

Little Sisters of the Poor

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY



Chris Aiello, Our New Centenarian

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

“And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.” - Abraham Lincoln

The Little Sisters 150 Years In America

On September 13, 1868, seven Little Sisters arrived in Brooklyn, New York. They were dressed strangely, spoke no English, knew no one, had few belongings and very little money. Yet from this small, humble beginning, great things would come.

At a time in history when there was no help or recourse for the destitute aged, the Little Sisters of the Poor were a Godsend. Often with only the guidance and support of a local priest or bishop, the Sisters would begin their work. They started in the largest cities where the need was greatest. The ways of the Little Sisters were something that people had never seen before. Young women giving of themselves, asking nothing for themselves, truly living the Gospels and trusting in Divine Providence alone, was a wonder. Seeing the Sisters' profound humility as they went out “begging” and learning of their wonderful care of the elderly, moved people's hearts to assist them in whatever way they could. Relationships with generous businesses and benefactors grew. In just four years, the Little Sisters had established homes in 13 major cities in the United States, including our nation's capital.

There are now 27 homes for the elderly in the United States, including one mission home in Gallup, New Mexico. Today, as they were 150 years ago, the Little Sisters remain a shining example of Christian charity. In the tradition established by their Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, they still give of themselves,

ask nothing for themselves and trust completely in Divine Providence to help them care for the elderly poor.

The Little Sisters recognize, now just as they did in 1868, that their mission in America would

not be possible without the assistance and support of parishes, clergy members, businesses and individuals, who continue to give whatever they can to help the Sisters provide loving care to the aged. At Mass each day, in all of their homes, the Little Sisters pray for all of the benefactors whose generosity allows them to continue in the work begun by St. Jeanne Jugan.

From August 30, 2018 - August 30, 2019, the Little Sisters of the Poor will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of their mission to the elderly poor in the United States. We look forward to holding our own anniversary celebration here at St. Joseph's Home sometime during this jubilee year.

For those interested in learning about the history of the Little Sisters in America, please stop by our home and pick up a copy of *Serenity* magazine or visit www.littlesistersofthepoor.org/american-foundation



Little Sisters of the Poor

Celebration of the Heart Gala

Last October 25th, the Celebration of the Heart Gala was held in honor of Bishop Frank J. Rodimer's 90th birthday and the 40th anniversary of our home in Totowa. We were blessed to have the support of Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli and Bishop Paul G. Bootkowsi, as well as many other clergy members who are friends of the Little Sisters. With their help and with the organizational skills of Dinner Chair John C. Crimi, the Dinner Committee Members and our Advisory Board, many thousands of much needed dollars were raised for St. Joseph's Home.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who gave of their time and talents to make this event possible. Our sincere thanks goes to the wonderful people who were so very generous in their giving. May St. Joseph and St. Jeanne Jugan bless you all for your generosity and support!



The Little Sisters and Father Mark Cregan

An Engineering Marvel

Resident John Di Paolo is a man of many talents. In his 84 years he has gone from writing classical music to designing computer hardware for NASA. Oh, and he can design and build pipe organs too! As a child, John was skilled on piano, composing music for the Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra and at the ripe old age of 13 was referred to as "the Mozart of Bloomfield." After high school his musical talents got him into the Juilliard School. During the time John was studying music, on the side, he was repairing pipe organs for 25 churches as well as designing new types of organ chimes and stops. While at Juilliard, John's hobby with tinkering and design along with his interest in airplanes, lead him to make a big career change, from music to engineering.

After graduating from New Jersey Institute of Technology with a degree in electrical engineering, John married his beloved wife Jean, who was a talented church organist. When their five children came along, they became one big, happy, musical family. A local church was upgrading to an electronic organ so the Pastor offered the old, beautiful pipe organ to John and Jean who jumped at the opportunity to have their very own pipe organ. The process of reassembling the organ — **in their house**— became a family affair. The pipes had to have their own room!

John worked for several companies,

designing parts for airplanes, but it was when he landed a job at Kearfott, that his career really took off, right into space. When NASA began the Space Shuttle program, Kearfott was awarded contracts to make parts for the shuttle. John is most proud of his designs for the components that allowed the shuttle's computers to communicate with one another. Because John had secret clearance, he also worked on defense projects for our military. Believe it or not, that work is still classified! He said, "I couldn't even tell my wife about the things that I was working on!"

Throughout his career, John never lost his passion for music, continuing to compose both spiritual and classical pieces. While remaining interested in music, John's children followed in his footsteps with careers in science and engineering. Now his four grandchildren are keeping the family music tradition alive. John said, "they told me that they were inspired by their grandparents." According to their proud grandfather, "they will maintain a strong love of music no matter what professions they choose." Nowadays, John does all of his composing on the computer. "I use the sounds played on real instruments," he said, "not electronically created sounds to compose music for an entire orchestra and choir." John will continue playing his music for everyone at St. Joseph's to enjoy. We can't wait to hear what our own "engineering marvel" will create.



The church organ pipes inside the Di Paolo home.



John with a certificate from the FBI and a US Patent for parts that he designed.

Honoring Years Of Devoted Service



Desmin E. Green-Ferguson
Nurse Aid
31 years



Deborah A. Poggi
Nurse
21 years



John J. Feenan
Business Manager
20 years

The Gourmet Club Does Irish

The St. Joseph's Gourmet Club met on March 15th and in honor of St. Patrick's Day, the dinner that they prepared was strictly Irish. With the advice of the Irish members, the Residents prepared their meal as if they were cooking for St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, that means ham instead of corn beef.

The Potato Famine in the 19th century drove many thousands of Irish people to our shores. In adapting to their new home in America, they replaced their traditional ham with corn beef. Of course they still had their potatoes and cabbage!

So going back to their Irish roots, the Residents enjoyed ham

steaks, large boiled potatoes, cabbage and sliced carrots. All of this was served with home-made Irish soda bread with lots of creamy butter spread on top.

St. Joseph's Gourmet Club gathers each month to prepare and cook their favorite meals from home. They discuss recipes, reminisce about family gatherings and share stories about kitchen triumphs and disasters. Volunteer Lucretia McGuinness and Sue Foster from activities, are the helping hands for the club. Everyone agrees that the best part of belonging to the Gourmet Club is enjoying the home cooked food!



Residents from the left: Theresa Sharkey, Madeline DeFeo, Mary Gugliotta, Chris Aiello, Alma Suffy, Eleanor Mc Goldrick and Frances Knapp.



Residents from the left: Eleanor McGoldrick, Frances Knapp, Roseline Chidiac, Josephine "Fitzie" Fitzpatrick, Theresa Sharkey and Madeline DeFeo.

A Simple Note

By Mother Mary Thomas



Dear Friends

The joy of Easter and the beauty of Spring flowers gives a new beginning to our daily life in St. Joseph's Home. Pope Francis tells us that we Christians believe and know that Christ's resurrection is the true hope of the world, the hope that does not disappoint.

This year the Little Sisters of the Poor are celebrating 150 years of service to the elderly in the United States. The first Little Sisters arrived in Brooklyn, NY, in 1868. Their mission in America expanded rapidly — 13 homes in 4 years! Our first home in New Jersey was established in 1878 on South 8th Street, Newark and the second home in 1901 on Dey Street in Paterson. By 1974, it was determined that these two buildings were obsolete, so our home in Totowa was built. In 1976, Residents from both of the old homes moved in. Last year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of St. Joseph's Home with the successful Celebration of the Heart Gala which you can read about in this newsletter.

The Little Sisters' success in America would not have been possible without the generous charity of businesses and individuals who give so that we could care for the elderly poor. We pray for our benefactors each day as St. Jeanne Jugan taught us so many years ago.

As we rejoice in celebrating 150 years in America, "We cherish the founding charism of St. Jeanne Jugan as a precious flame and are eager to pass it on to new generations of Little Sisters. With our foundress we sing, "Blessed be God! Thank you, my God! Glory be to God!"

Gratefully,
Sister Mary Thomas

Completed Projects

We are happy to report that Wi-Fi has been installed in all of the common areas of our Home and work on the new phone system has begun. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our devoted benefactors who provided all of the funds needed for these projects. We sincerely thank all of you for your wonderful support!

Current Projects

- New curtains for the 4th floor and the apartments costing approx. \$15,000.00.
- New 4-wheel drive vehicle for the Sisters church collections and begging: estimated cost \$40,000.00
- Donations for purchasing seasonal hanging flower baskets for the front entrance way which cost \$1,000.00.

Our appeal for funds for new curtains and fixtures is on going and we hope to replace the old blinds in the Residents rooms on the fourth floor and in the apartments by summer.

We also find ourselves in need of a new vehicle for the Sisters to use when they are out on church collections and local begging pickups. The car that they are now using is over 10 years old and does not do well in inclement weather.

If you are interested in helping with these projects, please make a notation with your contribution stating which project you are sponsoring and your gift will be automatically restricted for that purpose. For questions about appeals, donations, mailings, events or website, please contact the Development Office at 973-942-0300 or at twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org. Please address all mailed correspondence to Development Office, St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly, 140 Shepherd Lane, Totowa NJ 07512.

Upcoming Events

St. Jeanne Jugan 50/50 Raffle

Drawn on August 30, 2018

Tickets are \$10.00 each
and will be available late June.

For tickets: Please email your name and address to Cathy Ann at: twdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org and they will be mailed to you. Last year's winner received \$29,645.00.

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale - Ham & Turkey Drop Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018

10am - 4pm at St. Joseph's Home
Free Admission

Our Auxiliary's Christmas Boutique and Luncheon

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 11am - 3pm
at Indian Trail Club, Franklin Lakes NJ
Tickets are \$55 per person and
must be purchased in advance.

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 Planning. 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.*