

## Saint Joseph The Worker Patron Of Our Home

When you arrive at our Home one of the first things that you see is St. Joseph the Worker mounted on the outside wall of the chapel. In spring and summer, a heart of carefully trimmed ivy grows at his feet. It's a beautiful symbol of the love that he had for his little family, Jesus and Mary, and the love that the Little Sisters, Residents and staff have for him. Where would we be without St. Joseph!

Venerable Pope Pius XII established May 1st as the liturgical feast of St. Joseph the Worker as way to counter the threat of communism and its effect on workers. He wrote, "The humble workman of Nazareth not only personifies before God and the Church the dignity of the man who works with his hands, but is always the provident guardian of you and your families." How fortunate we are to have St. Joseph watching over our family here in Totowa!

Pope Francis proclaimed A Year of St. Joseph, beginning on December 8, 2020 and concluding on December 8, 2021, so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen

their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

In his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* ("With a Father's Heart") Pope Francis explained the many aspects of St. Joseph's role as a father, exploring the similarities of his life so long ago, to our modern day trials and tribulations. In his description of St. Joseph the Worker, Pope Francis said, "Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labor." He continued, "In our own day... there is renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron. Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!"

St. Jeanne Jugan instilled in her Little Sisters a great devotion to St. Joseph. As he cared for, provided for and protected Jesus and Mary, she knew that he would

do the same for her congregation and the elderly poor in their care.

As the patron saint of our Home, much has been asked of St. Joseph this past year. Heartfelt prayers were said to him to help provide for the Residents during the pandemic. The collecting Sisters could not make their rounds to businesses. All church collections and fundraising events were cancelled. Things were in a bad way. But good St. Joseph worked through our generous benefactors. The amount of funds, food and supplies received was over whelming and continues to this day.

So let us all give thanks to St. Joseph during this year dedicated to him. We thank him for our wonderful benefactors, for always answering our prayers and for taking care of our big family here at St. Joseph's Home during these trying times. We pray that he blesses our donors and our devoted staff whose hard work is vital to our mission to the elderly poor.

As Venerable Pope Pius XII said, "If you wish to be close to Christ, we again repeat, "Go to Joseph."

# St. Joseph In Our Lives

In honor of this Year of St. Joseph, our Residents shared their sentiments about good St. Joseph.

Daniel Morales reflected upon how his own father strove to provide for his family in the same way that St. Joseph did for his. "St. Joseph the Patron Saint of the Worker. I can relate to him, because of my own father's work ethic. He was a very hard worker. My father was a farm worker, working in the fields in the farm belt that stretched from Texas to Ohio. He was a migrant worker, which meant that he traveled as the season changed. He picked tomatoes, cabbages and different varieties of lettuce."

Morales continues, "My father, Ildefonso Morales, was a farm worker in Mexico, then worked in the States. He was a hard worker and like St. Joseph, he was not a lazy man. I was so impressed with how hard my father worked. When he couldn't work in the fields, he spent long days standing in lines to be a day laborer. My father was a good, honest, hardworking man, a good Catholic with a strong faith. So I can relate to St. Joseph because he too was a very good father."

Pat Neff is struck by Joseph's meekness. "Joseph was the gentlest of men," she notes. "A powerful intercessor before God who will not refuse anything St. Joseph asks of him. He is an example for all of us to follow. He is the example of



Daniel Morales



Barbara Osborne

meekness, patience and obedience."

"I find St. Joseph steadfast and enduring," shares Mary Tarpey. "He has watched over his wife, our Blessed Mother Mary, with strength and courage. I ask him to watch over my children and grandchildren and guide them on their journey."

Nancy Kilcullen shares how an image of St. Joseph changed her impression of him. "After I grew up I didn't think that much about St.

Joseph," she admits. "He just did what God told him to do and he did it, end of story. But no! A very kind and prayerful Little Sister gave me a card with a picture of a handsome young Joseph cuddling baby Jesus. On the reverse is a beautiful, inspiring prayer by Pope Francis, that immediately became my starter for the day. Having lost my father three days before my twelfth birthday, Jesus asked St. Joseph to 'pinch hit' for him. I'm sure he did just that, because almost everything that I asked St. Joseph, I've gotten. Try It!"

Like the Little Sisters, Barbara Mahler carries a small statue of St. Joseph in her pocket. "During the time I was employed I often reached out to St. Joseph, to help find a much needed job and often for his reassurance at various times throughout my work life. I decided that I wanted to carry a small image of St. Joseph in my pocket. I searched online for a small one and was successful in finding the perfect size, but they weren't sold individually, only in bulk. Perhaps St. Joseph had a hand in this. I've shared my devotion to him with others, giving them the mini statues as gifts or including them with a mailed card. Now that Spring is here, I look forward to regular visits with St. Joseph at the grotto on our grounds."

Margaret Meyer's devotion began one Christmas. "When I was a teenager, I went to church one night and prayed at the crèche which happened to be in front of a statue of St. Joseph," she recalls. "As I was praying to the Infant Jesus, the thought came to pray to St. Joseph. Since then he has been in my prayers every day. When I ask a special request and I am not thinking of him, I realize that I have had an answer to my request. He is so faithful. Thank you St. Joseph for all you do for me. St. Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death pray for me!"



# A Woman Of Words And The Word

Our normal understanding of a poet is a person who writes poetry. But our Resident poet, Naomi Levine, is a person who creates poetry. The inspiration to create poems began early for Naomi. When she was 15, she began writing poetry in a journal and has never stopped.

Naomi was born in Newark, New Jersey and was raised in the Jewish faith. She aspired to be a teacher and after studying a year in France, she went on to teach French and English in New York and New Jersey. In 1972, while living in New York, she was handed a flyer about the Gospel of St. John. When she read it that night, "A light went off in my brain that Jesus was the Messiah." Over the next twenty years, Naomi educated herself about the Christian faith. After retiring in 1993, Naomi converted to Catholicism.

Naomi's new religion inspired her to compose religious poetry in addition to the many poems which had already filled up her journals. When Naomi was 79 years old, a



thought occurred to her, "Wait a minute, I'm going to be 80, I better hurry up and publish!" And publish she did! To date, she has written 15 chap books of poems. One of her favorites is a collection of poems about growing up in Newark in the 1930's. Seven books are religious poems reflecting on her faith and devotion to God.

Naomi's poetry made a great impression with the chorale director and composer, Glenn Mohr. After a performance at St. Joseph's Home, Naomi gave him her book, *Daffodil Cottage, Poems of Faith*. Mr. Mohr was so impressed that he set one to music for his productions of

Ordinary Saints, and Go To Galilee, titled "In This Life."

Naomi still can't wait until she is able to return to telling jokes, giving poetry readings and hosting a Bible study with the Residents on the skilled units.

And at 93, Naomi continues to write beautiful, inspiring poetry.



## IN THIS LIFE

I am on a road, Its end I cannot see  
I am on a road, Wide open endlessly  
I am on a road, Deserted without trees  
    Buffeted by unseen winds,  
    I fall down to my knees  
    Lord, God. Heavenly King,  
    Master of my soul ever be  
Bring me safely thru this life,  
    To rest in you eternally  
    Courageously I walk,  
    For now I hear and see  
An Inner voice, an inner light,  
    My Lord you are in me

— Naomi Levine

## The Feast Of Saint Joseph

In this Year of St. Joseph we were so happy to celebrate St. Joseph on March 19th, with the presence of our bishop, Kevin J. Sweeney. Monsignor John Hart, Father Stephen Prisk, and Father Sean McDonnell, our chaplain, joined Bishop Sweeney for the celebration of the Eucharist. During his homily, Bishop commented on the graces we are receiving during this year commemorating the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Church.

After Mass, Bishop greeted the Residents from the third floor who were in attendance in the chapel. He then toured the floors where the other Residents were waiting for him outside their rooms. Many expressed their joy at meeting him especially on this very special day.

We are grateful to Bishop Sweeney for celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph with us.



## MOTHER'S MESSAGE

As you all know, Pope Francis has proclaimed a year-long celebration dedicated to St. Joseph, the man whom God had chosen as a spouse



of the Virgin Mary and guardian and foster father of his incarnate Son, Jesus.

Here at St. Joseph's Home in Totowa, we live under his protection. What a blessing to each of us who work here and take care of our dear Residents, especially during this difficult time! He is a wonderful example to all who are striving to respond faithfully to the call of God.

"Go to Joseph," and you can trust that your prayers will be heard. I ask that you pray to St. Joseph, for our Residents and their families who have been separated for so long under the restrictions put in place to keep everyone safe from the corona virus. Remember too, those Residents who have gone home to be with our Lord during this past year. Please continue to pray for an end to this pandemic so that we can all be together again.

"Go to Joseph," is what the Little Sisters do every day as we pray for each of you, in gratitude for your generosity which has been a tremendous blessing to us.

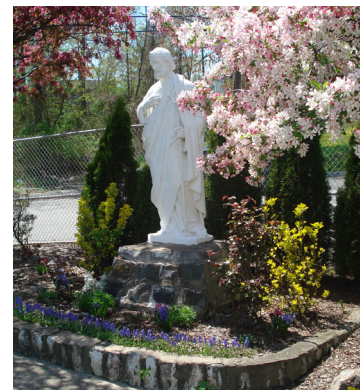
As we enjoy this wonderful springtime, with the blooming flowers and the birds singing in the morning, remember the joy of the Resurrection that brought us hope, renewal and new life after the long winter. Christ is risen Alleluia!

God bless you all,  
*Sister Mary Thomas*

## CURRENT PROJECTS

At the present time, our biggest expense is the cost of weekly Covid-19 testing. At \$100 per test, our bill is approximately \$10,000 each week. We would sincerely appreciate anything that you could do to assist us in meeting this challenge.

For the foreseeable future our collecting Sisters will still not be going out to churches and businesses for donations. While we have so many good and generous donors dropping off food and supplies, we still find ourselves in need. If you would like to help, please visit our website and print our Wish List of essential items. The list is updated as our needs change.



## SAVE THE DATE

**St. Jeanne Jugan 50/50 Raffle  
Drawn on August 30, 2021**

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available late June. For tickets: Contact Development at: [twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org) and they will be mailed to you. Please do not send money until you receive tickets.

**Previous winner received  
\$30,300.00.**

## AMAZON SMILE

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Choose Little Sisters of the Poor St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly Totowa or type: **[smile.amazon.com/gp/clpf](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/clpf)** into your browser search bar and look for our Charity List of items that we currently need.

**Please visit us at  
[littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org](https://littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org)**  
and go to the News & Events area for details and fliers about events.

**The Blog** features photos of our Residents on trips and enjoying the many festivities at St. Joseph's Home.

## TO MAKE A DONATION

Your tax deductible gift to St. Joseph's Home, provides you valuable tax savings and help us provide loving care to our neediest elderly.

To donate online visit our website: **[littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org](https://littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org)** and click on "DONATIONS".

Remember us in your Estate Planning. The most common way is to include us in your will or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy.

You can do this by contacting your legal advisor or financial planner.

Please inquire with your employer if they offer a Matching Gift or payroll deduction program.

It is the policy of The Little Sisters of the Poor to never sell, rent or release our mailing list or personal information.

If you have any questions about appeals, donations, mailings or the website, contact the Development Office,  
Tuesday - Friday -  
973-942-0300 ext. 316.

Or via email: [twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org)