

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



*Serving the elderly poor  
in Philadelphia since 1869*

Fall, 2022

**HOLY FAMILY HOME**  
5300 Chester Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA  
19143  
(215) 729-5153



## HOLY FAMILY HOME

## Angels Among Us

### Surrounded by Spiritual and Human Angels

When we hear the word “angel” visions of cherubs with wings come to mind. We know that God sends angels to minister to us and to guide us to heaven. But, in addition to spiritual angels, we are blessed to have many earthly angels – people among us who help us in special ways.

Here at Holy Family Home we encounter angels every day, from the staff who carefully bathe the Residents or pick out coordinated outfits for them; to the volunteers who come in, some driving from quite a distance, to help out in the dining room or in the store; to the Sisters who patiently feed the Residents and sit with the dying; to the Residents who cheer up the staff and each other with their words and acts of kindness; and to our donors who generously support the Home and make it possible for our Residents to

*I thank you,  
Lord, with all  
my heart; in  
the presence  
of the angels  
to you I sing.  
(Psalm 138)*

find a home here to live out the rest of their lives.

In the next three years we will be counting even more on our earthly angels, as we embark on our three-phase building project. Work on phase one has begun on the new two-story building, which will house the health care unit and convent. Fundraising for this monumental project will be done in collaboration with the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia. We are praying that through St. Joseph's help and intercession, many angels, in the form of contractors and benefactors, will help make this project a reality.

## OUR NEEDS

**Women's pull-up underwear - medium and large sizes only**

**White 8 1/2 x 11, 20 lb. copy paper**

**Staples gift cards**

**Panera gift cards**



*The Reverend Dennis Gill is all smiles as he receives the St. Jeanne Jugan Award at the Little Sisters of the Poor's Gala. He has been a long-time friend and supporter of the Sisters and their work with the elderly.*



*Mother Celine and Sister Veronica congratulate and thank Bernadette and John Heenan for their generous, ongoing help with the Home's operating needs. They are now also actively involved in fundraising for the new building.*



# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



*Linda, (seated), an apartment Resident, her son, daughter and daughter-in-law enjoy being together at the St. Jeanne Jugan Gala. Linda's children have been like angels to her, taking turns being with her every day.*

## Our Residents' Angels

Alice W., who is blind, has had many angels in her life. Her current angel comes in the form of a Villanova University grad student named Eliana, who faithfully comes every Friday to visit with and read to her. In addition to discussing the book, they talk about such topics as world affairs and science, since chemistry is Eliana's major. "You'd be surprised," says Alice, "we have a lot in common despite the [52 year] age difference." Eliana started coming to the Home after the pandemic, because she knew the Residents were hard hit by the isolation: "I enjoy every minute I get to spend with Alice. She is a great friend and has helped me through a lot."

"My Catholic faith has taught me about angels since childhood," says Dorothy G., who believes her guardian angel watches over her. Her sister and family have also been angels to her, guiding her and expressing their love to her. She also claims that "these Little Sisters of the Poor are angels to the elderly and all the persons in Holy Family Home."

Ann B.'s angel, "Marion", has watched over her and is still doing so today: "She was support for me when going through

hard times, sad times, happy times – all times." Her good friend Mac M. says, "I think I began believing in angels in grade school with the teachings we received, and then I developed a special interest on my own. Although we have had good and bad times, my sister Marcille is my human guardian angel."

Praying to her guardian angel and to St. Michael the archangel is something that Jean M. has been doing for years. Here

at Holy Family Home, she has become friends with Fran M., who lives next door to her: "She is an angel. She is very kind and comes to visit me when she can. She's a good and understanding listener."

Mary Lou D., who lives in one of our apartments, has been away for rehab. She says her neighbor Dianne C. and Sr. Mary Grace are her angels, bringing her home from the rehab center and helping her when she is unable to help herself.

Not only does Linda I. believe in angels because they are mentioned in the bible, but she has also experienced their presence. "I tripped at the top of my basement steps and almost fell. I could feel someone holding me under my arms and I just knew that it was my guardian angel." These days her angels are her five children who take turns coming over every day to be with her and care for her.

Finally, Dianne C., one of our apartment Residents, had only one thing to say, "All the angels I know are here at Holy Family Home." We are most grateful to have to privilege of caring for our Residents - our angels here on earth.

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

## Saint Jeanne Jugan in the Valley of the Saints

A new likeness of Saint Jeanne Jugan, a granite sculpture, was just installed and blessed in the "Vallée des Saints," (Valley of the Saints), a cultural and tourist site in Brittany composed of hundreds of statues of saints who influenced the early history and faith of this region.

This project of the statue of Jeanne Jugan in the Valley of the Saints was born at the end of the festivities of the 10th anniversary of her canonization, in October 2019. Fr. Pierre Michel, then parish priest of Sainte Jeanne Jugan des Grèves, with his faithful, had this idea and above all a great desire to see it among the great Breton saints in the Valley of the Saints. With the help of a generous friends, the dream came true.







# HOLY FAMILY HOME



(left): Marybelle P., who has been a Resident at the Home for over 12 years, models her angel sweater. (right): Cynthia B., is one of our many angelic volunteers who come to help us by visiting with the Residents, helping in the dining room, or organizing our storage areas.

## Funds for Rebuilding Our Home

By: Sister Veronica

*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” - Jas 1*

Fundraising to rebuild Holy Family Home is both humbling and rewarding. We have met many kind and selfless benefactors who are messengers of God for us. Our need has been embraced by the Greater Community of Philadelphia and far beyond as the generosity of many pours forth. Raising \$45 million dollars can be daunting, but through Divine Providence and with the help of many people, we trust that the funds needed to provide a New Home for the elderly that serves them with loving respect and dignity will be realized.

This summer, we visited Saint Brendan the Navigator Parish, Maris Stella Church in Avalon and Saint Paul Church in Stone Harbor – both on the New Jersey shoreline. There we met many selfless and faithful worshippers of Christ who welcomed us warmly and listened attentively as I shared our charism of St. Jeanne Jugan (Foundress),

caring for the elderly, and our urgent need to rebuild our Holy Family Home. One churchgoer and a first-time donor was so inspired that he gave a six-figure donation toward the Campaign.

Our executive committee comprised of 15 volunteers are dedicated leaders of the Philadelphia area and its suburbs. Their leadership and guidance are commendable in collaboration with the Catholic Foundation team whom we have partnered. The Residents and Little Sisters of the Poor give thanks to God for inspiring this special group of friends to commit their time and talents toward fulfilling the need of enhancing the environment of Holy Family Home and improving the lives of so many needy elderly today and in the future. Together we are striving to draw energy and awareness through exisiting donors, as well as introducing new acquaintances to this challenging project. In the words of St. Jeanne Jugan: “If God is with us, it will be accomplished,” and “Blessed be God! Thank you, my God!”

Visit our Building Campaign website, [www.BuildingtoServeinLove.org](http://www.BuildingtoServeinLove.org).

## Caring Angels

By: Father James Sullivan

The word angel literally means a messenger. As such, an angel is a created spirit used by God as an instrument, often to guide, protect and assist a human person. Through them, God reveals his love and care for us.

In the gospel of Matthew, the term messenger is used to describe St. John the Baptist. His was an extraordinary mission. Yet is it not so that God uses human instruments to provide love and care for those in need? Though strictly speaking they are not angels. These are people who serve like angels for others.

Here at Holy Family Home we are blessed with such “angels” providing for others in their need, like: (1) the Resident who goes shopping for her neighbors in the apartments; (2) the Resident who assists another Resident who appears confused or upset until a staff member arrives; (3) the Resident who arranges for a gathering of others to pray together or celebrate an act of appreciation for the work of a Little Sister in the Home.

All these are simple ways that make a difference. The difference is Love. Love is God’s way and the angels’ work that blesses us in life.

We praise and thank God for the gift of His angels – messengers and instruments of God’s love and care.

**Sister Elizabeth Teresa, who enjoys decorating the Cappuccino Corner, shows part of her angel collection to apartment Resident Mary Lou D., who is one of our angels who volunteers in our store.**





# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org)

## Angels Accompany Us



Dear Friends,

I am sure you have heard of or seen the movie “Angels in the Outfield” or the TV series “Touched by an Angel.” Many of us believe that Angels accompany us in our daily lives. Angels are accompanying us in our mission today, and you friends are angels to all of us, helping us to continue the care of the elderly. In this very home for 50 years, each one of you has made contributions to our Residents spiritually and materially, enabling us to continue the mission among the most vulnerable in the City of Brotherly Love.

Let us reflect about the angels in Scripture and see how many times angels proclaimed the Good news to all. The Angel announced to our Blessed Mother that she would bear God in her womb, angels announced the birth of our Savior, and an angel consoled Jesus in His agony.

People often take angels seriously, and that makes sense, since angels are God’s messengers on divine missions to do important work. But angels are joyful creatures, even when they’re working on something serious.

There are so many ways we must thank and express our gratitude and appreciation to each of you, for the love, care, support and understanding that has never failed us. It is through the prayer of so many that we continue with new strength each day to serve and care for the elderly in our home. Please know of our deepest gratitude to you and our prayers for you and your loved ones.

Gratefully,

*Mother Celine Thérèse, lsp*

## Help From Our Angels

Even through the construction we continue our mission of caring for the elderly. Our staff and Sisters are currently caring for 22 Residents in skilled nursing and 17 in independent living apartments. Our expenses include food, utilities, and payroll. We need your continued support to provide them with a safe, comfortable home, meals, nursing care, and spiritual support. Please consider some of these ways to help us:

Monetary donations for our operating needs; Memorial gifts in memory of a loved one; Order through AmazonSmile and choose Holy Family Home as your charity; Matching gift from your employer; Purchase a Tribute Brick in someone’s name; Remember Holy Family Home in your will, IRA, or life insurance.

Please visit our website or call us for more information. Thank you for your support!



*Marie K. is all smiles as Sister Maria gets her settled at the table for the 4th of July indoor picnic. Marie has been at the Home for five years.*

## Construction Begins

We are very excited that phase 1 of our building project has finally begun! This phase, which will take about a year, consists of constructing a new two-story building that will house our health care unit and the convent. INTECH is the construction contractor chosen to oversee the project.

After our ceremonial groundbreaking in March, the first step towards construction began in mid-July with the removal of our beautiful trees, bushes, and plants. This was followed by construction fence installation and the widening of our small 54th St. gate. Digging began for sanitary relocation, pit for new elevator, and site preparation.

We were excited to watch as concrete was poured into the trenches and concrete blocks for the foundation walls started going up. Every day Residents, staff and Sisters would look out the windows to watch and talk about the work that was being done.

To follow the progress of the construction, visit our Home’s website, [littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org](http://littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org), and click on the slide that says “Under Construction” to see daily photos.



*Mother Celine gets an update on the building progress from Steve Rhodes of INTECH, our construction management company.*



*Every day after lunch, these three Residents go to the dining room windows to watch and check out the progress of the construction.*