

Little Sisters of the Poor

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY



Mrs. Julia Agnew
Foundress of The Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor

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

The Auxiliary of The Little Sisters of The Poor

When the Little Sisters arrived in America 150 years ago, they knew that they would need the financial support from the community to establish homes and care for the elderly.

St. Theresa's Home, on Dey Street in Paterson, was opened in 1901. As word of the Little Sisters mission to the aged poor spread, one woman was inspired to help raise funds for them. In 1910, Mrs. Julia Agnew, her children and friends, hosted a Japanese themed lawn party at her home on Broadway. As there were more young people involved it was called "The Junior Aid" with ten members. By 1920 membership increased to 60 and the name was changed to The Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Membership was kept to this number because that was how many ladies could fit into the homes of the hostesses for meetings.

In the early years of the organization, fundraising consisted of a "tag day," what we would call a rummage sale, usually held on a Saturday in downtown Paterson on Main and Market Streets. Overtime the tag sale changed into a bridge party held at a member's home. With increased membership came new ideas for assisting the Little Sisters. By the spring of 1921, a fashion show and bridge was already the signature event for the Auxiliary. That year 600 patrons attended and \$1,300.00 was raised for St. Theresa's Home. The fashion shows and the women who organized them became a staple of the society pages in local newspapers. Photos of Auxiliary members dressed in their finest were featured and even their monthly meetings made the news. The Auxiliary

calendar year ended with a ceremony where the proceeds of the fashion show were given to the Little Sisters, usually with a prominent member of the clergy

present. Through the long years of the Depression and World War II, the ladies continued to host the fashion show and bridge, now with 1,000 guests attending, providing much needed funds for the elderly poor.

Times and fashions may have changed but the Auxiliary's commitment to supporting the Little Sisters has not. The ladies rose to the occasion when they were asked in 1973, to help raise money to build a new home in Totowa. For three years they made an all-out effort to increase their year-end gift for that purpose and in 1976 St. Joseph's Home in Totowa opened.

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Mrs. Carmel Phelan presents a check from the 1959 Fashion Show to Mother Inez with Bishop Mc Nulty and Auxiliary Members looking on.



Little Sisters of the Poor

Catholic Heart Work Camp

Once again St. Joseph's Home was blessed with volunteers from Catholic Heart Work Camp. Each summer a group of wonderful young people spend a week visiting our Home and participating in various scheduled activities. This year's group served meals in the

dining rooms, assisted the Residents at bowling and hosted an ice cream sundae social. All of the students expressed how much fun they had during their time with us and how great it felt being with the elderly. We thank them for spending time with us and for all that they did for our Residents.



Auxiliary (cont. from page one)

A few years later, the Auxiliary added an Annual Christmas Boutique and Luncheon to their schedule of fund raising events. Playing bridge fell out of style and the focus became solely on the fashion show. Members began holding their monthly meetings at St. Joseph's Home and at the November Meeting, deceased members are remembered at a special Memorial Mass.

The Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor of today is devoted as ever to St. Joseph's Home and are a very special part of our family. Even after running two very large annual events the members felt like they were not doing enough. So five years ago the Auxiliary began holding entertainment shows in our main dining room on the last Sunday in February. Performances by Joe Piscopo, Bucky Pizzarelli, Uncle Floyd, Greg Calderone and Elvis tribute artist Deacon Anthony Ligouri, drew large audiences and helped to expose new people to St. Joseph's Home. At present there are sixty Active and Associate Members working together on all of the fundraising events.

A few members wished to express their feelings about being an Auxiliary member. Jane Costello offered her thoughts, "The Auxiliary has been part of my life for thirty years and has brought me many blessings in friendship and service. I encourage anyone who might be interested to please join us in our efforts to help these wonderful holy Sisters in their work with the elderly following the example of their foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan." Arleen De Pauw had this to say, "I consider it a true blessing to belong to the Auxiliary and assist in the fundraising for the dear Sisters who

give their lives doing the Lord's work for the aged poor!" Marie Breuss offered, "Through the years I have enjoyed helping with fundraising. I got to know the Little Sisters and all of the good that they do for the elderly. I was also privileged and honored to serve as president a few years ago. The Auxiliary consists of many wonderful ladies who are great to work with, it's just a fine organization. God bless the Little Sisters of the Poor." From Marguerite Lombardi, "The Auxiliary is made up of a dedicated group of women that share in a mission to benefit St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly. We have a few ladies who have been in the Auxiliary fifty plus years! We encourage anyone who has an interest in joining to visit the Auxiliary section on the home's website to learn more about us and what we do."

If Mrs. Julia Agnew were alive today she would be so proud of today's members and the wonderful organization that she started. We are so very grateful to all of the women who so generously give of their time and talents to raise funds to assist the Little Sisters in their work of providing for the Residents of St. Joseph's Home.



From left: Marie Breuss, Margaret Emerito and Lily Shue at the fashion show.



Standing: Margaret Emerito and Marge Gorski.
Seated from left: Nicky Russo, Eva Volpe and Marylee Huegel

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

10th Annual Patriotic Basket Bonanza

Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue! A patriotic theme was chosen for our 10th Annual Basket Bonanza, which was held at the Brownstone House. Handmade centerpieces and flags decorated each table, even the tickets were red, white and blue! Over 300 prize baskets went home with lucky winners. We are so blessed and thankful to have such dedicated and talented



volunteers who worked so hard to make this the most successful Basket Bonanza to date. We are grateful to everyone who donated prizes and to those who attended and bought so many tickets to try and win the beautiful baskets. All of the funds raised will help the Little Sisters provide the best care for the Residents of St. Joseph's Home. God bless you all!



Sunday Scripture Sharing

Over a year ago, Mother Mary Thomas suggested to Resident Daniel Morales that he start a liturgy group amongst the Residents. With degrees in Sociology and Philosophy, he was the perfect person to be the moderator. Some Residents expressed interest, and today a group of seven meet each Wednesday afternoon to discuss the readings of the coming Sunday's Mass, with a special focus on the Gospel. The group is run solely by the members. If any new person wishes to join, they will be warmly welcomed.

The meetings are informal with everyone having ample opportunity to share their thoughts on the selected readings. The members feel comfortable to be themselves and they are glad to have the opportunity to express their opinions in an open and non-judgmental forum. They find the conversations stimulating and a good way to learn more about Christ's teachings. What they found

surprising was how others see something in the text, something that perhaps would never have occurred to them on their own.

Daniel said that their discussions, "help to communicate the Gospel in a way meaningful to us and not in a theoretical way" and "although the Gospels were written two thousand years ago, they are living words with practical applications to our lives today." Other members offered similar thoughts.

Jean Walsh and George Walls agree that they enjoy the weekly discussions and find them informing and spiritually fulfilling. Mary T. Donovan enjoys the discussions because, "they help us to focus on our individual feelings about what we read." Barbara Mahler thinks that, "our sharings reflect what God is saying to me in the Gospel or the readings." Pat Bartle, who has a Doctorate in Ministry with a focus in Liturgy, was happy to become a member and share her life's interest with others. Fran Meltzer in reflecting upon what the meetings mean to her said, "Sharing the word of God with others is very enlightening to me. I feel we become one in spirit and love. It is wonderful to experience how God's message affects me in so many ways, when I see how the Holy Spirit works in each of us."

The Residents all felt that discussing scripture had a positive effect on their personal prayer life outside of the group. Speaking for the members, Barbara Mahler said, "We continue to grow closer to each other and to the God whom we worship by our coming together each week. We've become aware that when the readings are proclaimed the following Sunday, they are more meaningful."

Pat Bartle had a message for her fellow Residents, "I would encourage anyone who is interested in finding more meaning to the Sunday Scriptures, to come and join us, we would love to have you in our weekly sharing group."



Residents from the left: Pat Bartle, Fran Meltzer, Daniel Morales, Mary T. Donovan, Barbara Mahler, Jean Walsh and George Walls.

A Simple Note

By Mother Mary Thomas



Dear Friends,

The end of summer marks the beginning of the 150th Anniversary year of the Little Sisters in America. Then as now, we would not be able to care for the elderly poor without help from the community.

In this newsletter we recognize 117 years of the Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor's dedication to our mission. These remarkable women give their time, talent and treasure to raise funds for St. Joseph's Home. This year's efforts raised enough money to allow us to purchase new curtains for the Resident's rooms on the 4th floor.

Other much needed funds were raised by our volunteers who spent the year collecting prizes and making up baskets to hold the most successful Basket Bonanza ever! Whether raising funds or volunteering their time, we could not provide for our Residents without the help of all of these wonderful, caring and devoted individuals.

A few weeks ago, we welcomed a new novice and four postulants to the novitiate in Queens. We give thanks to God that they answered His call to service and ask that you please pray for vocations-followers of St. Jeanne Jugan, who will provide for the needs of the elderly poor throughout the world.

Please know that we continue to pray for **you**, our dear friends and benefactors who give so generously through our appeals, or when we visit your parish or place of business. You are a valuable part of our mission and we are blessed to have you as part of our family.

Gratefully,
Sister Mary Thomas

Current Projects

- New curtains for the apartments costing approx. \$7,000.00.
- Donations for purchasing fall hanging flower baskets and Christmas greens and wreaths for the front entrance way.



If you are interested in helping with these projects, please make a notation with your contribution stating which project you are sponsoring and your gift will be automatically restricted for that purpose. For questions about appeals, donations, mailings, events or website, please contact the Development Office at 973-942-0300 ext. 316 or email at: twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org. Please address all mailed correspondence to Development Office, St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly, 140 Shepherd Lane, Totowa NJ 07512.

Upcoming Events

Harvest Celebration Dinner Dance

October 17, 2018

6pm-10pm at The Brownstone

Tickets are \$55.00 each and must be purchased in advance.

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale - Ham & Turkey Drop

Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018

10am - 4pm at St. Joseph's Home

Free Admission

Our Auxiliary's Christmas Boutique and Luncheon

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 11am - 3pm

at Indian Trail Club, Franklin Lakes

Tickets are \$55.00 each and must be purchased in advance.

Rockin' Thru The Years Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 30, 2019

6pm-10pm at St. Joseph's Home

Please contact the Development Department, 973-942-0300 ext. 316 for details.

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 Planning. 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.