

Little Sisters of the Poor

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY



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

Novices lined up to process into the chapel for the June 1st profession ceremony at St. Ann's Novitiate.

Our Vocation is Love

During this Year of Faith, we celebrate the simple joys of living our faith at St. Joseph's Home. Everyone, in their own way strives to brighten the lives of others here. Thank you for your help in making St. Joseph's a happy and comfortable Home. Here are a few highlights and recent happenings:

On June 1st, six novices made their first vows as Little Sisters of the Poor in our Novitiate in Queens Village, New York. Among them was Sister Malia Makalita, a native of Tonga. When the Sisters received their first assignments we were delighted to hear that she would join our family here in Totowa! She is already well at home and is sharing the joy of her faith and rich culture with all.

Saint Jeanne Jugan encouraged her daughters to make the elderly happy. She would say "this is what truly counts! – make them happy!" And, along with our wonderful staff and volunteers we strive to do just that. A recent trip to Yogi Berra Stadium for a Jackals game was greatly enjoyed. And the Jackals won!



Sister Malia Makalita and Loretta Rese.



The New Jersey State Fair was another such opportunity for fun, especially when one of our Residents, Loretta Rese was chosen from the crowd to be a "Hog Caller" at the Pig Racing event. We were so proud ... until her racer turned out to be a Potbellied Pig that could hardly move! We cheered, we laughed, and we cried...he just never budged. But winning isn't everything ... making the elderly happy is!



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A Trip To Bayonne



Bishop Thomas Donato, Sister Rose de St. Raymond, Residents and Volunteers.

We were very fortunate to have Bishop Thomas Donato invite a group from St. Joseph's Home to his parish church, St. Henry's, in Bayonne, New Jersey. Bishop Donato gave them a personal guided tour. St. Henry's is a magnificent "miniature cathedral" built in the Gothic style. There are many beautiful stained glass windows, a gorgeous rose window and a number of windows depicting American saints. There is even a window of Pope John XXIII.

While the original church was built in 1890, it was replaced with the present structure, which was dedicated on May 30, 1915. Next year Bishop Donato and his parishioners will be having a big celebration for the church's 100th anniversary.

After the informative tour, everyone got back on the bus and Bishop Donato directed us to Harbor View Park where a 9/11 Memorial is located. Each member of the group spoke of how moved they were by being there, remembering the sadness of that day while looking across the water at the now altered New York skyline. We thank Bishop Donato for his hospitality and for treating his guests to a wonderful and spiritually moving experience.

Residents' Family Picnic

After so many days of rain, the sun came out bright and beautiful on June 20th for our Annual Residents' Family Picnic. As guests and Residents arrived they could smell the delicious hamburgers, hot dogs and BBQ chicken cooking on the grills. DJ John Diaz played the perfect music to get everyone into the party spirit. Yolanda Mercado was a very "busy bee" buzzing around greeting folks. A friendly

clown drifted from table to table making balloon animals and hats to the delight of the children and all those "young at heart." Staff and Volunteers handled the food preparation and serving while the Little Sisters were on hand to assist those Residents whose families were unable to come to the picnic. The day couldn't have been more perfect and everyone is already looking forward to next year!



Yolanda Mercado and Eleanor White.



Four Generations of the O'Shea Family.

Birthday Milestones

Archbishop Peter Gerety recently celebrated his 101st birthday. A Mass of Thanksgiving was concelebrated by Bishop Frank Rodimer.

Another milestone was Father Benedict Groeschel's 80th birthday. He concelebrated Mass with Archbishop Gerety and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. A joyful group of Friars and Sisters of the Renewal joined us for a small party held in the main dining room.



5th Annual Basket Bonanza

This year's Basket Bonanza was a tremendous success. Tickets were sold out in record time and many people went home lucky winners. The Basket Bonanza is sponsored by the Association Jeanne Jugan. It was through their hard work and dedication that they were able to raise \$14,000 to be put towards the HVAC project.



Some of the many beautiful baskets made up by our Volunteers and the Association Jeanne Jugan.

Columbia Bank Paint Day



Columbia Bank employees recently volunteered at St. Joseph's Home as part of their Community Service Program. A few years ago these dedicated people did some painting on the 3rd & 4th floors and refinished the benches outside. This time, led by Ray Hallock, retired President of the Columbia Bank Foundation, the volunteers spent the day working diligently painting the laundry. What a difference! Our laundry staff greatly appreciate their newly enhanced working environment. We are extremely grateful for the bank employees sacrificing their day off to help make our Home a pleasant place to work.

The Bank has been a longtime friend of our Home. This year, in addition to the volunteer efforts of their staff, the Columbia Bank Foundation has contributed \$20,000 toward our HVAC project. Through their generous donation we are that much closer to achieving high energy efficiency and a more comfortable environment for our Residents.

Residents' Retreat



Living our faith demands times of quiet prayer and reflection. Each year a three day retreat is offered to our Residents. This year the retreat was directed by Father James Kubicki, S.J., National Director of the Apostleship of Prayer. The focus of the retreat was on the Sacred Heart. Father gave informative talks on the subject each day as well as celebrating daily Mass. The high point of the retreat was the enthronement of the Sacred Heart by Father Kubicki. This image of the Sacred Heart now holds a prominent place in our Home and is a daily reminder of God's love. We thank Father for his very special retreat and we look forward to his future visits to our Home.

A Simple Note

By: Mother Margaret Charles



As I write this note, we are celebrating the feast of the Assumption; our Residents' Bell Choir is practicing for an evening performance at the dedication of a statue of the Blessed Mother that the family of a Resident recently donated in her memory. There are Residents and Sisters quietly praying in the Chapel. Another group of Residents is practicing for a Seniors' Talent Contest. The activity department is planning some wonderful Fall Activities and the Volunteers are setting up for our annual "Holy Smokes Picnic" – a very animated event that we invite our nearby Little Sisters' Homes, too. And a young woman, discerning her vocation is spending a few hours with some of the Sisters and Residents. And, I might add, all of this is going on with a background din and clang of the boiler replacement job – thanks to all who are helping us fund this project!

Our vocation offers us many opportunities to brighten the lives of others.

At the recent Mass of Religious Profession, where our six novices made their first vows, Cardinal Dolan, said in his homily: "Congratulations to all of you Sisters, and hear me say thank you for the beautiful gift that you are to the Church. Thank you for keeping so strong, so durable, so alive, the charism and the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan. Just the name the Little Sisters of the Poor, I mean, everybody knows it. You talk about a "brand," all right, and our marketers, our PR people tell us you've got to have a brand, you've got to have something that people recognize and appreciate. Well, you Little Sisters of the Poor have a brand. I tell you, it could rank up there with Coca-Cola, or with McDonald's, because, whenever you hear the very words Little Sisters of the Poor you know it means love, it means care, it means tenderness, it means outreach, it means service, it means a unity with Jesus Christ in love and service in the world. So, thank you, thank you, beloved Little Sisters of the Poor."

...we have a lot to live up to. Again, Thank YOU for helping us to live this beautiful vocation!

God bless you.

Our Needs

HVAC Project Update

Many of you know we have been working on upgrading our hot water heaters and boiler system. As this part of the huge project is winding down, we are now beginning the next phase: purchasing and installing the individual room heating/cooling units. Donations made to the HVAC Project will now be going towards the purchase of 258 units to replace the antiquated ones in each of the Resident's rooms. The cost for each unit is \$1,900. As colder weather approaches the Residents will be happy to have new, fully functioning heating units in their rooms.

The need for an upgraded emergency generator remains. Last year, Hurricane Sandy created an extended power outage and the purchase of a newer generator is crucial to supplying electricity to vital areas of the Home. We also find ourselves needing a new compressor for the auditorium's air conditioning system costing approximately \$17,000.

We ask that you consider making a pledge or a one-time donation for one or more of these critical campaigns. Pledges can be spread out over time if necessary. Please contact our Development Office at 973-942-0300 ext. 316 or by e-mailing us at twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org. We thank you for your continued support!



Earl, Quang and Sid are ready to install the new boiler.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale – Ham & Turkey Drop

Saturday, November 23, 2013
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Auditorium

Beautiful hand-crafted gifts made by our Residents and Volunteers along with fresh delicious home-baked goods for sale. Admission is free.

A Turkey and Ham Drop will also be held on this day. Your kind donations of hams and turkeys will help provide future meals for our Residents. The Little Sisters, Residents and Volunteers will greet you at your car as you drive up to our entrance walkway to accept your donation.

Join our E-Community

Please share your e-mail so we can send you periodic important updates on events here at St. Joseph's.

Visit our website
www.littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org
and click on "REGISTER HERE"

For your convenience you can make donations by credit card, e-check or direct deposit. Simply click on "DONATIONS"

Donor Notice

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

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

Many employers offer Matching Gifts 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