

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
HOLY FAMILY HOME



BUILDING
TO SERVE in Love

*Serving the elderly poor
in Philadelphia since 1869*

Spring, 2022
HOLY FAMILY HOME
5300 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
19143

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HOLY FAMILY HOME

Gathering Together Once Again Celebrations Even Sweeter After Quarantine



SAVE THE DATE

SAINT JEANNE JUGAN GALA

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022
DREXELBROOK
CATERING AND EVENT
CENTER, DREXEL HILL

*With grateful thanks to
Today's Graphics, Inc., for
printing this newsletter.*

After almost two long years of quarantine and isolation, restrictions were slowly eased as COVID numbers steadily decreased. Residents were able to eat in the dining rooms again and attend Mass in the chapel; families and friends were able to come and visit; group gatherings - socially distanced and masked! - were resumed. Life seemed sweeter with each lifting of a restriction. Every get together was like a celebration, filled with fun, laughter, and joy.

In this newsletter we share with you some of the special events we have had or will be celebrating. In addition to events, we also celebrate people, such as our dedicated staff, who worked hard and diligently during the COVID pandemic and continue to do so today, during a worldwide staffing shortage. We also recognize the Sisters who are celebrating jubilees this

Annual Appeal Novena of Masses to St. Joseph the Worker, May 23 - 31.

We humbly ask for your continued support during our Annual Appeal. We pray for you and your intentions during our Annual Appeal Novena of Masses to St. Joseph the Worker, May 23 - 31. May God bless, guide, and protect you and your loved ones.

year. We are grateful for the gift of their vocations and the loving care they have given to so many Residents.

We also celebrate you, our supportive friends and benefactors. Your prayers and assistance have encouraged us and lifted our spirits and have helped provide our Residents with a warm and caring Home.



Residents and Sisters rejoiced in being able to gather together for Holy Week and Easter liturgies, beginning with Palm Sunday's blessing of the palms and procession from the Cappuccino Corner to the Chapel.



A joyous reunion between the Residents and Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) associates, including Judy Purcell, second from right, sponsored a fun, engaging Resident Event.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Archbishop Nelson Perez celebrated Mass at Holy Family Home on our groundbreaking day. He encouraged and thanked the Sisters for their dedicated service of caring for the elderly in Philadelphia for over 150 years.

New Home Groundbreaking Joyful Anticipation

Dark skies and a chilly mist could not dampen the spirits of those gathered at Holy Family Home for Mass and our official groundbreaking for the new Home. It was fitting that our first gathering since the start of COVID would be for this special event.

Archbishop Nelson Perez, on his first visit to the Home, was the celebrant of the Mass. During the homily, he spoke warmly and directly to the Sisters, “You [are] ministers of mercy. And the Lord has blessed you for that, not only as you run these Homes across the country but as you humbly go to parishes and stand at the door and ask the people of God to assist you, as you’re doing now to build this new facility, this new chapter in your ministry of mercy.” And, he added, “your decision to remain in this community and for this community is really admirable.... It’s not an easy road, but God will be with you.”

After Mass, everyone headed outside where Robert Juliano, President of Holy Family Home’s advisory board, warmly welcomed everyone. Monsignor Francis Beach led us in prayer, quoting Psalm 127, “If the Lord does not build the house, in vain does the builder

labor.” Len Poncia, Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) member, read from 1 Cor: “No one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely Jesus Christ.” Monsignor Beach then blessed the ground of the new building.

Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica recalled the history of the Little Sisters in the City of Brotherly Love, where thanks to the support of the people of Philadelphia and beyond, the Sisters have served for over 150 years, and since 1905, in this exact location.

Mother Celine Therese reaffirmed that the mission of the Little Sisters is to serve those who need it the most, which guided our decision to remain here in southwest Philadelphia. She thanked God and all who helped us get to this day - our associates, the incredible staff at Holy Family Home, our Residents, all who are helping in the building project, and our generous benefactors.

Pennsylvania State Representative Jordan Harris was in attendance and he spoke from the heart about his concern for the elderly in need: “There are far too many seniors who when they get to their golden age, instead of enjoying it, they have health challenges and they don’t know where they will turn. We could not serve all of those in need had it not been for the work of all of you.” He assured us of his 100 percent support for this project.

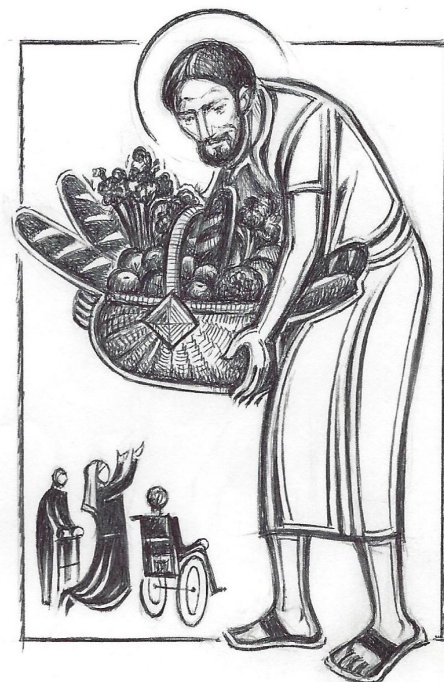
Mother Alice Marie Monica, Mother Celine Thérèse, Monsignor Beach, Holy Family Home Capital Campaign Executive Committee members Angela and Richard Clark, Robert Juliano and Leonard Poncia then donned hard hats, picked up their shovels and dug in, to much applause!

The event ended with a reception, a wonderful opportunity to meet and re-connect with friends old and new!

Prayer to St. Joseph the Worker

Oh, St. Joseph, the most loving of fathers, we thank you for your example of a life devoted to Mary and Jesus. Help us in our daily work, so that we may find it an effective means of glorifying our Lord, sanctifying ourselves, and of being useful to the society in which we live. Help us to follow your example and to keep our sight fixed on Mary, our mother, and Jesus who worked with you at your carpenter’s bench. We ask that we may lead peaceful and holy lives on earth, the prelude to the eternally happy one which awaits us in heaven forever more. Amen.

St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us.





HOLY FAMILY HOME



Congratulations to our Little Sisters celebrating milestone jubilees - Sr. Elisabeth JB (60 years), Sr. Benedict (75 years), Sr. Myriam (25 years).



Two new AJJ Associates - Bobbie Bradley and Sharon O'Shea - made their first promises on May 1, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Celebrating Our Jubilarians

This year we have the joy and blessing of celebrating three milestone jubilees!

Sr. Benedict de St. Vincent met the Little Sisters of the Poor when she went to volunteer at the Home in Somerville while studying at Emmanuel College in Boston. When asked, "What was your first impression of the Little Sisters of the Poor?" Sr. Benedict answered, "Loved them!" She pursued that love and entered the Congregation, making first vows coming on 75 years ago on December 10, 1947. When asked what her impression is of the extended family of the Little Sisters now?" she responds, "Love them even more!"

We join Sister Elisabeth de St. Jean Baptist in thanking God for her 60 years of Consecration. Sr. Elisabeth was born and raised in Most Blessed Sacrament parish, near Holy Family Home. "When I was 15, my girlfriend asked me to come with her to that big home. I went along for the fun of it, but then I was hooked! Little by little I got to know the Little Sisters and learned to relate with the old

folks and enjoy their company. Little by little I grew in an awareness that the Lord really wanted me to follow him for good." So, after graduating from West Catholic H.S. for Girls, she entered the Little Sisters of the Poor and professed her first vows on May 2, 1962.

On July 19 we will celebrate with Sr. Myriam Nazareth, her 25 years of Consecration. She was born in South Korea, "On my brother's first birthday our family had a very big party. I noticed that there were more grandmas there than I could count on my four-year-old fingers. I thought, 'When they become old who will take care of them? They are too many!'" It was a recurring thought until she visited the Little Sisters in South Korea. "When I saw the Sisters looking happy to be with happy grandmas, my question was answered. Eventually I was very grateful and blessed that God called me to be a Little Sister of the Poor and to be part of the solution of caring for all the many elderly."

**We rejoice
with St.
Jeanne
Jugan:
Blessed be
God; thank
you, my God**

Dedicated Staff

Over the years we have been blessed with faithful staff who have embraced our mission of caring for the elderly.

CNA Marie T. was referred to the Home 12 years ago by her friend Tellie, a CNA of 22 years. She says, "The kindness, respect and other good qualities of the place make me feel like no other place exists and motivates me to work under any circumstance to help my lovely Residents, whom I love as my own mother and father."

15 years ago Kim D. started here as a housekeeper, then became our seamstress. She feels as if she has many mothers here and during COVID she gave each of them a gift on Mother's Day. The pandemic didn't keep her away: "As long as I had my shots, I was coming."

Tom D., an LPN here for 10 years, feels that Holy Family Home is "a big family of like-minded people, all working together for a common goal." During COVID he felt that, "With the Sisters, administration, nurses, CNAs, and the staff from all other departments working in tandem, I feel we were able to effectively provide care while keeping everyone as safe as possible."

Demetria W. started working here 16 years ago as a pantry aide. She is now the morning cook. "I love to cook and I love my job!" As she reflects on working during the pandemic, "What motivated me was the fact that we became like a second family to our Residents because they weren't allowed to see their families. We provided some comfort for them in those trying times."

Shawn W., housekeeping manager, notes: "I see how the mission here makes a difference in the lives of the elderly. It takes a lot of love and dedication to accomplish what the Little Sisters do for this close community."

We celebrate our dedicated staff and thank them for all the gifts, talents, and hard work they bring to our Home.

Staff from various departments gathered recently for an Employee Appreciation Party. Many of our employees worked hard and faithfully cared for our Residents during the COVID pandemic.



We Celebrate, We Believe



Dear Friends,

Celebration is an essential aspect of one's life. Without a joyful spirit of festivity, life becomes very dull with nothing to look forward to from our routine. A cheerful heart is good medicine. Now certainly, this applies to all of us.

The shepherds, wise men, and angels celebrated the birth of Jesus with gifts, songs, and prayer. On Easter Sunday we sang "Glory to God" and "Alleluia" as we celebrated his resurrection, the day He gave us the gift of hope for our salvation.

Three of our Little Sisters here have offered their lives to God for a total of 160 years, serving Christ in the person of our Residents every day of their lives; this is a real cause for celebration at Holy Family Home. We give thanks to God and to our Little Sisters for their dedication as we prepare to celebrate their jubilees.

Another occasion for celebration was the groundbreaking ceremony for our new Holy Family Home. The day began with a special Mass presided by Archbishop Nelson Perez, followed by the blessing of the ground by Monsignor Francis Beach.

We are deeply grateful for the support that has been bestowed on us during the years at Holy Family Home. We celebrate and thank each and every one of you for partnering with us through your generosity. Be assured of our constant prayers for your health and safety and for that of your families. Have a blessed Easter season and enjoy the spring!

Prayerfully,

Mother Celine Therese
Superior

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

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Resident Event

After two years of isolation and limited visitation, the Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) associates were happy to once again hold its annual resident event at the Home. Fittingly, it was held on March 19, St. Joseph's feast day. What a joyous celebration it was! The Residents and AJJ associates were so happy to see each other again. The McDade-Cara Irish dancers amazed us with their talent and everyone clapped in time to the lively Irish music and their feet tapped along to the Irish jigs. A DJ then played upbeat oldies tunes and everyone sang and swayed to the music.

We honored and thanked our patron saint and protector with a St. Joseph's table and the history of this tradition was explained to the Residents.

The Residents then happily munched on cakes and cookies and slurped down refreshing root beer floats. It was a special, wonderful get together.



Resident Sandra L. stops by the St. Joseph table during the AJJ resident event. AJJ associates are lay persons spiritually associated with the LSP.

Ways to Support

Here are some ways in which you can help us:

- Checks or credit card donations for our operating needs, especially because we cannot have fundraising events due to the pandemic.
- Donate a Tribute Brick in someone's name.
- Apply for matching gifts from your employer.
- Memorials – In lieu of flowers, please have gifts made to Holy Family Home in memory or in honor of a relative or friend.
- United Way – Our SE PA UWay # is 00307.
- Planned gifts – Establish a will and leave a legacy gift to Holy Family Home, assuring that your assets are passed on to the people and causes cared about most, while also having tax benefits.
- Name tax-exempt Holy Family Home as the beneficiary of an IRA, pension plan, or life insurance policy, usually the most taxed assets.
- Set up charitable gift annuities or a charitable trust, which provide income payments to you during your lifetime and the residual to your beneficiaries and Holy Family Home.
- Purchase through AmazonSmile and choose Holy Family Home as your charitable recipient.

We are most grateful for your generous help!



Dorothy G. receives the sacrament of the anointing of the sick from our chaplain, Fr. James Sullivan, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Mother Celine gathers with the new building team - consultants, architects and construction engineers - during the groundbreaking event.