

A Simple Note

By Mother Margaret Charles



Dear Friends,

Spring is in the air and a sense of newness and hope pervade the atmosphere. Much has occurred in the past few months at St. Joseph's Home. At Christmas time the Home was bustling with celebrations and events, during Lent a more serene and prayerful atmosphere prevailed. And as we celebrate the joyous Easter season we are filled with hope and the newness of life.

Beauty is all around us. Joe, our amazing gardener is busy planting an array of donated bulbs and plants. Inside the Home, we are all enjoying our beautifully renovated Chapel. The Virginia Tech students painted the walls and a very generous, anonymous benefactor paid for the beautiful porcelain flooring. Volunteer mother and daughter team, "Mary & Mary," with just a little paint, painstakingly matched the colors of the altar with the flooring to give the altar a whole new look. Everyone is so pleased with the outcome; it is truly a fitting temple for the Lord.

In the life of a Little Sister newness and change come sometimes with our vow of obedience. At this time it is calling me to go to Palatine, Illinois. Totowa is not an easy Home to leave. I have encountered so many wonderful people during my five years here. Please know that you will remain in my very grateful prayers.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you. Know that in our beautiful Chapel, there are prayers offered each day for you and your loved ones. And you should also be feeling a few coming all the way from Illinois! God bless you.

Gratefully,
Mother Margaret Charles

Completed Projects

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank all of our benefactors and everyone who attended our fund raising events last year. Because of your generosity and support, we are happy to report that we have raised all of the funds needed for both a new 13 passenger van and for new computers and software. At our Beefsteak, which was held in September, we raised \$13,500.00 for the computers. The new van is being ordered and the computers and software are in the process of being replaced and upgraded. Do to the generosity of Tracey and John Crimi and Marge Schugt, we were able to purchase 2 wonderful combi-ovens. Marge donated the oven in memory of her husband, John L. Schugt MD, who had a passion for cooking.

Current Projects

- New Curtains for the Resident's rooms.
- Installation of a new whirlpool tub on the skilled nursing floor.
- Replacing current lighting with LED bulbs.
- New dishes, flatware and table linens for our dining rooms.

If you are interested in helping us with any of these projects please contact the Development Dept.



"Happy to be here, happy to serve"
was the favorite saying of
Dr. John L. Schugt

Upcoming Events

St. Jeanne Jugan 50/50 Raffle

Drawn on August 30, 2016

Tickets are \$10.00 each

And Will Be Available Late June

Last Year's Winner Received

\$31,235.00

Beefsteak Dinner

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016

at The Bethwood 6:30pm

38 Lackawanna Ave.

Totowa NJ 07512

*Tickets are \$65.00 and must be
purchased in advance. Come and help
us celebrate the 40th Anniversary of
St. Joseph's Home!*

Our Annual Christmas Craft & Bake Sale - Ham & Turkey Drop

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 10am - 4pm

at St. Joseph's Home

Free Admission

For Information about these events,
contact the Development Dept.

To Make A Donation

Your tax deductible charitable gifts to St. Joseph's Home provide you valuable tax savings and help us provide loving care for our neediest elderly.

To donate on-line visit our web site:
www.littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org
and click on "DONATIONS"

Remember us in your Estate Planing. The most common way is to include us in your will, but first contact your legal advisor or financial planner. Gifts of life insurance are also appreciated.

Our legal name is: St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Many employers offer Matching Gift Programs. Please inquire with your employer.

For more information please call
the Development Office
at 973-942-0300 ext. 316 or e-mail:
twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org

*Please visit us at
www.littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org
and check out our News & Events
area for more details about
scheduled events.*

Little Sisters of the Poor

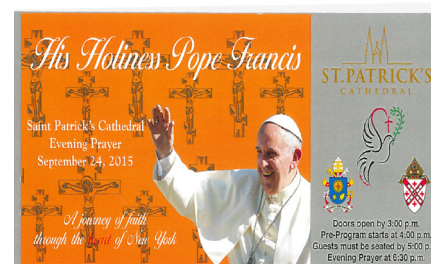
ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

Pope Francis Touches Our Lives



Pope Francis, Archbishop Peter Gerety and John Feenan at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City

Providing loving
care to the neediest
elderly in New Jersey
since 1879.



July 2015 - Archbishop Peter Leo Gerety, at 103 the oldest bishop in the world, was delighted when he learned of Pope Francis's upcoming visit to the US. After expressing a desire to meet the Holy Father, a request was made and granted through the Archdiocese of Newark. Archbishop Hebda was kind enough to arrange two tickets to Evening Prayer at St. Patrick's Cathedral for Archbishop Gerety.

September 24th - Accompanied by his friend, John J. Feenan, Archbishop set off with a joy filled heart to New York City. After participating in the beautiful evening prayer service, Pope Francis's security team escorted the Archbishop and John to a private area to await the Pontiff. The Holy Father graciously and with deep affection extended a loving greeting to Archbishop Gerety, who was elated and with reverence, thanked the Pope for his blessing. Upon learning from Cardinal Dolan that Archbishop was the oldest bishop in the world, Pope Francis gave a jubilant smile. Archbishop Gerety continues to reflect with joy on this blessed occasion. John Feenan remarked upon the profound honor and privilege that it was to be able to share this wonderful and blessed event with Archbishop Gerety and will never forget the feeling of love and joy that permeated the entire Cathedral that night.

Sister Rose recounts her emotional meeting with the Holy Father; "For several weeks before Pope Francis was to arrive in America, I had been hoping to

get a ticket to one of the Papal Masses, just to get a glimpse of him would have made me so very happy. One day I received a phone call that there was a ticket available for the Papal Mass in Washington D.C. I considered this truly to be a small miracle. As the days unfolded, I found out that I would **not** be getting a glimpse of Pope Francis, but that I would be having a personal meeting with him! The Holy Father was to visit our Home in Washington after the Papal Mass. I experienced in his presence a great holiness and warmth and a deep gratitude to have been able to encounter Francis, the Vicar of Christ on Earth. Hopefully all of the blessings and grace that I received at that moment, can be passed on to all I meet. I will always remember and cherish my 'small miracle'."



Sister Rose Meeting the Holy Father



Spring 2016

Little Sisters of the Poor

A Life Full Of Joy



Sister Bernice and Resident Mary Ulrich

Ask Mary Ulrich how she feels about being a Resident at St. Joseph's Home and she'll say, "living here is a joy!" Chat with her for a few minutes and you

will hear the word "joy" many times. Before moving to Totowa, Mary lived happily with her niece and family. Wanting to be independent, she looked for and found a home here. Four days after moving in, she was offered a vacation to the Home in Flemington. "That was my first vacation in years and I loved every minute of it." Since then Mary has found so many things to do, as she explains, "I feel so useful, I feel such joy being able to help and do things for others." At 91, Mary is still a talented musician and she brings joy to others through music. When she plays the baby grand piano in the dining room, Residents stop in to listen, Sisters and staff pause as they are

going about their work to enjoy a moment of beautiful peace before going on their way again. Mary experiences joy when she plays for the Residents on the nursing floor. "They might be sitting quietly, but you know they are listening and I was told by the staff that music is very beneficial." Mary even dressed up as Mrs. Claus for the Christmas Sale and played carols for the shoppers. For herself, she feels the greatest joy in church and being a lector 2 or 3 times a month. She feels that God meant her to be at St. Joseph's because He still had "things" for her to do. Most of all Mary feels "so full of joy because of the love and support of the Little Sisters. "My life is filled with joy!"

Thanks Again VA Tech!



Spring break for the students from Virginia Tech came early this year. They arrived just in time to pitch in and help with the cleaning and painting in our Chapel. Under the guidance of Sid and our maintenance staff, the students cleaned and then painted the stucco walls, a tedious job indeed. When they were not working in the Chapel, they spent time eating their meals with and visiting with the Residents. As customary, they even shared their musical

talents, entertaining everyone at the Snow Ball. We are so blessed that these friendly, gracious young people have made volunteering at St. Joseph's Home a part of their learning experience. Although a new group comes each year, they all have the same spirit of wanting to help others. We send them our thanks and well wishes for a bright and successful future.



The Students from Virginia Tech with Resident Eliza Feredjian.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

"Prayer for Later Years"



All Gracious God, You have given me all I am and have, and now I give it back to You to stand under Your will alone. In a special way I give You these later years of my life.

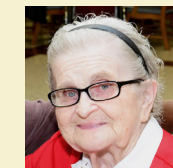
I am one of those called by You into old age, a call not given to all, not given to Jesus, not given to most in our world today. I humbly ask You, grace me deeply in each aspect of that struggle.

As my physical eyesight weakens, may the eyes of my faith strengthen, that I may see You and Your Love in everything. As my hearing fails, may the ears of my heart be more attentive to the whisper of Your gentle voice. As my legs weaken and walking becomes more difficult, may I walk more truly in Your paths, knowing all the while that I am held in the embrace of Your love. As my mind becomes less alert and memory fades may I remain peaceful in You, aware that with You there is no need for thought or word. You ask simply that I be there, with You.

And should sickness overtake me and I be confined to bed, may I know myself as one with Your Son as he offers his life for the salvation of the world.

Finally, as my heart slows a little after the work of the years, may it expand in love for You and all people. May it rest secure and grateful in your loving Heart until I am lost in You, completely and forever; Amen.

"Prayer for Later Years" - Sr. Moya Hanlen, fdnsc (Australia) MinistryOfTheArts.Org - LaGrange Park IL 605265-1721



A Fitting Temple For The Lord



Above: Mary Nesnay adds the finishing touches to the altar.

Pictured below right: The renovated Chapel.

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly has just turned 40 years old, which means that some areas are in need of a "make over." While our Chapel has been painted a few times over the years, it was long over due for some sprucing up. When the pews were removed for cleaning the real work began. All of the wood trim on the walls and supports were cleaned and polished, the stucco walls and ceiling were painted. But the biggest change was made to the floor. Due to the benevolence and generosity of a donor, the old worn out carpet was removed and replaced with porcelain tile. With the new floor came a new look for the altar, it was painted to match. Talented mother and daughter volunteers, Mary & Mary came to the rescue. After a good cleaning, they hand painted and stained all of the small tiles on the altar and on the pedestal for the tabernacle.

"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace"
Pope Francis

