



Welcome to America!

Mother General visits the US



Mother Mary Thomas, Mother General María del Monte Auxiliadora and Sister Mary Alka



From the left: Sr. Bernice, Mother Maureen, Sr. Catherine, Mother Mary Thomas, Mother General, Sr. Therese and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine

It was a joy for the Little Sisters in America, that Mother General María del Monte Auxiliadora came from France to visit our three provinces in the United States this past December. This trip had originally been planned for 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic.

She and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine arrived at our Home in Palatine, Illinois, on November 28th. They would travel to Homes in six states during this visit, before returning to France on December 20th.

Mother General is a native of Spain and Mother Assistant is Scottish. This was the first time that either one had ever visited America. In preparation for her visit, Mother General spent two months learning to speak English so that she would be able to communicate with the Residents.

Mother María is the superior general to two thousand Little Sisters who care for 10,000 elderly in homes around the world. Before her first term ends in September of this year, Mother wished to spend some time familiarizing herself with the three

provinces in the United States.

During her time here she was able to visit our two Homes in the Chicago area, as well as those in Washington D.C., Baltimore, Newark, Delaware, Enfield, Connecticut, the Bronx and Queens Village, New York. At each of the three provincial houses, Mother General met with all of the Mother Superiors in each province.

Virtual "Zoom" meetings were set up for these visits so that all of the Little Sisters could see and interact with Mother General on a large screen set up in their respective community rooms. This also allowed the Sisters from the different Homes to see each other as well. It was a beautiful experience for all of the Little Sisters who had not seen each other since the beginning of the pandemic.

Mother Mary Thomas, Sister Catherine and Sister Therese traveled to Queen of Peace Residence on December 16th to meet with Mother General in person. Sister Therese said, "It was wonderful to finally meet Mother General, I had never met

her before. I was so impressed with her knowledge of the Little Sisters in other Homes when she was questioned about them by the Sisters who gathered with her in Queens." Mother Mary Thomas felt that being with Mother General was, "a very uplifting encounter, so meaningful in our spiritual and apostolic life."

In September, Little Sisters from around the globe will gather together at the motherhouse in Brittany, France for a General Chapter to choose a new Mother General, or elect Mother María for another term. If she is chosen, we hope that she will be able to return to the United States and spend some time with us at St. Joseph's Home!

To help us continue our work here, we ask that you please keep us in your prayers, as we strive to provide for all of the Residents in our care. Please pray to good St. Joseph to send us the staff that we need to share in our mission to the elderly poor.



AGE MY WAY: MAY 2022

May is Older Americans Month when we recognize the contributions made by older persons, and to celebrate their strength and the vital role that they continue to play in our society.

Pope Francis wrote, "The 'richness of many years,' is a richness of people, of each individual person who has many years of life, experience and history behind them. It is the precious treasure that takes form in the life journey of each man and woman..."

Here at St. Joseph's Home we will be having various special events to honor our Residents and let them know how special they are to all of us. We are blessed to spend each day with them, for they are treasures given to us, to love and care for, and to learn from.

So we say to all Older Americans, "Wear your years with pride, like a badge of honor, for you have conquered. You have thrived. You have survived!"

Happy Older Americans Month!



Resident Maureen Brennan

Sister of Charity

by Sister Clare Mary Roden, SC

In June of 2021, the Sister of Charity Villa, where I had been living, closed so I had to find a new place to live. I was blessed to become a Resident of St. Joseph's Home.

Born and raised in a good Catholic family in Jersey City, New Jersey, I entered the Sisters of Charity at the young age of 17, and I have now been a member of the Congregation for 73 years. My ministry was in various kinds of education. I taught 6th Grade, 8th Grade, high school English, Latin and Religion. I also worked in administration as Supervisor of Schools and as parish Director of Religious Education here in Totowa, at St. James of the Marches Parish.

My first connection with the Little Sisters of the Poor was in 1985 when my mother became a Resident of St. Joseph's Home. I was happy to be a volunteer for many years, driving the Sisters to church collections and serving in the skilled nursing unit's dining room.

As Director of Religious Education at St. James, I worked with the

Confirmation classes, helping them fulfill their requirement of community service hours. In conjunction with the Activity Department, our students helped out at bingo, bowling, large group evening events, crafts and setting up the Christmas Sale. The Activity staff were always kind and helpful to the girls and boys. I also know that the staff was grateful to have the youth volunteers helping out and the Residents loved interacting with the them as well. Many students became friendly with the Residents and they learned much from their older friends. It was a wonderful experience for all.

I celebrated my 90th birthday on March 26th, and I thank God over and over again for the wonderful spiritual advantages and joyful peace of my life here. It is such a privilege to have daily Mass and Rosary in the Chapel with the Little Sisters and the Residents. I am also grateful for the Sunday Holy Hour and the daily Divine Mercy Chaplet.

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly is truly a blessed place!



"Always Ready, Always There"



On January 6, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy deployed 150 members of the National Guard as part of Task Force Covid Guardian, to help out at nursing homes who were struggling with staff shortages due to the omicron variant of the corona virus. This was the second time that the National Guard came to the rescue. During the height of the pandemic in 2020, members from the New Jersey Air

National Guard spent over a month with us. Now, a new team of Guardsmen were sent out, arriving at St. Joseph's Home on January 10th. They went straight to work, doing general housekeeping and deep cleaning throughout the Home.

There was also a need for assistance in the dietary department. Guardsmen worked in the kitchen peeling vegetables and making desserts. They even staffed

the dish room. Each day they helped to serve three meals to the Residents on their units.

As staff members returned to work, the Guardsman ended their deployment on January 31st. We are sincerely grateful for all that they did for us during a most difficult time. They certainly lived up to their motto, "Always Ready, Always There." God bless them for their service!



Health Care Heroes Work Here!

Last year, a grateful family approached our Director of Nursing with a generous donation and the idea of using it to give the nursing and aide staff a gift of appreciation in recognition of their hard work and dedication in caring for the Residents during the COVID-19 outbreak. They suggested purchasing something that the employees could wear. Mother Mary Thomas and the Little Sisters embraced this idea and decided to give a gift to every member of staff. The Sisters then approached other devoted families who had expressed similar feelings about the care that their family member was given.

Enough donations were collected to cover the cost of purchasing blue fleece jackets embroidered with "St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly" for every employee. The jackets were ordered and given out this past fall, right in time for the cold weather.

We appreciate the kindness, thoughtfulness and

generosity of those who contributed to our Employee Appreciation Project. We thank our Health Care Heroes for the loving care that they give every day to our dear Residents. We pray that St. Joseph blesses you all!



MOTHER'S MESSAGE



These last two years have been very difficult for everyone and for some, the difficulties still remain. However, these experiences can also be an invitation to draw closer to God and recognize the need for prayer in our daily life.

We read in Isaiah 26:4, "Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock." He is our security and our hope. To help keep ourselves from falling into worry and despair, we need to deepen our relationship with God. He is the one, who in times of crisis, makes himself close to us. He is the one whose love is infinite, the one who can support us and carry us through.

When we were faced with shortages of food and supplies during the first year of the pandemic, we put our faith in prayer and God's Divine Providence. He was our strength, our rock, and we knew that He would come to our aid. It was through all of you, our devoted friends, that our prayers were answered. Your generosity and out pouring of support carried us through a very difficult time. We thank each and every one of you who opened up your hearts and gave to us.

We are grateful for the love and prayers which we have received from you during these past two years. We know that it is through the prayers of so many, that we Little Sisters are able to serve and care for our Residents with new strength each day.

In thanksgiving for all that you do for us, we remember all of you in our daily prayers. We hope that they are a source of strength and comfort in these still uneasy times.

Gratefully, Mother Mary Thomas

OUR CURRENT NEEDS

Our devoted benefactors have been extremely generous over the past year, helping us through a most difficult time. We pray every day for them in gratitude for their selfless charity. However, despite their generosity we find ourselves still struggling to make ends meet.

Even though much progress has been made in dealing with the COVID pandemic, we are still unable to host the off-premise fundraising events that brought in much needed funds to our Home.

This comes at a time when the prices of the most basic necessities have drastically increased. Our biggest expense of course, is for the most important commodity - FOOD.

To help make up for the loss of fundraising, we are reaching out to foundations with grant requests to help cover the cost of providing three meals each day to the Residents. The Little Sisters are once again going out on church collections, and the parishioners of the churches they visit, have opened their hearts to us. We are now asking for your help as well.

One way that you can help us, is by visiting our website and printing out our Wish List of essential items. The list is updated as our needs change. Gift cards for grocery stores are always appreciated. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can request that it be used for the purchase of food.

Thank you, and may God bless you!

SAVE THE DATE

St. Jeanne Jugan 50/50 Raffle Drawn on August 30, 2022

*Tickets are \$10.00 each and will be available late June. For tickets:
Contact the Development Office:
twdevelopment@
littlesistersofthepoor.org
and they will be mailed to you.
Please do not send money until
you receive tickets.*

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and look for our Charity List
of items that we currently need.*

**Please visit us at
littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org
and go to the News & Events area
for OUR WISH LIST of much needed
items and information
about events that you can print out.**

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
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 to see 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.