



St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

Spring 2011

# Blessings

Founded in 1839

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



140 Shepherd Lane  
Totowa, NJ 07512  
(973) 942-0300

*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.*

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



*Hope  
New Life  
Joy*

## *Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!*

*We have reason to celebrate this beautiful feast! The great message that Jesus gives us at Easter is "Peace, do not be afraid. It is I!" How much we need this message today, as we share the great concerns of the world and the sufferings of so many people. Yes the Lord is truly risen! He is with us and will not leave us orphans. So let us trust in Him!*

*We cannot let this issue of "Blessings" go without a word about our beloved John Paul II, who was beatified on May 1, 2011. It was he who beatified St. Jeanne Jugan in 1982 in Rome. His own beatification now brings back many happy memories of that special day in October. How often did he himself preach the Easter message of Joy, "Do not be afraid!"*

*The Lord is risen and he is among us. Let us rejoice!*

*With gratitude for your kindness and generosity,*

*The Residents and Little Sisters of the Poor  
of St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly*

*Love is patient, love is kind. It always protects, always trusts,  
always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

*--Excerpts from 1 Corinthians 13*



*Rosemary and Rudolph D'Onofrio recently celebrated their  
50th Wedding Anniversary! Family members, friends, Sisters and  
Residents shared in an Anniversary Mass, followed by a festive dinner  
gathering to commemorate this joyful occasion.*

## *Our Visiting Seminarians*

By Gerald M. Costello

More and more, seminaries are turning to programs of pastoral formation --practical, hands-on lessons in which priests-in-training face some of the concerns they'll meet every day later in life. It's that kind of program--conducted by Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall in South Orange--in which St. Joseph's Home is cooperating, to the benefit of seminarians and Residents alike. One afternoon a week, the Home is host to a group of five seminarians who use the time to interact with Residents, learning about the aging and their concerns as well as issues of illness. "It's a wonderful way for the seminarians to acquire experience in an important phase of their ministry, meeting the elderly," said Sr. Rose, who coordinates the visits.



*Anne Skinner with seminarians (from left) Oliver Nilo, Antonio Sarento and Thomas Quinn.*



*Maria Stuck with seminarians (from left) Lemmuel Camacho and Kevin Kilgore.*

The seminarians spend about three hours at the Home each time they come, mostly making personal visits to the Residents' rooms or assisting with parties or other group functions. There's a spiritual aspect to the program as well, based on the seasons of the liturgical year. The seminarians might offer reflections for Advent, for example, or lead the Stations of the Cross during Lent. On other occasions they'll lead the recitation of the Rosary. "Our Residents pray for vocations, of course, and that's a source of great encouragement for the seminarians," said Sr. Rose. "In turn the seminarians develop a close relationship with the Residents, and an understanding of the elderly and infirm. In welcoming the Seton Hall seminarians to our Home, we all become an important part of their priestly training."

## *Feast Day of St. Joseph Our Protector and Provider*



*A statue of St. Joseph casts a protective watch over our Home.*

St. Jeanne Jugan turned to St. Joseph, head of the Holy Family, as provider to obtain all she needed to care for the aged poor. She chose him as Protector of the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Feast Day of St. Joseph was celebrated on March 19th. Bishop Charles J. McDonnell, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Newark, was the main celebrant at the concelebrated Mass. Priests later served dinner to our Residents and visiting benefactors, sharing in this act of hospitality with the Little Sisters.



*From left: Fr. Kenneth Sherman, Fr. Joseph Murphy, Msgr. Herbert Tillyer, Bishop Charles J. McDonnell, Msgr. James Murray, Fr. Richard Villanova, Fr. Anthony Mastroeni, Msgr. Thomas Coletta, Msgr. Eugene Boland and Sr. Rose.*

*Catherine Craig and Fr. Anthony Mastroeni*



*“He is so good...love God very much. All for him, do everything through love.” ~ St. Jeanne Jugan*



### *Novitiate Visit*

We were so pleased that the Novitiate visited Totowa to present their Christmas program. Residents were happy to see that their prayers for more vocations have been answered! During the visit, the Sisters serenaded our Residents with the beautiful sounds of Christmas bells and carols from around the world. The afternoon passed too quickly for everyone!

*Sr. Ana Malia Benedict, novice, shares a happy moment with Margaret Matthews.*

### *Memorable Moments*



*Snow fun! Theresa Crimi had the perfect solution for just what to do with winter's snow.*



*Cheerful Valentines! Robert Gray shares a laugh with Nursing Assistant Yolanda Mercado, as Cupid.*



*Pictured with John Nolter are (from left) Gloria Kolodziej, Irene Motyka, Carol Hahn and Helene Christie.*

Irish eyes are smiling! A group of talented friends from neighboring parishes visited with us to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. As they shared stories and songs of their Irish heritage, they sparked an enthusiasm among our Residents to sing along!



*Volunteer Dottie Alt escorts Regina Basiak, who represented the much-anticipated arrival of Spring in the Mardi Gras Parade.*

### ***SAVE THE DATES!***

#### ***10TH ANNIVERSARY BEEFSTEAK DINNER FUNDRAISER***

***Wednesday, September 28, 2011 @ 6:30 PM***

***The Brownstone House, 351 West Broadway, Paterson, NJ***

***For information, call 973-942-0300 X316***

#### ***ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT & BAKE SALE***

***Saturday, November 19, 2011 ~ Auditorium ~ 10 AM - 4 PM***



## *May is Older Americans Month*

### *Older Americans: Connecting the Community*



*Margaret Meyer and  
Jessie Hladik*

Our older adults inspire and endow us with familial, community, religious and spiritual foundations. Their shared histories, diversity and wealth of knowledge continue to shape our culture, economy, and character. Our seniors are now mentoring the leaders of tomorrow, while they continue to connect with and help one another. They are active, interesting, and have so much to offer to us! We can all benefit from the gifts of their wisdom and experience.

### *In Gratitude for our Volunteers*

*The measure you give will be the measure you get,  
and still more will be given you. ~ Mark 4:24*



*Josephine Homsany  
and volunteer  
Rose Marie Cannon*

Whether it be serving our Residents dinner, driving the Little Sisters to church visits, folding and distributing laundry, assisting with activities and events for our Residents, providing essential administrative support, or organizing the Basket Bonanza and Beefsteak Dinner--the presence of our volunteers is an integral part of the love and compassion that thrives in our Home. From the business community and civic organizations to youth and senior groups--all share in the common desire of wanting to help. *You truly make a difference! You touch the hearts of our Residents, the Little Sisters and our employees. We extend to you our heartfelt appreciation!*

### *Help Needed with Major Projects*



Our Home has passed the 30-year mark! We have been significantly impacted by state regulations and required technological advances that were simply not in existence when we first opened our doors in 1976!

We completed the mandatory installation of fire sprinklers and lighting in the chapel. Weather damage and age required us to replace the ceiling tiles in the auditorium.

*Only with YOUR SUPPORT have we been able to complete these projects!*

#### *There is still much more we need to accomplish:*

- **Replace the BOILER.** Originally purchased in 1975. It failed during the harsh winter months. The unit is no longer sold, and replacement parts are not readily available.
- **Replace our WALK-IN FREEZER.** Originally purchased in 1982. To keep food costs at a bare minimum, Sisters beg for large quantities of food. When we do have to purchase food, we buy large quantities to keep unit costs low. This is essential to daily operations.
- **Replace several AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS.**
- **Replace two sections of the ROOF.**
- **Address ongoing MAINTENANCE NEEDS AND REPAIRS in the building.**

*Please consider contributing to one of these much-needed projects.  
Your donations are especially important at this time.*