

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor
in Philadelphia since 1869*

Spring, 2023
HOLY FAMILY HOME
5300 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
19143
littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org



HOLY FAMILY HOME



SAVE THE DATE

SPRING CONCERT
***Lights Out -Tribute
to Frankie Valli, Four
Seasons and More***
May 6, Villanova Univ.

**ST. JEANNE
JUGAN GALA**
September 17,
Drexelbrook

Creating a Home of Joy and Peace - That's Our Joint Ministry to the Elderly

Needy elderly come to Holy Family Home not to die, but to LIVE until they die! So, creating an atmosphere of peace and joy where they can live life to the fullest - that's our joint ministry!

As for promoting peace, thanks to the financial support of our generous benefactors and friends, our Residents no longer dread the uncertainties of their future care. In addition, they come to know the "heart in the Home!" where Jesus waits for all in our Chapel. Indeed, the pastoral care of our Chaplain, Father James Sullivan, as well as the consecrated hospitality of the Little Sisters, facilitate a closer relationship with our loving Heavenly Father, source of true peace.

Some benefactors give not only financially but also give of their time to serve as active volunteers. Our Residents often say: "Sister, we never felt more loved

**Annual
Appeal -
Novena of
Masses to
St. Joseph,
March 21 -
March 29.**

and important!" A smile and a hug go a long way to bring joy to Residents. Great happiness can come from a simple word or small gesture. A good example is our Residents' Christmas party. Singing carols together, enjoying little snacks, greeting Santa and receiving a simple gift brightens their faces with delightful expressions of joy.

Again, your generosity makes these moments possible. We humbly ask for your continued support during our Annual Appeal. We pray for you and your intentions during our Novena of Masses to St. Joseph. May God continue to bless you and your family.



Dianne C. and Mary Lou D. consider it such a joyous blessing to have become good friends at Holy Family Home. They look out for one another and enjoy spending time together. They encourage and inspire each other.



A February Winter Fest party, sponsored by AJJ Associates, helped chase the winter blues away. Indian dancers from the Matha Dance Academy, two young award winning Irish dancers, the Sisters and a DJ entertained our delighted Residents.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Coming to an unfamiliar place and making new friends is not an easy task. Ann B., Mac M. and Katherine B. have helped each other settle in through the years and have the joy of forming a close friendship with one another.

Remembering Special Moments

Lives of Joy & Peace

Our Residents shared with us some of their thoughts of what brings them joy and peace. Of course, many of their joyful moments centered around family.

Mary Lou D. says that “One of the most joyful days in my life was when my granddaughter had a baby girl, making me a great-grandmom. I experience peace in the chapel, praying the rosary, and going to Mass and Holy Hour. Spending time with my three granddaughters also brings me peace. When I listen to someone who wants to talk and when I pray with them, I help bring them joy and peace. Once I found a purse in a store, called the phone number, and the lady was so happy.”

Ann B. says that she experienced great joy when each of her children were born. “I’m at peace when my family is all together and we are talking and sharing memories. I try to be kind, look for the good in people and treat them with respect. I helped a friend to realize a joy and peace that was in them, but not recognized until our friendship blossomed.”

“My dog Lucky brings me great joy,” says Marie M. “I experience peace when I feel safe, when I am in the quiet outdoors, and when I

have “inner” comfort. I try to bring peace and joy to others by being kind and respectful to them. I try to make them feel good, listen when they have something to say, and be good-spirited to them.”

Dianne C. reminisces that “when I was younger, being a favorite aunt brought me great joy. I miss the kids and dogs, but God provides. Holy Family Home gives me great peace. Of course, I had to adjust but it ended up being the best decision I ever made. God

Prayer to St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus

*O God, in Your ineffable providence
You were pleased to choose Blessed
Joseph to be the spouse of Your most holy
Mother; grant, we beg You, that we may
be worthy to have him for our intercessor
in heaven whom on earth we venerate
as our protector; You who live and reign
forever and ever. Amen.*

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To
you God entrusted his only Son; in you
Mary placed her trust; with you Christ
became man. Blessed Joseph, to us, too,
show yourself a father and guide us in the
path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy
and courage, and defend us from every
evil. Amen. St. Joseph, pray for us.

said, “You belong here.”

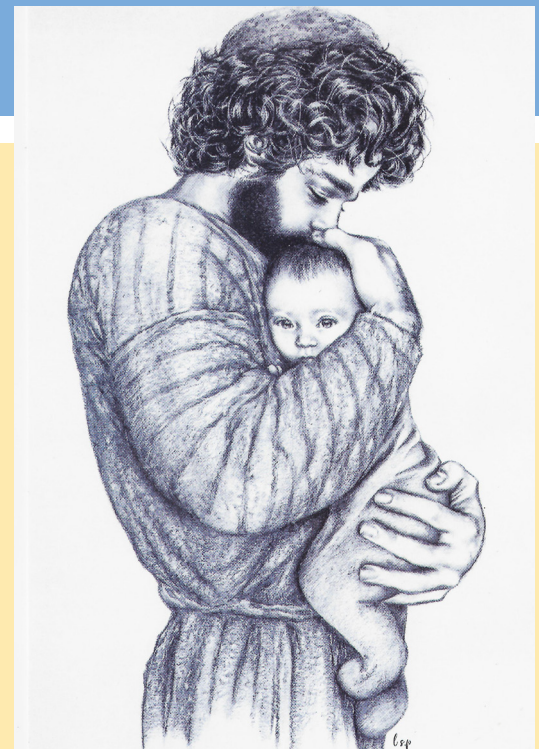
Recently, Rose A. thanked one of the Sisters for checking on her and bringing her a banana! Such a simple thing as that, she claimed, brought her the joy of the Sister’s caring and the peace of knowing the Sister was there for her in case she needed something.

Speaking from experience, Linda I., mother of five children, says that “I can’t think of a greater joy than that of a new mother or father at the birth of their first child.”

Christine M. finds great joy in “hearing from someone I haven’t heard from in awhile.” She enjoys the conversations with the other Residents at mealtimes. When she did a good job at work, she felt content. But most importantly, her prayer life brings her peace and joy. “When I don’t say my rosary or keep up spiritually, something just doesn’t feel right.”

Sometimes it is difficult to find joy as one gets older and more infirm. Perhaps the Residents can be comforted and strengthened by the words from the Bible: “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness (Rom 15:13).”

With grateful thanks to Today’s Graphics, Inc., for its generous printing of this newsletter.





HOLY FAMILY HOME



Sr. Veronica and Capital Campaign Executive Committee Member Paul Murtagh chat at a Building to Serve in Love fundraising event.



Mother Alice Provincial Superior and Mother Celine discuss the progress of the new two-story building with the construction manager.

Building to Serve in Love

Since October, 2022, we have watched with joy and amazement the construction of our new two-story building, which will house the skilled nursing unit and the convent. Each day there is something new to see.

Our capital campaign efforts are also bearing fruit. The Little Sisters of the Poor have been awarded a \$2.5 million grant this past fall from Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for phase 2 of the reconstruction and rebuilding of Holy Family Home.

We are very thankful for the assistance of our Philadelphia community and elected officials, especially Representatives Jordan Harris and Joanna McClinton. Their impactful support of this project has made such a difference to our \$45 million project, and we cannot thank them enough.

We are working hard to raise the remaining funds needed to complete our new Home in 2025. To learn more about *Building to Serve in Love* and stay updated on campaign developments, please visit us at

www.BuildingtoServeinLove.org. Here, you can also visit our live construction camera to see real-time progress!

Holy Family Home's capital campaign fundraising is overseen by a dedicated Executive Committee of business and community leaders who bring a wealth of cross-industry experience to the project's governance. The Committee is in frequent communication and meets monthly to review the progress of the construction and fundraising efforts.

The *Building to Serve in Love* Executive Committee members constantly display deep dedication to the future of Holy Family Home. Paul Murtagh, Executive Committee member, and his wife, Theresa, have

selflessly volunteered countless hours hosting and attending fundraising events in support of the rebuilding of Holy Family Home. We are incredibly grateful to them as they welcome us to share our mission and spread peace and joy to their friends and families.

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

AJJ Associates

Every six years, the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor hold a General Chapter at the motherhouse in La Tour. The purpose of the Chapter is to elect a new Superior General and make decisions that will guide the Congregation according to its charism and apostolic mission for the next six years.

A General Chapter was held in the fall of 2022. One unprecedented aspect was the invitation to our lay Association Jeanne Jugan Associates to participate in the Chapter. Ten Associates from around the world gathered in France and discussions were held regarding the role of the Associates, the statutes, and areas of collaboration and communication between the Sisters and Associates.

The Association Jeanne Jugan was formed in 1998 to invite Catholic lay men and women to participate in a meaningful way in the spirituality and charism of St. Jeanne Jugan and the Little Sisters' mission to the needy elderly. After participating in a one-year formation, they make their promises in May. Here in Philadelphia we have 36 Associates, who meet on a monthly basis to discuss spiritual topics, attend an annual retreat together, pray for and sit with the dying Residents, run an annual event for the Residents and renew their promises. Many of them participate in the Little Sisters' mission by helping in the Residents' dining room, volunteering to help at the church collections and fundraisers, collecting donated items from parishes, or driving the Sisters around. They also help spread to their families and local communities the Sisters' charism of treating and caring for the elderly with dignity and respect.

In the end, the Associates share the same charism with the Little Sisters with different but complementary vocations. They help the Little Sisters "make the elderly happy, that's all (St. Jeanne Jugan)!"

Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) Associates organized a Winter Fest party for the Residents in February. It was 20 degrees outside but inside it was toasty warm with much joy, laughter and goodwill.



A Joyful Response



Dear Friends,

“A joyful response to God’s love which summons us to mission and makes us fulfilled and productive” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis). Yes! Indeed, every Little Sister received this call to live our vocation by serving the poor elderly. How can we keep for ourselves the happiness of knowing Christ in the Eucharist and in the service of the elderly, of being loved and called by Him?

Our Holy Father continues, saying, “In evangelization, the example of Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable. One is at the service of the other.” It is the Lord who inspires us and enables us to continue to serve Him in the elderly. We received it freely and share it generously in His name.

Since we have experienced the joy of the Good News ourselves, through no merit of our own, we desire to live for Christ and share his message of salvation with everyone. Our Mother Foundress continues to inspire all the Little Sisters here in Philadelphia and throughout the world. Please join us in keeping the mission of Jeanne Jugan alive by praying for more young women to answer God’s call to religious life, especially as Little Sisters of the Poor.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission. Together we can accomplish great things. Please know that our grateful prayers are always with you.

Prayerfully,

Mother Celine Therese
Superior

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org

Upcoming Events

We have two wonderful events scheduled for this year. First is our Spring Concert, featuring **Lights Out**, a four-part vocal group that is being hailed as “America’s #1 Tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.” Join us at Villanova University on Saturday, May 6, to listen to this popular multi-talented group which has been entertaining audiences for years by focusing on the art of harmony and the pure sound of voices.

Then on September 17 we will have our St. Jeanne Jugan Gala. Our honorees this year are **Richard and Angela Clark**, co-chairs of Holy Family Home’s “Building to Serve in Love” capital campaign, and **The Board of St. Francis**, an auxiliary group that fundraises for the needs of Holy Family Home. Please join us at Drexelbrook as we thank these special benefactors for their hard work and generous support.



Join us at our upcoming spring concert - a venue to meet the Little Sisters and Residents and a fun way to support their work with the needy elderly.

Ways to Support

Here are some ways in which you can help us:

- Checks or credit card donations for our operating needs - food, utilities, staffing, repairs.
- **Donations of needed items: small bottled water and bottles of wine for our Gala Wine Rack.
- 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 you care about most.
- 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.
- Pray for our Home and Residents and for more vocations to our Congregation.



Activities with its variety of programs (such as pet therapy) and musical entertainment bring our Residents together and make them happy.



Simple things like a visit to the hairdresser, chatting with them and getting pampered can help bring joy and rejuvenation to the Residents.