 residents and the average age of our residents is 82 years.

Less than half the cost to operate the Jeanne Jugan Residence is covered by Medicaid and private sources such as Social Security. The balance – more than 52 percent – must come from donations.



The Little Sisters of the Poor rely on the communities they serve to help them fulfill their mission to care for the elderly poor. They meet the needs of their elderly Residents through daily begging at the area markets, churches and office buildings, as well as gifts from donors. Their generous benefactors are the wonderful instrument of God's Providence, enabling them to continue this important ministry.

Today, more than 2,800 Little Sisters of the Poor care for the elderly poor in Homes throughout the world, and are aided through the intercession of St. Joseph to help them provide for the needs of the elderly in their care.



Building Together on Sacred Grounds Capital Campaign

The Little Sisters of the Poor have embarked on a campaign to raise \$10 Million for renovations to the home, which includes renovations to the Chapel and to the Convent. Windows throughout the entire home must be replaced with energy efficient models. Water enters the Home through the windows' rotted areas and cracks, creating extensive damage throughout the facility – including the deterioration of the ceilings, walls and floor tiles. Sandbags, buckets and towels have provided makeshift relief; however, the deteriorated conditions can no longer wait to be addressed. In addition to the upgrades though the Residence, the heating and cooling (HVAC) systems are not up to code and must be replaced; structural improvements to address the cracks and the building exterior must be made.

In addition to upgrades and water damage repair throughout the convent, bathroom renovations are critical. The dormitory style bathrooms are minimalistic, outdated and not up to code. Currently each Sister has a 90 square foot bedroom walled on three sides with cinder blocks. A night table does not fit next to the single bed and the wardrobe encroaches on the space, making movement within each room difficult.

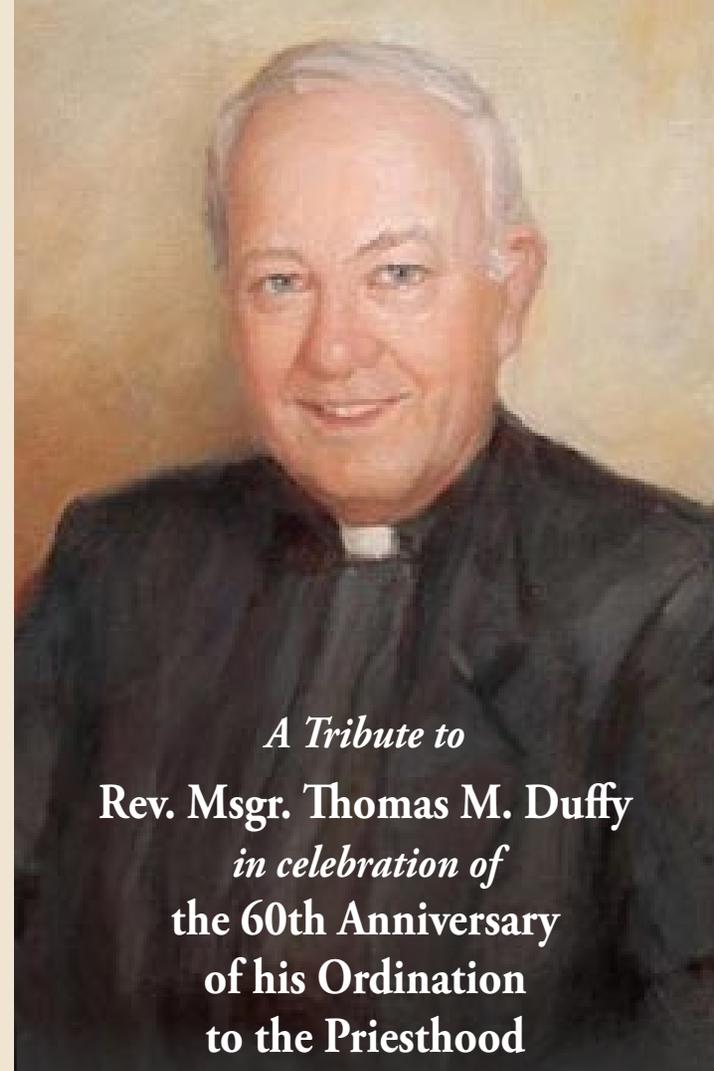
Msgr. Duffy has graciously offered to designate the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Jeanne Jugan Residence as the charitable beneficiary of his 60th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.



Little Sisters of the Poor

Caring for the Elderly Poor throughout the World
Jeanne Jugan Residence

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A Tribute to
Rev. Msgr. Thomas M. Duffy
in celebration of
the 60th Anniversary
of his Ordination
to the Priesthood

*To benefit the elderly poor
living at the Jeanne Jugan
Residence, cared for by the
Little Sisters of the Poor.*



Little Sisters of the Poor
Caring for the Elderly Poor throughout the World

“We are at the service of the aged. We take them for our family.” – Jeanne Jugan

Msgr. Thomas Duffy, marking 60th anniversary, “changed ships” in becoming a priest

Celebrating his 60th anniversary as a priest this year, Msgr. Thomas Duffy said, “Time goes by so quickly! I’ve been extraordinarily blessed in having so many priest friends, and lay people as well.”



A native of Attleboro, Mass., who grew up and attended school at St. Anthony Parish in Washington, the future priest served with the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II, aboard a tanker in the Pacific that refueled destroyers. After the war, he worked on a shipping line that went to South and East Africa. He had been friendly with his parish priests and had two uncles who were Holy Cross priests, so the idea of the priesthood came back to him.

“I thought about it (a vocation) while I was at sea. You have a great deal of time while on watch... I was a deck officer on the bridge,” he said. “I decided to change ships,” he said, of his decision to enter the seminary.

He studied for the priesthood at St. Charles College in Catonsville and St. Mary's in Baltimore, and later at the North American College in Rome, where he was ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington in 1953. After serving as an assistant pastor at St. Thomas Apostle Parish in Washington and at

St. Stephen Martyr, where he was also chaplain to the Catholic student group at George Washington University, then-Father Duffy was named in 1966 as the founding pastor of the newly established St. Raphael Parish in Rockville.

“We stood on a knoll. There was hardly anything out there in those days,” he said, recalling his first visit to the parish property. Now St. Raphael's property includes a church, a school and a home for the frail elderly and is surrounded by a vibrant neighborhood.

Msgr. Duffy said that was an exciting time to be a parish priest. “It was after the Second Vatican Council. It was a whole new era where lay people were being involved,” he said, noting that in the years that followed, many of the best ideas for parish programs and outreach “came up from the people themselves.”

In 1971, he was named a monsignor, and in 1975, he was pastor-in-residence at his alma mater, the North American College in Rome. After serving as secretary for priest personnel for the archdiocese, he was named in 1981 as pastor of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Washington, where he served until his retirement in 2005. “It's a very dynamic parish, a wonderful group of people, many faceted,” he said.

Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne, himself a parishioner there, noted upon Msgr. Duffy's retirement how the priest had been a pastor to all the people there, including prominent conservatives and liberals alike. “I would listen to them,” Msgr. Duffy said of his parishioners there. “They seemed to respect me, and we got along well. It was a wonderful experience.”

Before retiring, Msgr. Duffy managed the

first renovation of the school and building of a much-needed parish center. The parish center at Blessed Sacrament is named in his honor.

In recent years, he served as a retired priest at Our Lady of Victory Parish and ministered to people at Sibley Memorial Hospital.

In an interview at the Jeanne Jugan Residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor, where he now lives, Msgr. Duffy said he learned a lot from being a parish priest. “I always found it inspirational dealing with people and their search for God,” said the veteran priest, who is now 86.

Msgr. Duffy said he also learned from the example of good priest friends like Msgr. George Higgins, the famous labor priest, and Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, the noted Church historian, who encouraged him to keep reading. Despite his busy schedule, Msgr. Higgins found time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament about an hour every day.

“That's something I tried to follow,” said Msgr. Duffy. “I found it a source of great strength and peace as well. You felt closeness to the Lord, no matter what kind of problem you were dealing with.”

The name of the parish he served for a quarter-century also reflected the focus of his life and work. In his six decades as a priest, he served all ages from schoolchildren to senior citizens, and when asked what advice he would have for seminarians and for priests, Msgr. Duffy said, “No matter how busy you are, have time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.”

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– Mark Zimmermann, Editor

“He (Msgr. Duffy) is kindness itself... dedicated to the simple but difficult things prescribed in the Gospel; visiting the sick, comforting the aggrieved, strengthening the faith of the doubters, helping families, lifting up the poor...”

– Parishioner, Blessed Sacrament