



Mother Margaret shares a sweet moment at the Longevity Fun-Run with Ann, who turns 104 years-old this year! (left photo) At an impromptu dual changing of the guard in early March, Mother Provincial Loraine Marie Claire (center) hands over symbolic keys, the DC key to Mother Margaret Regina and the Newark key to Mother Mary Michael, the new superiors of those Homes. Sandra (right) performs at the celebration to bid adieu to Mother Mary Michael.

Mother Margaret Regina Arrives in DC Amidst Cherry Blossoms, Tolling Bells, and Welcoming Cheers

As Washingtonians we anticipate few things as much as we do our iconic cherry blossoms each spring. Fittingly, our long-awaited new superior, Mother Margaret Regina, arrived along with the cherry trees' peak-bloom March 28. She succeeds Mother Mary Michael as superior of Jeanne Jugan Residence and St. Joseph's Villa.

Her arrival from our Home in Newark, Delaware was heralded by the joyful tolling of our two bells (weighing in at 200 lbs. and 150 lbs. each) letting people for miles around know that a special event was underway.

The Residents and Staff gathered in the auditorium to welcome Mother Margaret with cheers and applause. Mother was happy to return the greeting and said her goal is to get to know all by name!

Mother Margaret is a native of southwest Philadelphia. She was introduced to the Little Sisters' mission as a teenager when she joined her school friends in answering a call for volunteers.

“What happiness for us to be a Little Sister of the Poor!”

— Saint Jeanne Jugan

Some of her classmates sorted canned goods, but she was asked to fill the milk pitchers, fix the butter, and help serve a meal in the dining room.

Asked to return the next day, Mother said she couldn't say “I can't” because she thought “perhaps there would be no one to fix the milk and butter.” God was starting to tug at her heartstrings, and she felt needed.

Slowly but surely, the Lord's call became clearer to her. She would serve Jesus in the person of the elderly poor — the sole apostolate of the Little Sisters. She would over time go through the novitiate, juniorate, and a second novitiate in France in preparation for her perpetual vows.

The motherhouse of the Little Sisters, La Tour St. Joseph, is located in St. Pern, Brittany, where our foundress Saint

Jeanne Jugan shared life with the novices, postulants, and professed Little Sisters. She lived her last days there and is buried in the crypt under the main chapel, a site many people visit on pilgrimage. “The spirit is there in that holy place,” Mother said, referring to the charism the Lord gave to Saint Jeanne and which the Little Sisters strive to keep alive in their hearts.

Mother Margaret Regina has served as local superior in a number of Homes throughout the United States. She also served as provincial superior in our Chicago and New York provinces.

In early March, our Sisters, Residents, and Staff gathered to celebrate Mother Mary Michael's ten years as the superior of our wonderful and remarkably busy Home. “I wish to personally thank you for your continued support, kindness, and generosity to our Home,” she said, “especially during this time of pandemic.” Godspeed Mother Mary Michael!

Please keep our superiors and all our Little Sisters in your prayers!

Benefactor 'Lifts Us Up' and 'Keeps Us Safe'

Anonymous Gift Pays for Elevator Overhaul

Last spring the Little Sisters were absolutely delighted to learn about the arrival of a \$400,000 check, an anonymous gift! It was earmarked by the donor for overhauling our Home's outdated elevators. This gift really lifts us up and is wonderful news for all of us here at Jeanne Jugan Residence.

Work began at once on the two elevators in our lobby and the service elevator by the kitchen. A welcome cacophony of reverberating clangs and whirling chatters indicated that the project was underway.

The scope of work included everything from new microprocessor controllers and infrared electronic door detectors to new code compliant emergency service features and a submersible hydraulic oil tank and valve.

Now, the drills and jackhammers are silent, a signal that the work is finished. "We are very grateful to the benefactor who enabled us to complete this project, a job crucial to everyone's safety," said Mother Margaret Regina. "The most important thing is that our forty-year-old elevators are dependable, safe, and up to code."

Residents and Staff are delighted to use the newly overhauled elevators. "Our kitchen team... they are absolute troopers for hauling these bulky carts, laden with food and dishes, all the way to the lobby and back several times each day," said Charron, our newly promoted dining services director, pointing to the hot food carts. "We simply couldn't wait until the inspection was complete so that we could use the service elevator. It's been wonderful."

We are thankful to all our friends and benefactors for their generous donations and their precious time. It is only with your help that we have been able to care for the elderly poor in our nation's capital for more than 150 years, a mission we are committed to carrying out for many years to come! As good stewards of our Home and in the Pope's words, "we take care of the now, for the sake of tomorrow."



INTRODUCING ELAINE BARBER, LICSW

Director of Social Services

Elaine came to us with a wealth of social work experience in neurology, psychiatry, rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities in the DC area. Her primary focus has been serving the elderly.



In her role as the Home's social worker, Elaine coordinates all social work and admissions functions. She wears many hats, including helping with the welcoming and adjustment of new Residents and families, counseling for emotional and social support, facilitating care within the care plan team, assisting with end-of-life planning, answering inquiries about the Home, and assisting applicants with the admission process.

She is pleased to be at Little Sisters of the Poor. "I feel honored to work alongside the Sisters and lay team," said Elaine, "and to be part of the team well known for both providing the best quality care and the spirit of loving service."

Elaine earned a master's in social work from Boston University and completed extensive post graduate work in family systems at the Family Practice Center.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Elaine is an active member of National Association of Social Workers, National Association of Christian Social Workers, and the American Society on Aging.

Laudato Si's Growing Success

Residents' Indoor Gardening Project

As the Church observed the fifth anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si* last year we were looking for a way to make it more relevant to our Residents. A grant from the Archdiocese of Washington has financed an indoor gardening project, which in the spirit of *Laudato Si*, is encouraging our Residents' contact with the natural world.

Our 'Green Team' made up of Resident gardeners is growing an indoor garden of edibles. Already they have planted the seeds for a fresh variety of herbs and vegetables – like basil and cilantro, beets and rainbow carrots. "The grant funds paid for all the supplies — seeds, soil, raised planters, a rolling gardening cart, gloves and tools as part of the Archdiocese's *Laudato Si* plan," said Sr. Constance.

"This project is an ideal means of



encouraging our Residents' contact with the natural world," said Francine Whitely, our director of activities. "A hobby or enjoyable pastime like gardening can have a multitude of benefits for seniors — everything from keeping the mind and body active to staving off boredom and reducing stress. It is a win-win!"

Although COVID initially prevented

the team from gathering to plant seeds, our Activities staff jumped in to get things rolling by pushing the planters and soil to each member's room for seed sowing. Their individual efforts turned out to be a collectively enjoyable and growing success, as evidenced by the happy smiles of our Residents, and the healthy plants growing in our solarium!

LITTLE SISTERS COMMUNITY NEWS

Cardinal Gregory Pays Us a Visit

We had the joy of a visit from Cardinal Gregory on May 11. He celebrated Mass and then greeted the Residents, Staff, and Little Sisters. We are always happy when we have this occasion, and we know he counts very much on the prayers of the Residents. In his homily the Cardinal spoke about Jesus' words in the Gospel of St. John, "I am the light of the world." The Cardinal pointed out that all the lights we have in the chapel are artificial. Sometimes they burn out, etc., but Jesus is the Light that is always there for us, and His Light never goes out.



Sixty Years a Little Sister

Sister Mary Bernard du St. Esprit, a native of Akron, OH, celebrated 60 years of religious profession in May. She made her first vows in May, 1962 and has served the elderly poor ever since, faithfully bearing witness to Jesus Christ and His Church.

"Sr. Mary Bernard is so kind and unassuming," said Mother Margaret Regina. "She served as a member of our General Council and then as provincial superior for our New York and Baltimore provinces for many years — 24 to be exact. She now serves the Residents

of our Home in the dining room and in many hidden ways, accompanies Sr. Jeanne



Veronique on her collecting rounds, and contributes much to our community life."

Sister was a founding member and past chairperson of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, a network of

superiors of women's religious communities in America formed to support religious life as a vocation nurturing the Church's life and holiness.

"It is a real honor," said Mother Margaret Regina, "to have Sister here in our community!"

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Family and Friends,



These first weeks in my new Home here in Washington, D.C. have been busy ones. Everyone has made me feel welcome and already I've made progress in learning everyone's names.

Just to share a little bit of news, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of Msgr. Bazan's priestly ordination May 26. Monsignor concelebrated Mass with our chaplain Father Philip Simo, OSB, and gave the homily. The Residents broke out in applause on hearing of his diamond jubilee. We thank God for Monsignor's presence in our Home.

Our Residents have enjoyed the beauty of spring and getting outside into the lovely weather. In May we took part in several fun activities to celebrate both Older Americans Month and National Skilled Nursing Care Week, including a city-wide "Longevity Fun-Run" sponsored by Forest Hills of D.C. The relay between eleven senior living communities honored all those who live and work on behalf of elders, especially our centenarians, nurses, and CNAs. Two of our own staff members, Joyce Miles and Shelly Kelly, represented us as they ran and walked over five miles to Knollwood Life Plan and Retirement Community in Northwest Washington.

Thank you for your support, which means a lot to our Residents and all the Little Sisters and reinforces our own awareness of the importance of our vocation, and the goodness of God's Providence. Simply put, it is only with your support and the help of our staff that we can continue our mission to care for this city's aged poor. Please know that you have a special place in our prayers.

Gratefully in the Lord,
Mother Margaret Regina

SAVE THE DATE

Tea & Tulips April 1 through June 30

Tea & Tulips is a "Fund Raising" non-event this year to keep everyone safe, amid concerns over the pandemic. A heartfelt thank you to everyone taking part. So far, we have raised more than \$34,000. All funds raised go to support the daily needs of our Residents. On July 1, Mother Margaret Regina will select a winner of the special drawing — a table for eight and champagne service at next year's tea!

**There is no donation required to be entered into the drawing, simply RSVP via email or mail.*

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly July 24

We are preparing to celebrate World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on July 24. The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the occasion is "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15), emphasizes how grandparents and the elderly are a value and a gift to society.

Summer Sweepstakes July 29 – September 22

Watch for Sweeps tickets due in mailboxes this July! The sweeps runs July 29 through

September 22 - drawing September 23. All money raised goes to our Fuel Fund to keep the lights on and our Residents comfortable.

Join Us In Prayer On Our Mother Foundress' Feast Day August 30

Little Sisters around the world celebrate on her feast day. Here we mark the day with a Mass. Join us as we unite in prayer to offer our gratitude for the life and example of Saint Jeanne Jugan and to pray for vocations.

Appaloosa Roots Music Festival

September 3-4

The festival takes place Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3 – 4, at Skyline Ranch Resort in Front Royal, VA. Voted "Best Festival in D.C." and nominated for "Best Family Festival," Appaloosa has something for everybody. The musical experience features rising stars in Americana, Celtic, Bluegrass and Indy Folk. A highlight of Appaloosa is the Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m. Bishop Burbidge of the Arlington diocese is presiding over this year's Mass, outside in the Blue Ridge Mountains. All the proceeds from the Sunday collection go to the Little Sisters of the Poor to support our mission. Tickets are on sale now at www.appaloosafestival.com

THE NEED CONTINUES

Here at Jeanne Jugan Residence, we offer a Home to this city's needy seniors, one of society's most vulnerable groups of individuals. Through your gifts, you can touch their lives, bringing them hope, security and loving care in a comfortable Home.

There are many ways you can help: make a stock donation, give online or by mail, make a simple bequest to the Little Sisters of the Poor in your will, or name us as the beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan. Every donation counts. Each dollar helps the Little Sisters care for our Residents who depend on us for everything... nutritious food, medical support, enriching activities, safe shelter, and nursing care.

Our Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan based the future of her work on an evangelical challenge to live from day-to-day, never amassing goods or money, refusing perpetual endowments, placing all her confidence in God.

For more information on ways you can help, contact Heather Cave, our director of development, devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org or 202-269-1831.