

A Simple Note

By: Mother Margaret Charles



Dear Friends,

The joy of Easter and the beauty of spring enliven us with the promise of Eternal Life. Pope Francis tells us: "Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend with trust: He is life!"

The Lenten and Easter seasons are reflected daily in life at St. Joseph's Home - we witness the elderly who have experienced so many winters and springtimes in their lives. Men and women who have endured and aged, each in their own graceful way. Many would think we witness decline and sadness - but no! We are touched daily by the life and energy of our elderly Residents who continue to thrive as they realistically live out the Easter mystery, filled with joy because they know the Risen Lord.

It's about life here - *and* Eternal life, which is everyone's goal.

In this issue you can see people of all ages sharing their talents and joy: the students from Virginia Tech, a mother and her babies who visit and bring many smiles, our Staff, Volunteers, Residents and Little Sisters sharing simple everyday joy, and Priests who go out of their way to spend a feast day with us. All of these people help us to experience a taste of life to come.

Thank *you* for sharing with us. Our daily prayers are with you. Happy Spring!

God bless!
Mother Margaret Charles

Our Needs

Due to the kindness and generosity of all our benefactors, we are pleased to announce that we are now in the final stage of the HVAC project. As donations come in we are able to purchase PTAC heating/air-conditioning units for each of the Residents rooms. Each unit costs \$1,900 and will replace the existing antiquated units. Each unit installed will bring improved comfort to our Residents, and are more energy efficient and money saving.

Our next appeal is for the purchase of a much needed emergency generator which will cost \$325,000. During severe weather when the power goes out, our current generator is inadequate to the task of running essential areas of the Home, most especially medical and food services.

Future Projects

The air conditioning unit for our auditorium and chapel is no longer working and needs to be replaced. The approx. cost of a new unit is \$17,000.

As technology progresses we find that most of our computers and our server need to be upgraded and replaced. The expected cost of this project is \$40,000.00, but every little bit helps!

CHANGES TO RETURN MAILING OF DONATIONS

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Due to a recent issue with the post office, we had to make changes to the enclosed return envelope. From now on WE will put your return address on the front of the envelope that you use to send in your donations. Please **DO NOT** remove or cover the label as your ID # allows us to record your generous gifts. If you wish **not** to be acknowledged, please check the box on the front of the envelope or make a note of it on your check etc. Thank you for your support and assistance with the mailing change.

Sincerely, The Development Office

Upcoming Events

Ladies Auxiliary's 2014 Spring Fashion Show Wednesday, May 14, 2014

11am-3pm

Fashions by Ann Taylor Loft
& Tricky Tray -
with entertainment by Joe Caroselli.

Tickets are \$50 per person
The event will be held at:

Macaluso's
161 Rea Ave., Hawthorne NJ 07506
For information, e-mail/call
Joann Van Splinter 201-447-6400
or jvs@lan-nj.com

Join our E-Community

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

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 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 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

Little Sisters of the Poor

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

St. Joseph's Day

The Feast of St. Joseph is always observed with great joy at St. Joseph's Home. Our traditional celebration includes inviting our Bishops and Priest friends to concelebrate Mass. The presence of so many of them this year was greatly appreciated. As we honor St. Joseph, we also take this opportunity to honor our Priests and to express our gratitude for them. Following Mass, all were invited to share a meal with the Residents, replete with a traditional "St. Joseph's Table" laden with a variety of sumptuous desserts.

Pictured: Archbishop Peter Gerety with Angela Mintel and her children, Jack and Annie.

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



Rockin' With The Oldies Dance

Thank you to all who participated in our Rockin' With The Oldies Dance Fund-raiser! Proceeds from this event will go toward our much needed emergency generator. It was a lively party in a beautiful setting at The Bethwood.



Little Sisters of the Poor

A Worthwhile Spring Break

Spring break is often associated with beaches and wild partying. But at St. Joseph's Home we welcomed a group of students from Virginia Tech who wanted to make their Spring Break meaningful and worthwhile — and they did just that by volunteering for a week of rather intense labor at our Home. For eight days they lived with us, shared meals with the Residents and rolled up their sleeves for work. The task: remove old wall paper from several long hallways and rooms throughout the Home, then clean, spackle, prime and paint. The results are amazing and colorful. The areas have been transformed and we can't help but think of this wonderful group of young people every time we admire our walls.

It didn't take long for friendships to develop among the students and our Residents, it was evident in the lively conversations shared at mealtime. Residents could be seen delivering snacks and bottles of water to their new friends while they worked. Pictures were taken, e-mail addresses exchanged; there were no age barriers with this group.

In addition to their diligent labor, the students took time to join us for prayer. They also shared their talents at a much enjoyed contest between the students and the Residents. There was juggling, poetry, song, card tricks, jokes, stories and laughs galore! Most of all there was the joy of new friendships forged and the good feeling that this was a Spring Break that really meant something. We are very grateful to our new friends from Virginia Tech: Chris, Zach, Theresa, Kelsey, Sam, Kevin, Mary Claire, Katie and Liz.



Sister Estelle, who has charge of the 4th floor, where a good deal of the work was done, was very impressed with the students. "They did a fantastic job and followed all the instructions given to them by our consultant. It was hard work! The hallway looks so beautiful now! The students were so kind to the Residents when they stopped to talk. It was so nice having all these young people here. We hope that they can come back again."



ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

"Sunday Afternoon Live" with Joe Piscopo

On February 9th, the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Joseph's Home was proud to present: "Sunday Afternoon Live!" with the one and only Jersey born, Joe Piscopo.

The event kicked off with Joe Caroselli and band members, Danny Lawrence & Don Giantomasi playing classic tunes while guests were enjoying their wine and cheese. Everyone was waiting with anticipation for the arrival of Mr. Piscopo.

And what a show he put on! Joe regaled the crowd with humorous stories of his days on *Saturday Night Live!* He also did many incredible impressions and of course sang several Frank Sinatra songs for which he is famous. His mother came to see the show and he performed a special number for her. Joe was so gracious and went around the audience taking photos, talking with guests & signing autographs. After his good-byes, the band continued to play and everyone got up to dance.

It was a wonderful event and the Ladies Auxiliary was able to raise over \$4,000.00 for much need renovations. Our thanks go out to all those who attended Sunday Afternoon Live! A huge St. Joseph's Thank You to the one and only, Joe Piscopo!



Joe Piscopo with Joe Caroselli and Masterpiece

Chinese New Year - The Year of the Horse



The youth group from the Chinese Community Center of NJ performs the Red Lion Dance.

The Residents of St. Joseph's gathered together to celebrate Chinese New Year in the beautifully decorated main dining room. In the kitchen, Sr. Prisca and Auxiliary Member Lily Shue helped prepare a delicious Chinese dinner.

With the bang of a gong and the beating of cymbals and drums, Chinese New Year arrived in Totowa. A Red Chinese Lion charged into the dining room, leaping and dancing to the sound of traditional Chinese music. Most often performed for Chinese New Year, the lion dance is believed to bring good luck and good fortune to the homes and shops where it is performed. Traditionally lion dance troupes are from martial arts schools. The dancers in the costume mimic a lion's movements. The custom is to hang fruits, vegetables and red envelopes filled with money from poles and for the lion to "pluck" them off, spitting out the "greens" and keeping the envelopes. The most successful dancers would use all of their skills reach the highest envelopes containing the biggest rewards. Our thanks go out to Lily and to all the students from the Chinese Community Center for putting on a wonderful show!

The Luck of the Irish



Bob Gray enjoying St. Patrick's Day!

Our lucky winner, Mary O'Connor, gets a congratulatory hug from Auxiliary Member Mary Feenan.

This year's Mega Luck of the Irish 50/50 Raffle's winning prize amount was \$39,990.00. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all of who purchased chances and helped make our fund-raising effort a wonderful success!

