

Little Sisters of the Poor

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY



Rose Zelinsky and Betty Lennon

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

The 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

On the 13th of May, 1917, on a small hill near Fatima in Portugal, three children, Lucia Santo, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, were out tending their sheep. They heard a clap of thunder and looking about, beheld "...a lady dressed in white, shining brighter than the sun..." She told the children not to be frightened, that she came from heaven and that she would return on the thirteenth of each month for six months. Over the course of these visits the lady, our Blessed Mother, left three messages for the children to share with the world. She called for all people to pray the Rosary everyday for peace, to establish a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to "Pray much and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifices for them."

Since then, Fatima has become one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in the world as close to four million people

make pilgrimages to the Shrine each year.

This year Pope Francis will be in Fatima on May 13th to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. During his visit, he will canonize Jacinta and Francisco Marto, who were beatified in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II at Fatima. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI, began the process of beatification of Lucia Santos.

Pope Francis spoke about Our Lady of Fatima in his general audience in 2016, he said, "She asks us never to offend God again. She forewarns all humanity about the necessity of abandoning oneself to God, the source of love and mercy," he added, "Following the example of St. John Paul II, a great devotee of Our Lady of Fatima, let us listen attentively to the Mother of God and ask for peace for the world."

The faithful remain devoted to the spiritual message of Our Lady of Fatima, to be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is the Blessed Mother who helps to bring us to God, who helps lead us along the way of the Cross.



Mary's Message To The World

- *Pray the Rosary every day*
- *Make amends for sins*
- *Become devoted to her Immaculate Heart*



Little Sisters of the Poor

Save The Date - October 25, 2017

A Gala Evening of Celebration "All Through Love..." - St. Jeanne Jugan

We invite each of you to "Save The Date" to join us in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Home and the shared birthday of our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, and devoted supporter of our Home, Bishop Frank J. Rodimer.

On October 25th we will honor Bishop Rodimer on the occasion of his 90th birthday. His support and love of St. Jeanne Jugan's mission to the elderly, has been steadfast throughout our forty years in Totowa.

Please join us on October 25, 2017 at 6:00pm at The Grove, Cedar Grove NJ. Individual tickets may be purchased at \$600.00 each or tables of 10 sponsored. For additional information please contact Peggy Bush, administrative secretary at 973-942-0300 or email at: twadminsecretary@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



Bishop Frank Rodimer

"pray the Rosary everyday"

What does saying the Rosary mean to you?

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, the Residents have been saying special Rosaries on the 13th of each month. As many of them are so devoted to the Blessed Mother, they were asked to share their thoughts as to what saying the Rosary means to them.

Ann C. - "It brings me closer to the Blessed Mother."

Naomi L. - "As I say the Rosary, I attempt to draw closer to Jesus through Mary."

Pat N. - recalling the message of Fatima, "With our prayers we help Our Lady save the world."

Rose Z. - says that as she prays "It makes me feel like I am doing something for the Blessed Mother and Jesus because she asked us to pray every day for peace and the conversion of sinners."

Cecelia N. - "I know God is listening to me and likes it when I pray."

MaryAnn R. - "Praying the Rosary consoles the heart of Mary, protecting me and my children."

Loretta R. - "Saying the Rosary brings me to the Blessed Mother and Christ's Passion."

Beverly Moench - "It is a way of meditation bringing me closer to God."

Mary H. - "Some people say that the Rosary is repetitive, but the words are important to the Blessed Mother."

Eliza F. - "Praying the Rosary touches me, it is special, I feel at peace."

Herminia S. - "It is very important to say the Rosary everyday, to be with Mary."

Pat M. - "It is the way for all of us to connect with the Blessed Mother."

Barbara O. - "I feel closer to God when I say the Rosary."



ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

The Way of the Cross



In keeping with the family spirit that we have here in St. Joseph's Home, the Living Stations of the Cross were performed by the Staff and Volunteers as an Easter gift to the Residents and Little Sisters. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who participated.

St. Joseph's Librarians

Bless The Work That We Do *by Resident Barbara Mahler*

With Praise and thanks to God

For meaningful work

In 2016 Barbara began

To computerize the library was her plan.

A couple of thousand hardcovers - maybe more

Enter, categorize and create reports - a daunting task for sure.

Oh my gosh what will I do?

But a chore this is not - God always provides

And along came Milada - a team now abides.

The Fiction Category became number one.

Kudos accrued when this one was done.

More the 500 records proclaimed.

Milada had some downtime, but rally she did

Thus Spirituality and Prayer were recorded.

Put labels on the outside - a non-sticking point - except to the floor!

Decidedly shelf space is in short supply - no duplicates allowed here

With Lives of the Saints and bio's - both Religious and Historical

We sorted and arranged each shelf in pursuit

Our goal: "Encourage readership," we said.

When on a Tuesday in March the wind and snow wreaked havoc

We stayed safe and warm classifying cds and books instead.

In order to accommodate each record in proper categorization

And leave space for additions

We moved shelves...then even moved them again.

And laughed at ourselves while revising our miscalculations!

But becoming friends - the most enjoyable of all.

Lead us Lord, guide us we pray

Enable us to see You in our sisters and brothers each day.

And most of all please, bless the work that we do.

Barbara is a retired bookkeeper and sought meaningful work and to be of service. So she took on the task of organizing and recording the entire contents of our library. Using her computer skills, she created a searchable data base and put together a large print catalog in a binder, organized so as to make it very easy for everyone to find books, cds and movies. Milada Solej, a keen organizer herself, offered to help Barbara and thus a great team was formed. Now they both are book-keepers of a different sort!

Our Residents are looking forward to when the library will be a "Hotspot" so they can use "devices." We are starting an appeal to raise funds to install free wifi on each floor and in common areas. Family members are waiting to make gifts of e-readers and tablets to the Residents and we have offers of devices from donors as well. It is wonderful to see the elderly anxious to keep up with the latest technology. They recall a time when a different type of "wireless" first brought the whole world into their homes.



Residents Barbara and Milada hard at work.

A Simple Note

By Mother Mary Thomas



Dear Friends,

We just celebrated the Resurrection of Our Lord which brings joy, increases our faith and reminds us that eternal life is granted to all who believe in Him. At this time of rebirth and renewal, we also celebrate nature being reborn with the coming of spring.

Winter is on it's way out and we are happy to see some sunny days. Soon everyone will be able to go outside to enjoy the fresh air and see the flowers and trees in bloom. Our entry way will be decorated with beautiful hanging baskets, a welcoming sight to everyone who lives, works or comes to visit our Home.

As you will see in this newsletter we are continuing the celebration of the 40th anniversary of our Home by honoring Bishop Rodimer as he turns 90 on October 25th, sharing his birthday with our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of our Lady's appearance to the three children at Fatima where she told them to say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and to end the war. Today this message is more important than ever. I am sure that you and your loved ones are armed with the strongest weapon that exists against evil.

As St. Jeanne Jugan said, "Keep a spirit of faith...towards the benefactors who support our Homes...What gratitude we owe them! What could we do without them for our dear old people? Let us pray very hard for their intentions."

Gratefully,
Sister Mary Thomas

Completed Projects

We are pleased to report that we have our new 13 passenger bus. The Residents absolutely love going on trips in it. Our two regular mini vans and the van which accommodates one wheelchair, were becoming too costly to repair. These vehicles are used by the Sisters for church collections and by staff for bringing Residents to the doctors. We were blessed when a donor helped us purchase all three vehicles. Another wonderful benefactor donated funds for all new dishes, flatware, napkins and tablecloths for both of our dining rooms and two new cookers were purchased for the kitchen with grants and donations.

Many generous businesses donate most of the flowers and plants that make our grounds so beautiful. However, we have to buy the hanging baskets that decorate the entranceway. They cost about \$1,000.00 for the spring and again for the fall. One family paid for the spring baskets as a memorial tribute to their aunt who was a Resident here at our Home.

Current Projects

- New curtains for the Resident's rooms costing approx. \$15,000.00.
- New phone system and free wifi hotspots on each floor and in other common areas so Residents and guests can use their devices. This project will cost approx. \$60,000.00 with additional funds to help with the cost of wifi use.

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

Upcoming Events

St. Jeanne Jugan 50/50 Raffle

*Drawn on August 30, 2017
Tickets are \$10.00 each
and will be available late June.
Last Year's Winner Received
\$30,800.00*

Beefsteak Dinner

*Friday, Sept. 22, 2017
at The Bethwood 6:30pm
38 Lackawanna Ave.
Totowa NJ 07512
Tickets are \$65.00 and must be
purchased in advance.*

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

*Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017 10am - 4pm
at St. Joseph's Home
Free Admission*

For Information about these events,
contact the Development Dept.
twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org

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.*