



Serving the elderly
of New Jersey
since 1879.

The Little Sisters are so grateful to all who so generously responded to our Ham and Turkey Drop. Pictured are Mother Margaret Charles, Resident Chaplain Father Evan Greco and his sister, Maryann Scharf, displaying her donation of a 27-pound turkey!

A Tradition Goes On

Begging Provides a 'Lifeblood of Support' for St. Joseph's Home

By: Gerald M. Costello

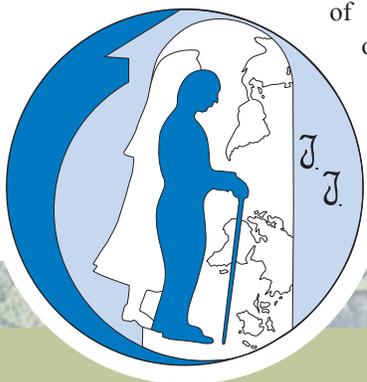
When the begging van leaves the gates of St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly, it might return with—well, just about anything. Food is the cargo most often, of course, but on other days it might be flowers, or paper towels, or bags. The Little Sisters of the Poor know a lot about begging, since it comes with the territory. They don't mind being called "Begging Sisters," incidentally, and in fact wear it as a badge of honor. The tradition was begun by St. Jeanne Jugan, who supported the elderly and poor women she took into her home by going from one local merchant to another, begging them for whatever they could spare.

At St. Joseph's, all of the begging operations are coordinated by Sister Cecilia,

who schedules parish collections and weekly van pickups of food and other commodities. Together with other gifts the Home receives, it all adds up to a lifeblood of support for the Sisters and the Residents they serve. "Begging is ingrained in us, this trust in Divine Providence," said Sister Cecilia.

Mondays are generally reserved for lining things up, but the real collecting begins each Tuesday. That's when Sister Cecilia sets out in a van with a driver and his assistant, and another Sister—one who volunteers for the assignment. The Tuesday run is usually limited to nearby communities, and the Sisters will return with everything from ice cream to sausage to bread and other bakery products, all provided by regular givers. "The companies that help us are very good to us indeed," Sister Cecilia said.

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Save The Date

**The Ultimate
Beefsteak Dinner**
September 26, 2012

**Annual Christmas
Craft & Bake Sale with
Ham & Turkey Drop**
November 17, 2012

Little Sisters of the Poor



St. Peter's Prep student Edward Valencia shares smiles and a dance with Resident Dorothy Wild at the Senior Citizen Prom. Students visited, giving of their time and sharing their energy and enthusiasm with our Residents.

'Never Too Old to Play'

May is Older Americans Month
By: Marie Spohn

May is Older Americans Month, a celebration honoring and recognizing our aging for the immeasurable contributions they make to our families, our communities, and our society.

Through their participation in social and faith groups, service organizations, and other activities, they impart a valuable awareness to our life experiences. Our growing population of older adults is actively participating in creative, social and

physical activities, bringing them health benefits and keeping their cognitive skills sharp. Young people who have significant relationships with grandparents or other elders benefit in shaping their values and life choices. There is a certain satisfaction that comes from sharing a "connection" with our elders.

This year's theme, "Never Too Old to Play", beckons us to encourage and invite our older Americans to stay active, engaged and involved. Let us all remember and embrace our elders. The rewards are priceless!

Celebrating the Feast Day of St. Joseph

Provider and Protector of the Little Sisters of the Poor

By: Marie Spohn

St. Jeanne Jugan had a special devotion to St. Joseph, confiding all her undertakings and cares to his powerful protection. She considered him to be the great Protector and Provider of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Paul Milcent, in his book, *Humble So As To Love More*, provides a descriptive account of her devotion as follows:

"...Jeanne saw the old people eating dry bread. 'But this is the land of butter! she exclaimed. 'Why on earth don't you ask St. Joseph for some?' She lit a night-light in front of St. Joseph's statue, and had all the empty butter-dishes fetched and propped up a card: 'Good St. Joseph, send us butter for our old folk!' Visitors were amazed or amused at such simplicity of heart; one of them expressed misgivings at the sight of the empty butter-dishes! But a few days later, an anonymous donor sent a very large amount of butter, and all the dishes were filled."

It is with this devotion that the Feast Day of St. Joseph was celebrated on March 19th in our chapel. Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson, was the Main Celebrant at the concelebrated Mass. The organist and soloist shared their talents and filled the chapel with beautiful song. A gathered congregation of Little Sisters, Residents, volunteers, AJJ members, Auxiliary members, Advisory Board members, friends and benefactors inwardly reflected upon the many prayers that have been offered to, and answered, by "Good St. Joseph."

Following the Mass, dinner was held and Bishop Serratelli offered a special prayer. It was a festive gathering in which our Residents, especially, were grateful for the time they had conversing and visiting with our guests.

Thank you, St. Joseph, for continuing to watch over and provide.



Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of the Diocese of Paterson, was the main celebrant at the concelebrated Mass. He was joined by Bishop Charles McDonnell and Bishop Dominic Marconi, retired auxiliary bishops of the archdiocese of Newark, Archbishop Emeritus Peter Leo Gerety of the archdiocese of Newark and many other Priest friends.

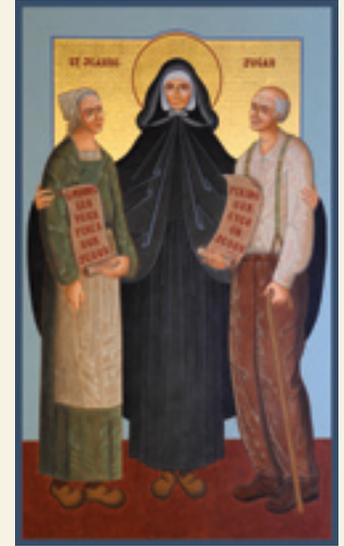
Icon of Saint Jeanne Jugan

An Expression of Love

By: Msgr. Thomas Petrillo (*Msgr. Thomas Petrillo, pastor and a friend of the Little Sisters for many years, had commissioned an icon of St. Jeanne Jugan to be installed in his church at the parish of Saints John and Paul in Larchmont, New York, in conjunction with a new parish initiative, Family Jeanne Jugan. He explains the new icon below.*)

The *Icon of Saint Jeanne Jugan and Elders* places the Saint with her arms extended, welcoming two older persons—a woman of Brittany, France and a man of Brooklyn, New York. While the Saint opens her arms to receive two elders, such a horizontal extension reminds the viewer of the Crucified Christ. Her mission to the elderly is an expression of total self-giving, sacrifice in union with the Cross of her Savior. There is also a repetition of triangular movement in the icon, suggesting the power of Trinitarian Love, seen in the mantle worn by the Saint and in the position of the heads of each of the subjects.

The elders, at one time poor, now find in St. Jeanne Jugan an expression of that Love which enriches them in every way. While holding the quote of Hebrews 12:2, both elderly persons fix their gaze on the Saint and it is Jesus Himself whom they see. By virtue of her baptism and her religious consecration, the Saint stands in the place of Christ *who came not to be served but to serve* (Mt. 20:28). Together they form a new Community of Love, attending one to the other.



The Icon of Saint Jeanne Jugan and Elders. This original icon, completed in October of 2011, is the work of George and Sergio Pinecross.

Volunteers Hear the Call to Help Serve



Volunteers Ingrid Leonard, Rose Marie Cusick and Pat Heffran don aprons and smiles as they prepare to serve our Residents.

We recognize our volunteers for their inspiration, dedication and devotion. They embrace the mission of the Little Sisters with a unity of caring and compassion, as they generously give of their time and talent in many different ways.

There is a profound sentiment shared and often spoken by our volunteers. "It brings me a sense of fulfillment to be a part of what is happening here. I need to be here with the Little Sisters and Residents."

Each, in their own way, brings happiness to our Residents. And every volunteer who walks through our door is a gift.

A Tradition Goes On Begging Provides a 'Lifeblood of Support'

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"We keep all our benefactors in our prayers."

Wednesdays often involve trips further afield, for things like chicken and paper bags and produce. Thursday is "the

"Begging is ingrained in us, this trust in Divine Providence,"

big day" for an early-morning drive to the Hunts Point market in the Bronx (where the Sisters enjoy a cooperative arrangement with other Homes operated by the Little Sisters in the Bronx and Queens). "We have a list of what's needed, and at Hunts Point we just go from stall to stall," said Sister Cecilia. "The people there couldn't be nicer." Friday might take the van for flowers or milk or nearly everything else.

That leaves the weekends for parish work. That can prove to be difficult now, Sister Cecilia noted, with almost everyone affected by the economy, and perhaps even more so in those places where parishioners have yet to recover from last year's serious flooding. She said, "I'll tell them, 'I know you can't give much, and maybe nothing at all right now, but please take an envelope and use it when you can.' It's still a wonderful way to make our work known."

She conceded that some people might regard the begging tradition as hopelessly old-fashioned, but the Little Sisters don't see it that way. "It's an integral part of our charism," she said deliberately, "and it will continue to be. St. Jeanne Jugan was ahead of her time, you know. She saw that just as a father and a mother take care of their children, our Lord takes care of the whole human family. That's something we firmly believe in."

A Simple Note

By: Mother Margaret Charles



Mother Margaret and Resident Olga DeFilippi

As you can see in this newsletter, much has occurred at St. Joseph's Home in the past few months! Our days here are marked with a joyful rhythm. Parties, outings and gatherings of all sorts fill the calendar. Events that feed our souls also abound. Easter found us joyfully welcoming Resident Eunice Fussell into the Church.

We also recently welcomed six new Postulants into our religious family. Please pray for them as they begin their formation in our Novitiate in Queens, NY.

Renovations have begun to enlarge our Residents' Coffee Shop—a favorite spot for many, and to transform it into an internet café, where the Residents will be able to use Skype and e-mail and have convenient internet access.

Life is not dull at Saint Joseph's. We strive to make it a happy and secure home for our elders. And because of this, they thrive. One 97-year-old Resident recently said to me, "When I came in here I thought I was at the end of my life, coming to die, but I don't want to go anywhere. I'm having too much fun!"

Loving and serving God, caring for our elderly Residents, and maintaining our large Home are priorities for the Little Sisters and all who are involved in our work. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, our good friends, for all that you do to help us. The Sisters and Residents pray each day, many times throughout the day for the intentions of our benefactors. We hope you can feel our prayerful gratitude.

Our Needs

We are grateful to all who support the Little Sisters in our vocation. We depend upon God's providence and community contributions for the essential daily operation of the Home, as we strive to meet the physical, medical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of our Residents. Your thoughtful contributions help to support the many necessary capital improvements that are so important to us in continuing to provide quality care for our Residents.

One of the major projects we are now undertaking is replacing all of the HVAC units in our home. Most of the existing units are inefficient and require hours of maintenance and repair. More reliable and energy efficient units are a must! Ordering all the units at one time will provide a substantial savings of close to \$28,000.00! Each individual unit costs approximately \$1,190.00. Any contribution you can make towards this project would be greatly appreciated and directly benefit our Residents.



A saying handed down to us by St. Jeanne Jugan was, "Making the elderly happy—that is what counts!", is personified by Sr. Julienne and Resident Mary Donovan.

JOIN!

If you have sent in a completed JOIN card with your e-mail address, and have not received any of our correspondences... we want to know! Please e-mail us at twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org and advise us so we can be sure we have your correct e-mail address on file.

Upcoming Events

Beefsteak Dinner

*Wednesday, September 26, 2012
6:30PM*

Joins us for "The Ultimate Beefsteak Dinner" at The Brownstone House, 351 West Broadway Paterson, NJ. Entertainment by Somers & Steel. For information, call 973-942-0300 X316.

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale and Ham & Turkey Drop

*Saturday, November 17, 2012
10:00AM-4:00PM*

Free admission. Hand-crafted gifts made by Residents and Little Sisters. Fresh home-baked goods.

A Turkey & Ham Drop will also be held this day. Your thoughtful donations of turkeys and hams will help to provide future meals for our Residents. Little Sisters and volunteers will greet you at your car to accept your donation.



Sr. Rosemary Jeanne and her mother, Resident Loretta Reese, enjoy the festivities at the Beefsteak Dinner.



Residents Caroline Alkema and Patricia Milligan admire the hand-crocheted wares offered for sale at the Christmas Craft Sale.