

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

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

Summer 2016
Volume 9 | Issue 1

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



Jessica Rich a member of Ft. Belvoir's Catholic Women of the Chapel and her husband Devin deliver an abundance of supplies, which were donated by the CWOC and parishioners. The CWOC is just one of several church and school groups donating items, like laundry soap and batteries, essential to caring for our dear ones.

JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE



SAVE THE DATE

Summer Sweepstakes
July 21 – September 21

St. Jeanne Jugan's Feast Day
August 30

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
September 1 - December 15

APPALOSSA Music Festival
September 3 & 4

Celebrating the Year of Mercy

Reflecting Faith and Practicing the Works of Mercy

During this Jubilee Year, our benefactors, volunteers, and even our Residents are answering Pope Francis' call to show God's mercy. The pope has asked that the faithful practice works of mercy by helping the poor. "When you forget yourself and think of others, that's love," the pope said.

According to the Catechism the works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities like feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and imprisoned. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

Our Foundress Saint Jeanne Jugan traveled the roads on foot seeking alms, food and other items essential to caring for the aged poor living in our homes. "If you'd like," she said one day to a businessman, "we can share the elderly today; you can feed them, and I'll take care of them." Today, friends and volunteers help us with many

day-to-day tasks here at our home from meal service and transportation, to manicures and haircuts, and office work. Individuals and groups have spent more than 3,730 hours volunteering in our home so far this year.

"We are so blessed," said Mother Mary Michael, "we simply couldn't do what we do for our dear ones without the community's support. Your willingness to share the aged with us by making donations, visiting with Residents, and working around our home, ensures that we are able to continue our mission to care for this city's needy aged." In fact, with your help we are able to offer enriching activities, clothing, medical care, more than 110,000 nourishing meals, and 36,500 nights of safe shelter, each year.

Prayer, which sustains all the works of mercy, is an important element of our observance of this Jubilee Year too. On June 4, we invited families and children to join us for a rosary holy hour to pray for the unborn and family life.

This time of prayer was animated by Janis Clarke, a consecrated virgin in the archdiocese of Washington, and Rev. Peter Ryan, S.J. The event ended with a time of fellowship in the Café, encouraging our young guests to become acquainted with the Residents. The holy hour was Janis' idea, for she believes that joining forces, the very young and the very old have special power to fight the culture of death. "Rather than abortion and euthanasia," she said with great enthusiasm, "youth-and-aged together can make a big difference for life!"



Sister greets parishioners after Mass at Little Flower and provides an opportunity for alms-giving in support of our mission to care for the elderly poor. Like Jeanne Jugan, we always thank our benefactors by praying for them daily. Janis visits with the Residents and some of the young people who participated in the holy hour.



Our Awareness Committee gathers for a photo: Suzie Squier, Ellen Cullen, Mary Beth Donnelly, Cathie Lively, Susan Gorman, Ellen Conley, Genevieve Murphy, Patti Farrell, Heather Cave, and Aimee Dominick. Not pictured: Nancy Itteilag Donnelly. The Sisters thank the volunteers, including Ashley Allman (standing) of A. Dominick Events.

Volunteers

Practice the Works of Mercy By Helping the Poor

The Annual Tea & Tulips event held at Columbia Country Club in April was a spectacular success thanks to the efforts of our amazing volunteers – the Awareness Committee and the ladies of A. Dominick Events – who handle every aspect of the Tea!

It is simply amazing to see how the Tea has grown since it was first imagined as a “Friend-Raiser” for the Little Sisters 11 years ago. This year 278 women – old and new friends – enjoyed a buffet of savory sandwiches and sweet treats including napoleons, raisin scones with Devonshire cream, fruit tarts, and tea, of course. During the tea, Mary Beth and Susan surprised Mother Mary Michael with a donation from the Blessed Sacrament Mother of Grace

Sodality. Ticket sales and a ‘lively-affle’ of the 18 fabulous baskets created by the committee, raised \$46,790, a friend-raising record-breaker.

Our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan often exclaimed in gratitude, “Our benefactors – where would we be without them?” The same sentiment fills our hearts today as we thank God for the goodness of so many people who support our mission.

These funds will support our mission to care for this city’s elderly poor, providing the means to care for our Residents who depend on us for everything from nutritious food, medical care, and enriching activities, to a safe and comfortable home. We are fortunate to have so many wonderful friends.

In fact, many individuals and groups too, like the AJJ, Knights of Columbus, and Blessed

Sacramento Sodality, frequently visit and spend time engaging and entertaining Residents. In addition to visiting, and arranging Socials and Bingo games in the Café, volunteers are dazzling us with their beautiful voices, Irish step-dancing and instrumental expertise.

Most recently, we were delighted by twenty-six children aged 4 through 18; the cast of “Songspell” Philippines, a show of Filipino culture showcasing the talents of these young people from Davao City. Wearing brilliant costumes, they danced and sang their way into our hearts; true ambassadors of goodwill (see photos below).

Individuals and groups of all ages are raising-friends and funds, lifting Residents spirits, and getting our toes tapping by sharing their gifts. To borrow a few words from Louis Armstrong, “I see friends shaking hands. Saying, ‘How do you do?’ They’re really saying, ‘I love you.’ And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.”



Little Sisters Community News



We are delighted to welcome two Little Sisters returning to our home from St. Martin’s Residence in Baltimore.

Sr. Alphonse (left) returns to the Jeanne Jugan Residence, as the administrator, she brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge about our home having served here on two previous occasions.

Sr. Maria Grace returns as Mother Mistress to the junior Little Sisters who will arrive this fall. Our home is the formation house for the temporary-professed Little Sisters’ doctrinal year – known as the Juniorate – and Sr. Maria Grace assists with their continuing formation and tends to the Residents on the Sacred Heart Unit.

Sister Maria Grace and Mother Mary Michael pose for a photo (right). Now that the convent repairs are completed, the Junior sisters can join our community.

“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,” said 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.”



JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE



After sprinkling the altar with holy water, Archbishop of Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl incenses the altar as he would at the beginning of the Mass.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl

Altar Blessing

Cardinal Donald Wuerl celebrated a Feb. 20 Mass here at our chapel to bless the new altar and ambo.

“May the word of God always be heard in this place,” prayed the Cardinal in blessing the new ambo, “as it unfolds the mystery of Christ before you and achieves your salvation within the Church.”

After the homily the altar was blessed, a prayer of blessing offered, and then the Cardinal sprinkled the altar with holy water and then blessed it with incense. The altar, which had been bare of decoration at the beginning of Mass,

was then prepared for the celebration of the Eucharist with the altar cloth and candles by Sr. Jeanne Veronique and Sr. Mary Bernard.

The dedication of this new altar and ambo here in our home’s chapel is a moment of public witness to the faith. It is a ritualized proclamation of our faith in the presence of Christ with his people. Just as, by the proclamation of the word, we are reminded of Christ’s death and Resurrection, so by the blessing and honoring of this altar are we renewed in our faith conviction that Christ continues to be present to his people.



Cardinal Wuerl, seen here holding the sacred chalice brought to the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. There was great joy when he told us that it was last used by Pope Francis during his visit to Washington, D.C. last September.



Cardinal Wuerl kneels to greet our Residents, taking their hands, and sharing a few sweet moments and gentle words with each one.



AJJ Promises To Serve Jesus in the Elderly

Msgr. Joseph Ranieri presided at a joyous Mass on May 1, during which twenty lay Jeanne Jugan Associates (AJJ) promised to serve Jesus “in the elderly with joy and love, by following the example of humility and confidence left to us by Jeanne Jugan.” The AJJ provides an opportunity for individuals to share in the spirituality and mission of the Little Sisters.

Jeanne Jugan Associates serve as the Little Sisters’ hearts and helping hands. AJJ help to spread the charism of our Mother Foundress as active volunteers; they serve as lectors and Eucharistic ministers, help with household tasks and the meal service, and host Resident activities. “Your main goal,” said Monsignor, “is to help the Sisters by making the elderly happy!”

In his homily, Msgr. Ranieri focused on the great roles that peace and trust in our Father play in our getting to the heavenly Jerusalem. “We must not live behind the locked door of our mind and heart, doors locked by fear and disappointment. Rather we must trust that God is present with us and our loved ones; that we are in God’s merciful hands.”

“It really strikes me,” said AJJ member Pati Abad, “how Jeanne Jugan takes an elderly, poor, blind woman from the street into her home and gives the lady her bed to sleep in. And now, so many years later (177 years) the Sisters are still doing this. I am truly touched by the charism of the community for the Residents.”

Saint Jeanne Jugan envisioned hospitality as a humble, charitable service uniting in one family the Little Sisters, the elderly and the lay collaborators who wish to serve Jesus Christ in the person of their needy brothers and sisters.

If you are interested in joining the Association Jeanne Jugan, please contact Sr. Mary Bernard at aptwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org

**“What happiness for us to be
a Little Sister of the Poor!” -
St. Jeanne Jugan**

Mother's Corner

By: Mother Mary Michael



As summer nears, our faithful family of Residents, volunteers, staff, and Little Sisters are reveling in sunshine filled days and continuing to share God's merciful love with others.

“‘Mercy’ derives from *miser cordis*, which means opening one’s heart to wretchedness,” the pope said “and immediately we go to the Lord: mercy is divine attitude which embraces, it is God’s giving Himself to us, accepting us, and bowing to forgive. Jesus said he came not for those who were good but for the sinners. He did not come for the healthy, who do not need the doctor, but for the sick. For this reason, we can say that mercy is God’s identity card. God of Mercy, merciful God.”

We are so grateful to you, for opening your heart to support our mission of hospitality as we serve Jesus in the person of the elderly poor, and enabling us to bring joy and happiness into the lives of our dear aged. I am reminded of “Merciful Like The Father,” the motto of the “Year of Mercy.”

I am pleased to announce that one of the last major projects of our Capital Campaign, a new fire alarm system, is nearly complete and has passed all inspections. We have whistles and bells ringing and a new sound system alerting everyone, even our neighbors that our new system is working.

Now that the repairs are finished, the Junior Sisters can join our community and we happily anticipate their arrival this fall. We ask you to pray for all those discerning a religious vocation, and to continue to pray in thanksgiving for all God’s favors received the past few months.

I wish you many blessings and safe travels this summer.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org

Answering God's Call...

An Instrument of God's Love

Our new Superior General, Mother Maria del Monte Auxiliadora, or Mother Maria, as she asked us to call her, was elected by our General Chapter on September 8, 2015.

During a recent interview she was asked what drew her to her vocation. “When I was 17,” she said “I was “obliged” to go the Little Sisters to fulfill my Social Service, which was obligatory at that time in Spain. The Lord was awaiting me there for I was immediately struck by the kindness, joy and dedication of the Little Sisters towards the Residents, as well as by the great charity I saw they had for each other. I just saw that they loved one another and that really helped me.”

Also, she was asked what she would like to say to young women discerning a vocation to consecrated life.

“Following Christ in consecrated life is a beautiful adventure, which is far from monotonous or boring;” she said “it fills our hearts with happiness provided that we offer him our whole person, with all that we are and all that we have. As He says in the Gospel, we receive a hundred times more now in this world.”

Mother has served in a variety of roles, including mistress of novices in our Spanish novitiate and provincial superior in Spain. She made her profession there in 1982.

For vocation information, Contact Sr. Constance: serenity@littlesistersofthepoor.org



Upcoming Events

Fuel Fund/Summer Sweepstakes

July 21 - September 21

Watch for Sweepstakes tickets due in mailboxes this July! The sweeps runs July 21 thru September 21 - drawing September 23. All money raised goes to our Fuel Fund to keep our Residents comfortable.

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. Please join us as we unite in prayer to offer our gratitude for the life and example of Saint Jeanne Jugan. We will gather in our chapel to celebrate Jeanne's gesture of loving hospitality.

Combined Federal Campaign

September 1- December 15

Remember you can support our mission to care for the needy aged by designating the Little Sisters of the Poor, #53116, in your workplace giving. Federal workers, retirees, and government contractors are eligible to donate through the CFC, the federal government's official workplace giving campaign.

APPALOOSA Music Festival

September 3 & 4

Music: Hosted by Scythian, a DC Based folk-rock band, Appaloosa features 30+ bands playing on 3 stages! From Scythian and Socks in the Frying Pan, to The Black Lilies, and Mipso, this festival has your music tastes covered. Sign up for email updates to get all of the latest news on the festival at appaloosafestival.com

