



St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly

Summer 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

WELCOME, MOTHER MARGARET CHARLES

The community of the Little Sisters in Totowa welcomed Mother Margaret Charles on Sunday, May 22nd. A celebration, complete with ice cream and pastries, and a rousing chorus of "Getting To Know You" was held on May 23rd. Sisters, Residents, employees and volunteers were eager for the opportunity to meet our new Mother Superior.



A letter extending a warm welcome to Mother Margaret on behalf of the Residents was read by Marie Saunders.

We are grateful to outgoing Superior, Sr. Gerard Marie, and the time that we shared with her. We extend a very fond farewell and our very best wishes. May God bless and keep you, Sr. Gerard Marie.

A Centennial Celebration!



Isabel Leonard recently celebrated her 100th Birthday! Family members, Residents, Sisters, volunteers and staff cheerfully chimed in with a harmonious "Happy Birthday" chorus. Isabel's history with the Little Sisters spans over 60 years! She was employed at the home originally located on Dey Street in Paterson. Reflecting back on those memories, she laughed and said, "We had some good times. It was fun!" She then became a volunteer, and has since been a Resident here for 18 years. Isabel expressed the heartfelt joy she feels ... "Thank you all for being so kind to me!"

Kindness Spans Generations

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



Matthew LaSala, a Life Scout with Our Lady of the Valley Troop 108 in Wayne, NJ, completed his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project at St. Joseph’s Home for the Elderly of the Little Sisters of the Poor. The project involved the restoration of a church bell and its foundation, and also included the redesign and planting of a flower bed at the Home’s entrance. “I chose a project at Little Sisters of the Poor in honor of my late grandfather, Dr. Rudy Favocci, who volunteered there. My grandmother, Peggy Favocci, continues to volunteer there,” said Matthew. The two-day project united 29 volunteers, including fellow Scouts, Troop leaders, family and friends, who helped Matthew to complete the project. The generous support from Don and Chris Brady of Brady Landscaping, Birch

Hill Nursery, Elizabeth Truck Center and Carcraft Truck Works also helped to make this project so successful. “We are grateful to Matthew, and those who assisted him with this project. Such kindness and commitment are witness to God’s calling for us to love and care for one another,” said Mother Margaret Charles.



All were very excited to witness the transformation!



Matthew LaSala, pictured with Residents and Sisters. We have been gifted with a beautiful setting to enjoy the outdoors.

We pray daily for the needs of our friends and benefactors. If you would like for us to pray for a special intention, please visit with us at www.littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org, where you may submit your prayer request.

Renewing a Special Promise

Members of the Association Jeanne Jugan recently celebrated a renewal of their promises at their Annual Mass. Each member of this faithful group adopts the charism given by St. Jeanne Jugan and incorporates her mission in their daily life. Members can be seen here at the Home on any given day, volunteering their time in ways that truly benefit our Residents—some “behind the scenes” helping with housekeeping or administrative tasks, while others take a more personal approach of spending one-on-one time and visiting with Residents. Together, they exemplify the love and respect that our Foundress wished bestowed upon our elderly.



Pictured back row from left: James Francese, Dr. Margaret Mary Donnelly, JoAnn Giamonco, Rosemary & Joe Wrobel, Ann Guarnieri and Martha Calad.

Front row from left: Dr. Theresa Lardaro, Amy Scott, Eleanor Marmo, Liz Knoll, Theresa Vittorio, Dorothy Hofmann, and Kathy Berlinghieri.

Seated: Mary Gallagher. Members not pictured: Jessie Hladik, Pearl Sinchoc, Barbara Di Fiore and Mary Stuckey.

To Live Each Day with Dignity:

(Excerpts from: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide)

We are especially grateful for this recently released document of the Bishops' Conference, as it directly touches on our mission. To view entire statement visit: <http://www.usccb.org/toliveeachday>

“To live in a manner worthy of our human dignity, and to spend our final days on this earth in peace and comfort, surrounded by loved ones—that is the hope of each of us. In particular, Christian hope sees these final days as a time to prepare for our eternal destiny.

Our society can be judged by how we respond to these fears. A caring community devotes more attention, not less, to members facing the most vulnerable times in their lives.”



*Sophie
Zielinski*



*Margaret
Matthews*

In faithfulness to the Church teaching, the Little Sisters of the Poor continue in their desire to uphold the dignity of our aging population. We recently held a festive gathering to honor over 30 Residents who are 90 years of age or older...and still celebrating life in a beautiful way! Pictured are some of our nonagenarians.



*Elizabeth
Zilinski*



*Helen
McGregor Pagano*

Basket Bonanza Brings Benefits

Members of the Association Jeanne Jugan and volunteers planned another successful Basket Bonanza for a sold-out crowd! This dedicated and enthusiastic group worked for months preparing a fantastic array of over 80 gift baskets for this event. A lively crowd of almost 275 guests were “in it to win it!” Many commented on how beautiful the baskets were, and what terrific prizes were offered! Guests were treated to a delicious array of home-made desserts as they waited hopefully to hear they had a winning number. Proceeds from this fundraiser directly benefit our Home and our Residents. *Many thanks to the committee, staff, volunteers and donors who worked together to make this a a successful, rewarding, and fun-filled event!*



We could not picture all who worked so diligently. Above are some of the committee members. From left: JoAnn Giamonco, Eleanor Marmo, Rosemary Wrobel, Kathy Berlinghieri, Theresa Vittorio, Marie Tolerico, Dorothy Hofmann, Peggy Favocci and Ann Guarnieri.

Auxiliary Continues Tradition of Aiding the Little Sisters

The Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor held their closing meeting and presented the Little Sisters with a generous donation—the results of their commitment and dedication through fundraising efforts, such as their annual Christmas Boutique and Auction and Fashion Show Luncheon. We are so grateful to all of the Auxiliary members for their spirit of love and compassion.

The History of the Auxiliary beautifully exemplifies their mission: “The original and continued purpose of the Auxiliary has been to give financial aid to the Good Sisters. Their self-sacrifice and dedication is their gift to God, and the work of each Auxiliary Member is their sharing in this dedication. A member joins only because she wants to help and because the cause is well worth every effort she may make.” *Please visit our website to learn more about the Auxiliary, and how you may join and share in their mission!*



The Auxiliary recently installed their new officers for the 2011-2012 year. Pictured from left: Joann Van Splinter-Corresponding Secretary, Diane Murgio-Treasurer, Elaine Abbate-President, Carol Lewis-outgoing President, Marilyn Clark-past President, Betty MacCallum-Recording Secretary, and Barbara Dennen-Vice President.

The Feast Day of St. Jeanne Jugan



*Olga DeFilippi
and Ella Hasior*



*Sr. Clare and
James Fitzsimmons*



*Aida Franco, CNA
and Palma Parrillo*

There is something you feel when you walk through our doors. The spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan dwells within, and is ever-present in the way we care for and respect our Residents, and one another. In celebration of her Feast Day in August, a special Novena of prayer is offered for the special intentions of our friends and benefactors. Sisters, Residents, employees and volunteers join together and share in a special Mass in honor of St. Jeanne Jugan, followed by dinner and festivities.

In his book, "Jeanne Jugan, Humble So As To Love More", author Paul Milcent creates a poignant image for us: " 'Sister Jeanne, go out instead of us, beg for us.' This was what the old women said. By this they emphasized the very heart of this activity of begging. Jeanne substituted herself for the poor, identified herself with them; or rather, guided by the Spirit of Jesus, she recognized that the poor were her 'own flesh' (Is. 58:7). Their distress was her distress, their begging was her begging. This was how God loved us in Jesus."

And this is how Jeanne Jugan devoted her life. The Little Sisters continue her vocation of serving the elderly poor—meeting their needs for shelter, food, medical attention, and companionship, and making sure that they have ample reason to smile.



*Sr. Veronica and
Elizabeth Harrison*



*Fr. Charles MacIsaac
and Angela Alexander,
Dining Room Aide*

Residents' Reflections

"What Love Means to Us"

*To love someone you must
first love yourself.*

*You can love your best friend,
your parents, husband and, most of all,
your darling children.*

Love is a wonderful feeling of happiness.

Love can also bring feelings of sorrow.

True love can never, ever fade.

Just like the friendships we have made.

It is a joyous feeling to love one another.

Love is made up of hugs and kisses.

*Enjoy each other today,
so you will have no regret tomorrow.*



Written by Residents:

Back row from left: Evelyn Scocco, Yolanda MacDonald and Mary Kishner. Front row from left: Audrey Stivale, Palma Parrillo, Regina Basiak and Antoinette Chunka. Not pictured: Maria Chambers.

SAVE THE DATES!

10TH ANNIVERSARY BEEFSTEAK DINNER FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 @ 6:30 PM

The Brownstone House, 351 West Broadway, Paterson, NJ

Ticket orders must be received by Sept. 9th.

For information, call 973-942-0300 X316

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT & BAKE SALE

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