

A Simple Note

By Mother Margaret Charles



Dear Friends,

“Wake up the world!” This is the invitation that Pope Francis has given to consecrated men and women when he named 2015 a “Year of Consecrated Life” to celebrate the beauty of living for God and others.

For us Little Sisters of the Poor, giving the kind of witness our Holy Father is calling for means being faithful to the spirit of our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan. It means spending our lives in the service of the elderly, creating a happy, secure, spiritual and caring atmosphere.

In this newsletter, we highlight the beauty of our vocation and the humble way in which we are called to do our part in ‘waking up the world’ - by clothing ourselves in the Lord’s goodness and mercy, showing others that the elderly count, that they are important, loved and respected - showing that their lives should still include joy and laughter.

In a recent letter from the Virginia Tech students who spent their winter working with us, they said: “We’ve learned more from working beside you and sharing our days with the Residents than we learn in any of our classes...” What those students learned was that everyone matters and that age does not diminish one’s importance.

Each of us has a place in God’s heart. You also have a place in our hearts - which are full of gratitude and prayer for you. Thank you for all that you do to support our Home. The recent changes in managed care and Medicaid reimbursement have caused real financial challenges for us. If we did not have our faithful benefactors, we would not be able to carry out our work with the elderly. May God bless you and your loved ones.

With gratitude,
Mother Margaret Charles

Our Needs

We would like to thank all of you for helping us raise the \$330,000 we needed to purchase and install a new emergency generator which is up and running perfectly! May God bless all of you for your wonderful support.

The need for new computers for our administrative staff is undeniable and over due. The sluggishness of outdated hardware tests the patience of all and slows our ability to complete tasks each day. In order to maintain required security standards, our Home is forced to upgrade software. The problems that result with each upgrade, when housed in older machines, is every workers lament. An older computer does not have the capacity to function with any speed because it lacks sufficient memory and storage space to run new software. The consequence of this is that an inordinate amount of time is lost as staff wait for their computers to respond to the simplest of commands. We currently have 50 computers now in use and 47 of these no longer function as they should. It would cost approximately \$40,000 to replace the old outdated computers.

We are also in the process of raising funds to purchase a 13 passenger van which is ideally suited for the Resident’s weekly local shopping trips for clothing and personal items. The van would be the perfect size to accompany our 25 passenger bus, allowing more Residents to enjoy scheduled trips to sporting events, day trips to places like the Bronx Zoo or Coney Island as well as travelling to picnics and events held at other Little Sister’s Homes. The Residents truly enjoy their weekly shopping excursions and having the opportunity to travel to other places, see new things and have some fun!

Save The Date

St. Jeanne Jugan 50/50 Raffle

Drawn on August 30, 2015

Tickets will be available in July

Chances are \$10.00 each. Last year’s winner received \$29,680.00

Annual Beefsteak Dinner

Wed. September 30, 2015

at The Brownstone House.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

All proceeds will go directly to benefit the Residents of St. Joseph’s Home. Last year’s event raised \$11,500 which helped purchase a new emergency generator. It is a wonderful affair to enjoy good food, good music and to socialize with friends while helping to raise funds for our Home. **SO COME AND JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES!**

Call 973-942-0300 ext. 316 or e-mail: twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org for raffle or Beefsteak information.

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 Planing. 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.*

Little Sisters of the Poor

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY



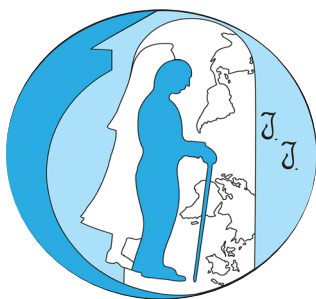
Saying "Yes" to God's Call

I believe that I received the inspiration to become a Little Sister from my parents and grandparents. Growing up on the island of Tonga in the south Pacific, they always encouraged the children in our family to give our lives to God in whatever way that they could. When I was in college, I tried to get rid of this longing to become a religious Sister and convince myself that it was just a foolish thought that I had. For three years I struggled between choosing to continue with my life as it was or to give my life to God. In 2009 I attended World Youth Day in Sydney Australia, which was a milestone in my spiritual battle. The experience of being there, listening to the message of Pope John Paul II: "Do not be afraid!" made a great impact on my life. God gave me the grace to go to confession and share my struggle with Jesus. I gave him all of my burden and said "Yes" to his call to follow Him in religious life. I never felt so free and so full of joy! I told my whole family about my decision and they were so very happy and proud of me.

Now I began searching for a religious community to enter. I was working as a secretary for the Nazareth Sisters and it was there that I met a Little Sister who was visiting from Sydney. She invited me to return with her and attend the Profession of seven Little Sisters, two of whom were from my home in Tonga. During the three months that I spent in Sydney, I fell in love with the Residents, seeing their faces and being with them, gave me the strength to forget about myself and give to the Lord all that I have.

While I was with the Little Sisters, I read about the life of St. Jeanne Jugan. I learned about her humility, her compassion, her self sacrifice, giving up her own bed for an old blind woman and even begging for food and clothing for those in her care. She lost her father and left her family, telling her mother that God wanted her for himself. Jeanne gave all that she had and devoted herself to the elderly. This is what really touched my soul. St. Jeanne Jugan's story is what really helped me to be strong, forget myself and give all to the Lord. "In serving the elderly, you are serving Jesus Christ himself." These words, given to us by Jeanne, echo in my heart all of the time. When I was feeling homesick and missing my family, it was her example and knowing that she loved me that gave me the strength to be a Little Sister. The joy in being in the community, doing everything together, eating, working, praying together, having the sense that spirit and mind are one in giving everything to the elderly, is nothing but pure joy. It was also during that time that I believed I received a special grace through St. Jeanne Jugan during her Canonization.

After spending six months with the Little Sisters in Samoa, I entered the Congregation on October 28, 2010 and I made my Profession at St. Ann's Novitiate in Queens Village, New York on June 1, 2013. For me, it is a great joy and a great gift from God to be called to be a Little Sister of the Poor, to be a daughter of St. Jeanne Jugan, the humble servant of the poor. -Sister Malia Makalita



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



Sister Malia with Rosemary and Rudy D'Onofrio

Little Sisters of the Poor

Helping To Feed The Elderly

As pressure on the resources of area food banks has increased, there is less donated food to go around, less to the Residents of St. Joseph's Home. This means that the amount of food we now have to purchase has increased dramatically. In order to provide for our Residents and to free up funds for other vital needs, our Little Sisters have found a new and creative way to solicit donations of food.

One Saturday a month, a local supermarket opens their doors to the Little Sisters. Our collecting Sister, along with several volunteers, asks for food donations in a way which benefits everyone. Flyers, with a short list of food items, are handed out to store patrons as they enter the store. The groceries listed are usually basic food stuffs like cereals, sugar, flour, broth or sugar free puddings, which shoppers purchase and then drop off in Sister's cart as they exit the store. In lieu of groceries, people can drop off a monetary donation in Sister's jar. The thoughtfulness and generosity that we have experienced at each and every location is overwhelming. Volunteers shuttle full shopping carts from the store to our van which usually arrives back in Totowa filled to the brim. All this would not be possible without the kind permission of the store owners and managers. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to them and to all of the good people who are helping to feed the elderly of St. Joseph's Home.



Sister Grace and Volunteer Baisa

Mardi Gras at St. Joseph's Home



Ringmaster/Lion Tamer Maryel Surriga-Calabro and her lion Bella, with Head Clown Yolanda Mercado leading the Circus Parade.

Every year the Residents and staff of St. Joseph's Home go all out for our Mardi Gras Parade. This year's theme was The Circus. The Head Clown and Ringmaster/Lion Tamer lead the way, followed by the King and Queen in their gold and green float. There were many clowns, other circus performers and Resident popcorn vendors who passed out fresh popped corn. As they say in New Orleans, "Laissez les bons temps rouler - Let the Good Times Roll!"



Resident Celia Hyde and Bella the Lion

Pictured Right:
Our King and Queen
of Mardi Gras,
Bob Doragotti and
Fay Kennedy



ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

A New and Wonderful Tradition

For most college students Spring Break is traditionally a time for partying and vacations. Here at St. Joseph's Home, a new and different Spring Break tradition is held - students from Virginia Tech's Newman Community, travel from the warmth of the south up to the bitter cold of the north. They come not to have a good time for themselves, but to **give of themselves**. For 10 days these bright, friendly and energetic young people spend their day helping to maintain and beautify our Home. This year they did some painting and also spent many hours sanding, repairing and varnishing the handrails in all of the hallways. In the evenings the students had supper and talked with the Residents who have grown to love their visits. They even put on a little show one afternoon during dinner. Although each year a different group of students come to Totowa, they all have the same spirit of giving, by giving up their time off to benefit others. We are grateful for all that they did for us during their stay as well as for their friendship and kindness towards our Residents. We can't wait for Spring Break 2016!



Virginia Tech Students with Resident Eliza Feredjian

Living Stations of the Cross



The staff and volunteers of St. Joseph's Home are privileged each year to present The Living Stations of the Cross. Staff and volunteers from different faiths and backgrounds come together on the Wednesday before Easter to take part, in what can only be described as, a truly moving experience. Because we all feel like we are part of one big family, there is never a need to coax people to participate, there is barely enough room to fit all of the actors on the stage! Everyone involved has one thought motivating them, we are doing it for our Residents and Sisters. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of this big St. Joseph's family, to work with others who care for the elderly in same way that you do and are doing so in the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan. —The Cast & Crew

