

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

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

Spring 2014  
Volume: 7 | Issue 1

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



## JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE

### Largest Fundraising Initiative in Our History Goes Public With a Goal of \$12 Million



#### SAVE THE DATE

**Calling All Selfies**  
May 31

**Summer Sweepstakes**  
July 1 – September 15

**St. Jeanne Jugan's  
Feast Day**  
August 30

We have embarked on a capital campaign – *Building Together on Sacred Grounds* – to raise more than \$12 million for urgently needed renovations to our Home. Several years ago, we initiated a study to identify and prioritize projects necessary to sustain a safe and comfortable Home for our Residents. The resulting plan encompasses repairs to the residence, the convent and the chapel.

Our mission to care for the needy poor began in Washington, D.C. with the arrival of seven Little Sisters from France in 1871. Since then, the Little Sisters have welcomed and cared for more than 15,000 needy aged Washingtonians. As we look to the future, we are committed to caring for this city's elders for many years to come. To continue our mission, and as good stewards of what God has given us through your generosity, we must tend to our aging buildings' infrastructures to accommodate present

and future needs.

It is essential that we replace windows – original to the 1964 and 1982 buildings – with energy efficient and double paned windows. Our original windows leak, have outlasted their useful life, and are the cause of structural damage to the brick façade – it is separating from the structure. When it rains, water enters our Home through the leaky windows and

**"I ask that you both pray for the success of this campaign and consider your own sacrificial gift to this important endeavor."**

*– Donald Cardinal Wuerl,  
Archbishop of Washington*

cracked brick, creating extensive damage including deterioration of ceilings, walls and floor tiles in Residents' and Sisters' rooms and shared spaces.

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**BEFORE:** It was exciting to see the scaffold go up as Phase I – the renovation of our chapel – began.



**AFTER:** It wasn't long before the single paned and leaky-windows were removed, brickwork repaired and double-paned energy efficient windows installed.



*Mother Mary Michael joins Gerry Borger and her family and friends, to enjoy a lovely afternoon of conversation and delicious food. "We thank God for the goodness of so many people who support our mission," said Mother Mary Michael.*



*The Sisters and our Awareness Committee gather for a photo. Front Row: Genevieve Murphy, Sr. Jeanne Veronique, Sr. Jeanne, Suzie Squier and Sr. Celestine. Back Row: Lauren Kohr, Patt Farrell, Ellen Conley, Sr. Janet, Susan Gorman, Ellen Cullen, Sr. Mary Bernard, Aimee Dominic, Mary Beth Donnelly, and Cathie Lively. Not pictured: Nancy Itteliaq Donnelly.*

## Love For DC's Needy Aged Raises Friends and Funds for LSP's Capital Campaign

Two events – Msgr. Thomas Duffy's 60th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood, and Tea & Tulips – held by friends of our Home to benefit the elderly poor, were joyous, well attended, and very successful, raising a combined total of \$400,000 for our Capital Campaign.

Msgr. Duffy, a Resident, graciously offered to designate our Home as the charitable beneficiary of his celebration last December. 150 hearty and generous souls ventured out into the snow to travel to a Mass of Thanksgiving offered by His Eminence, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Mass was followed by a Tribute reception at Columbia Country Club. Msgr. Duffy "is kindness itself," said a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament, "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."

In April, more than 280 ladies gathered at Columbia Country Club for the 9th Annual Tea & Tulips "Friend-Raiser," in honor of the Little Sisters, our mission, and our Residents. It was a lovely afternoon of sumptuous food, visits with friends, and tea. The Awareness Committee created fabulous baskets – with everything from fine wine, custom jewelry, and designer clothing, to beautiful garden sets – for the Chinese Auction. "We'd like to designate all the money raised (more than \$40,000) to the Sisters' Capital Campaign," said Genevieve Murphy, the event's Chairperson.

"Our volunteers, sponsors and generous benefactors ensure the success of our Capital Campaign," said Mother Mary Michael, "that importantly allows us to sustain a safe and comfortable home for our Residents and all the Little Sisters, and to care for this city's elders for many years to come."



*Msgr. Duffy at his Mass of Thanksgiving being offered by Theodore Cardinal McCarrick.*



*Genevieve Murphy, Susan Gorman and Mike Gretschel at the Tribute Reception for Msgr. Duffy.*

## Canonization of John XXIII and John Paul II

Our Little Sisters and a few hardy Residents felt blessed to be able to participate in the two days of festivities held for Divine Mercy Sunday and the canonization of John XXIII and John Paul II.

Residents and Sisters attended everything from a program at the Shrine – that included videos on the life of John Paul, an all-night coffee house, and a three mile Eucharistic procession in the steps of John Paul II – to the renaming ceremony of the Shrine to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine.

During a Mass of Thanksgiving, Rev. Gregory Gresko said, "We encounter in the message of Divine Mercy the meaning of Saint John Paul II's entire pontificate. As the message of Divine Mercy is one of respecting truthfully the inherent dignity and value of the human being, each person is precious in the eyes of God, Who gave His life for each one. As John Paul II would explain, 'This consoling message is addressed above all to those who, afflicted by a particularly harsh trial or crushed by the weight of the sins they committed, have lost all confidence in life and are tempted to give in to despair. To them the gentle face of Christ is offered; those rays from his heart touch them and shine upon them, warm them, show them the way and fill them with hope.'"

On Sunday afternoon, Little Sisters attended the Mass for Divine Mercy at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap., preacher for the papal household, was the main celebrant and homilist. He said that, just like the evening when Thomas encountered the risen Lord, so Christ was present among us, eager to give us his peace and his Spirit.

"As the days ended," said Sr. Constance, who snapped the photo on the right of Sr. Maria Grace, Sr. Joseph, Sr. Janet and Mother Mary Michael "we thanked God for the grace of participating in so many of the events and living down the street from the Basilica, and with the National Shrine of John Paul II next door, for the grace of living in the shadow of a saint."





We are committed to showing each Resident that they are loved, valued and respected. 25 of our Home's elders are 90-plus years young. Gathered in the garden are: Tanchie Mosimann, Ada Spriggs, Miriam Clark, Mirian Christoffers, Leonard Donatelli, Alberta Wright (100), Bishop Leonard Olivier, Eva Howse and Sr. Marie Mathilde (101). Their combined age is 845 years! Oh, the stories they can tell...

## To Continue Our Mission of Caring for DC Area Needy Aged...

We Must Tend to Our Aging Infrastructure to Sustain a Safe and Comfortable Home

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This means that the sandbags, buckets and towels, which have provided makeshift relief for the last decade, are no longer enough; and deteriorated conditions can no longer wait to be addressed.

In addition to replacing windows and repairing brick, we must replace heating and cooling systems, which are not up to code, and make major updates to the 1964 building that houses the convent and the chapel. Without maintenances, our buildings will continue to deteriorate, resulting in even more costly repairs and soaring utility bills.

We are pleased to report some progress on those projects identified as 'most necessary.' We are in the process of bringing our chapel up to the current safety standards as part of Phase I. We are replacing inefficient and nonfunctional air-conditioning, heating, plumbing, and electrical systems and installing a fire suppression system mandated by the City. We began the renovations late last year, by replacing leaky-windows. Regrettably, this work did unveil a new discovery in the ceiling – asbestos – that had to be removed. Renovations in the chapel are nearly complete and will reopen in June. In Fall, we will begin Phase II, which

will concentrate on replacing HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems and windows original to the 1964 and 1982 buildings, as well as renovating the education, worship, living and working spaces on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the convent. In addition, this phase will address further safety issues – black mold, asbestos and out-of-code fire suppression systems – and create space for Junior professed Sisters.

These Sisters spend a year of further doctrinal formation profiting from the rich Catholic environment here in Washington, D.C., while they assist in the care of our Residents. This year precedes their final year of prayer and study spent at the motherhouse in France, in preparation of the profession of perpetual vows.

We witness the hand of Divine Providence in the everyday life of our Home. The words of our Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, always confirm our confidence: "Give, give us this house, if God fills it, God will not abandon it." With the continuing help of our friends and benefactors, like you, we know that God will always provide, as we continue our mission to serve and care for the elderly poor in Washington, D.C., we are committed to showing each one that they are loved, valued and respected.

## Jeanne Jugan Award

Cindy Finelli, Social Worker

Cindy Finelli, a 20-year veteran of our home and social worker in charge of Resident admissions, is the latest recipient of the Jeanne Jugan Award for "best living out the spirit of our Mother Foundress as an employee of our home."

"Cindy plays a vital role in the quality of our Residents' lives," said Mother Mary Michael, "she is a kindhearted and wise advocate for each person." As our social worker, she connects them with resources, and facilitates their transitions for a hospital stay, or a return to the home. "It is precisely because she shares Jeanne Jugan's attributes that she is able to nimbly guide families, Residents and care providers," explains Mother Mary Michael, while presenting the award.

The admissions process begins with a phone call to Cindy. She explains the requirements and determines if the needs of prospective Residents' can be met through the services offered at the Jeanne Jugan Residence. "I feel so fortunate to have this time to get to know individuals," explains Cindy "by the time a new Resident moves in I already feel like they are a part of our family and I get to welcome them home!"

The Jeanne Jugan Award was created to recognize those employees who go beyond as they carry out the mission of the Little Sisters. Each year employees 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.

Cindy a native of Philadelphia earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from University of Dayton, in Ohio and a master's degree in social work from Adelphi University in New York. She lives in Chevy Chase, has keen interests in history and genealogy, enjoys volunteering at the National Archives and Family History Center, and spending time with her family.



Cindy Finelli, with Sr. Celestine and Mother Mary Michael, received the Jeanne Jugan Award for "best living out the spirit of our Mother Foundress as an employee of our Home."

# Mother's Corner

By: Mother Mary Michael



After several months of quiet fundraising, we are happy to be able to announce our Capital Campaign, *Building Together on Sacred Ground*. We are immensely grateful to all those who so generously helped us during the “quiet phase” of our campaign, to raise more than 60 percent of the funds needed to meet our goal. Joyfully, this meant that Phase 1 renovations to bring our chapel up to current safety standards could commence.

Exultant that the challenges of winter are behind us and Phase 1 nearly completed, we look forward to reopening the chapel in June. We anticipate that Phase II will begin this fall; this phase will focus on replacing HVAC systems and remaining windows, as well as renovating the 2nd and 3rd floors of the convent. Most importantly, remaining safety issues will be addressed, which include, removal of asbestos, and upgrading the fire alarm system.

Most recently, it has been such a great grace walking in the spirit of our two recently canonized Popes, John XXIII and John Paul II, and being a part of the very special celebrations held here in Washington. A special photo presentation of canonization events is posted on our website.

Again, we thank God for the goodness of so many people who support our mission and invite each of you to our Home to see the changes. Please be assured of a grateful remembrance in our continuing prayers and in those of our Residents for you and your intentions.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Continuing the work of St. Jeanne Jugan, our MISSION is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied

with dignity until God calls them to himself.

Our VISION is to contribute to the Culture of Life by nurturing communities where each person is valued, the solidarity of the human family and the wisdom of age are celebrated, and the compassionate love of Christ is shared with all.

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org)

## Our Needs

### Planned Giving

Bequests have been one of the most meaningful sources of funds for the ministry of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Through the advanced planning and generosity of others, we have been blessed to continue working with the elderly.

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

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.

For details please contact Heather Cave our director of development at 202-269-1831 or [devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org).

Please let us know if you plan a gift or make a provision for us in your estate plan.

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

## Upcoming Events

### Calling All ‘Selfies’

May 31

*Did you take a “selfie” at our Tea & Tulips event? If so, we invite you to submit it for a chance to win a \$200 gift card. To enter, email your selfie to Heather Cave at [devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org), no later than May 31. This invite was inspired by Pope Francis, who took selfies with crowds on Palm Sunday. Remember, you earn extra credit for a shot that includes a Sister, Awareness Committee Member or one of our Home’s employees.*



### Summer Sweepstakes

July 1 - September 15

*Watch for Sweepstakes tickets due in mailboxes this July! The sweeps runs July 1 thru Sept. 15 – drawing Sept. 17. All money raised goes to our Fuel Fund.*



*Eva, with the help of Judy Ball and Sr. Joseph, selects one of our Spring Sweeps winners!*

### St. Jeanne Jugan’s Feast Day

August 30

*On a cold winter’s day in 1839, Jeanne Jugan, welcomed an elderly, destitute, blind woman into her home. Jeanne gave Anne Chauvin her bed, a “Home,” where meals were shared, joys multiplied and sorrows divided.*



*“Refuse God nothing ... We must do all through love.” – Saint Jeanne Jugan*