



Founded in 1839

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

Spring 2010

# Blessings

The Little Sisters of the Poor serving the Aged of New Jersey since 1879



*St. Joseph's Home  
for the Elderly  
140 Shepherd Lane  
Totowa, NJ 07512  
(973) 942-0300*

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*As Little Sisters of the Poor, we care for the elderly poor in the spirit of humble service which we have received from St. Jeanne Jugan. We welcome the elderly as we would Jesus Christ himself and serve them with love and respect until death.*

*The Little Sisters of the Poor do not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion or gender.*

*The Little Sisters of the Poor do not share or sell donor information. Our mailing list is strictly private and confidential.*

*Please visit our website to learn more about the Little Sisters of the Poor.*

[www.littlesistersofthepoor.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org)

## *A Letter from Mother Gerard Marie*

*Dear Friends of St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly,  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Now that we have entered into the Easter season, we join with you in singing our hymns of joy and hope at the Resurrection of Christ! May it be a time of great blessings for you and your loved ones!*

*As you will read in the following pages, we have had many events and joyful times to celebrate, one of which was the feast of our holy Protector, good St. Joseph. Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli joined with many of the Priests from the Archdiocese of Newark and Diocese of Paterson to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for all our Friends and Benefactors, some of whom were able to be with us for the occasion. It was a beautiful day!*

*Now that we have a new bus, we will be able to plan some trips for our Residents which will include the infirm, thanks to the wheelchair lift. We are grateful to you for helping us to make these occasions possible through your continued support of our work and your kindness to us.*

*In our big home there is always work to be done for the upkeep of equipment and the building, as it also gets older with the years. In fact our home opened in 1976, making us almost thirty four years old! Good St. Joseph continues to watch over us through our good Friends and Benefactors, and we know he will watch over all your needs, too.*

*May our Risen Lord bless you and all your loved ones!*

*With gratitude and prayers,*

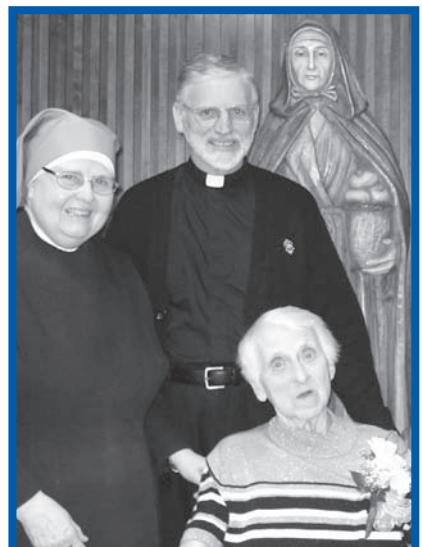
*Sr. Gerard Marie, l.s.p.*

*Sister Gerard Marie, l.s.p.  
Superior*

## *A Double Celebration!*

*Jeannette Moreno celebrated her 25th year at the home in January! She was happy to share the day with her son, Father David Moreno, S.D.B., who celebrated 40 years of religious Profession in the Order of St. Don Bosco.*

*Jeannette is pictured with her son, Fr. David and Mother Gerard Marie, Superior.*



***"If God is with us,***

**MEMORABLE MOMENTS WITH OUR RESIDENTS**



Vera Iannelli bakes Christmas cookies.



Dorothy Wild celebrates 2010!



Marie Saunders shares a smile at the Snow Ball.



Marie Skurka enjoys the St. Patrick's Day festivities.



Funny valentines! Mary Murray with Nursing Assistant, Yolanda Mercado, as Cupid.



King and Queen of the Mardi Gras procession: Deacon William Hussey and Margaret Carafello.

**Feast Day of St. Joseph**

St. Joseph, whom our Mother Foundress chose as our Protector and Provider from the very beginning of the Congregation, was honored at the Home on March 19, 2010. Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of the Paterson Diocese was the main celebrant at the concelebrated Mass in our chapel. Sharing in this wonderful celebration were several priests visiting from surrounding parishes. Students from Don Bosco Preparatory High School provided the music for the Mass and participated as altar servers and choir members. Priests and benefactors later served dinner to our Residents, sharing in this act of hospitality with the Little Sisters.



Pictured left: Bishop Serratelli, Margaret Bierster and Mother Gerard Marie.

*“it will be accomplished.” ~St. Jeanne Jugan*

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## *“Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”*

*~Dr. Seuss*

Despite the cold and stormy winter, Residents were warmed by the vision of the newly purchased 2009 Chevy Allstar XL Shuttle Bus parked at St. Joseph’s Home! This was made possible by funding from foundation grants, individual donors who supported the Beefsteak Dinner & 50/50 Raffle, the Basket Bonanza, 50/50 Raffle & Super Raffle, and donations from our Residents, their families and friends, and our employees and volunteers. We also experienced a tremendous outpouring of support from our good friends and benefactors who responded to the Match Gift campaign in our Winter issue of *Blessings*. The new bus offers comfortable seating for 24 passengers, a wheelchair lift and storage space. Our Residents have already enjoyed visits to nearby Homes operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor and eagerly anticipate picnic outings and shopping trips, spending time with friends at neighboring parishes, pumpkin-picking, vistas of the foliage in the fall, and special holiday excursions. Oh, there is so much to see and do! We can now bring new experiences to our Residents that will enrich their lives, giving them much to look forward to, and new memories to cherish!



*Residents and Little Sisters cheerfully show their gratitude for the new bus!*

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## *Basket Bonanza Benefits New Bus*

A group of very dedicated volunteers worked diligently, preparing for our Basket Bonanza for months. The result of such determination was a wide array of beautifully displayed baskets, terrific prizes to be won, and delicious home-baked goods to complement the evening! Thank you to all committee members for your tireless efforts, and to those who attended to support this fundraiser. The proceeds helped to fund our new bus.



*Committee chairpersons pictured from left:  
Marie Tolerico, Jim Francese,  
Terry Vittorio and  
JoAnn Giamonco pictured  
with Sr. Berchmans, and  
Dorothy Hofmann pictured  
at right.*



## **May is Older Americans Month!**

May is Older Americans Month, and the Administration on Aging has issued the theme: "Age Strong! Live Long!" We join in recognizing and honoring our older Americans. Their hard work has resulted in progress in industrialization, developments in technology, and transformations to our world culture. Their diversity has gifted us with many valuable traditions and customs. How many pass on the precious gift of their strong religious faith! Our older Americans are now living longer. They choose to be active, continue their education, volunteer and share their abilities and knowledge, having a positive and lasting impact on our society. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their character and fortitude, and give thanks for all they share with us.



*Elizabeth Harrison participates in a group exercise session.*

*John Nolter enjoys wood-working.*



*Happy 100th Birthday,  
Anna Bakic!*

*"Be kind. It is a great grace God is giving you. In serving the aged, it is  
be himself whom you are serving."* ~St.Jeanne Jugan

"A Solemn Celebration of the Eucharist in thanksgiving for the Canonization by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI" is available on DVD for the purchase price of \$5.00 each. Please send your check payable to "Little Sisters of the Poor" and note "DVD" on the envelope and in the check memo line. The DVD will be mailed to you.



*"The real secret of happiness is not what you have  
or what you receive; it's what you share."* ~Anonymous

### **In Celebration of our Volunteers**

Every day we witness the dedication of those who contribute their time and talent to our Residents and the Little Sisters. The many services provided by our caring volunteers are an integral part of what makes our Home so special. Whether it is serving meals, folding and delivering laundry, helping to decorate for the holidays, lending a hand at planned activities and events, providing essential administrative support, driving the Little Sisters to church visits or errands, or just coming to visit and spend time with Residents, our volunteers present us with a wonderful example of unconditional giving.



*Pictured are volunteer Amy Scott  
and Resident Gloria Mendez.*

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

September 29, 2010 Annual Beefsteak Dinner, Brownstone House, Paterson, NJ -6:30 PM  
November 20, 2010 Annual Christmas Craft and Bake Sale in the Auditorium -10:00AM - 4:00PM