

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor
in Philadelphia since 1869*



Fall, 2024
HOLY FAMILY HOME
5300 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
19143

littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org

HOLY FAMILY HOME

\$1,000,000 Matching Challenge Please support our Building Project



OUR NEEDS

Depends or Tena pull-ups, women, large

Hand sanitizer with pump (not flip lid)

Hand wipes

Disinfecting wipes

We are very excited to be seeing changes every day as our Holy Family Home's renovation continues. Phase one of the rebuild has been completed, and in phase two, we are focused on constructing 37 new independent living apartments, as well as their own dining area. We are happy to be able to continue providing housing for the needy elderly in Philadelphia with your help.

We have a wonderful opportunity for you to be part of this construction project. A generous, anonymous donor has just offered a \$1 million challenge match through The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia (CFGF). CFGF is an independent, nonprofit community foundation that is leading our "Building to Serve in Love" capital campaign.

That means that every dollar you give through

Your gift will help provide housing for Residents for years to come

this fall newsletter mailing will be matched through this challenge. So, your donation will be doubled in impact!

The entire proceeds from this mailing and the CFGF challenge match will go towards the building project. Thus, your donation will live long into the future in the apartments that you help build.

That also means you are helping scores of Residents who will be living here for years to come.

We ask for a sacrificial donation on your part so that we might make the most of this generous challenge. May God bless you for your much needed support.



Our annual concert once again featured the dynamic group LIGHTS OUT. They brought the audience to its feet with the amazing hits of the Beach Boys. We are grateful to Villanova University for the use of its Mullen Center.



In May Patrick Ireland (above) made first promises as a Jeanne Jugan Associate. 32 other Associates (top photo) renewed their promises at the same Mass. Associates are lay people who help spread the charism of Jeanne Jugan.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Dick and Angie Clark, cochairs of the Little Sisters of the Poor's Building to Serve in Love Campaign, meet Mother Provincial Alice Marie (left) and Mother General Maria, during Mother Maria's visit to the U.S. last year.

The Poor are Our Lord by Dick Clark

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Jeanne Jugan on October 11, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, her words have never been more meaningful to me: "Never forget, never forget, that the poor are Our Lord." At this time in our history where there is so much sadness and turmoil in the world, caring for each other with kindness and love, as the Little Sisters do for the elderly in 31 countries, is the greatest service to Christ—and an important lesson we should all take to heart.

Three years ago, my wife Angie and I were invited to visit the Little Sisters' Holy Family Home in Kingsessing, one of the most underserved neighborhoods in southwest Philadelphia. As we stepped over the threshold of the Home, my wife and I expected to experience a nursing home. Instead, we were greeted with laughter by one of the residents joking with Mother Celine and Sister Veronica. We were led through the household and witnessed the love and joy present among the residents, the Little Sisters, and the staff who are employed from the immediate neighborhood, many of whom have served the Home for over 30 years. We expected to tour a

facility, and instead, we met a family.

After 50 years of service in Kingsessing, the Little Sisters recently came to a critical crossroad, with significant updates and repairs needed to their Home in order to continue to serve our elderly poor. The Little Sisters were offered the opportunity to relocate to a suburban location. They immediately dismissed the idea, as it would take them away from the poor to whom they are devoted. Instead, the Little Sisters embarked on a \$45

Friend of the Elderly Prayer (Nick Parrendo-stained glass)

Lord Jesus, You taught that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for you. Your servant Jeanne Jugan took these words seriously. Moved by the Holy Spirit she opened her heart and her home to the elderly poor. Inspired by her example I, too, want to be a friend to the elderly. Teach me to reverence older persons, to walk at their pace, to listen attentively to their stories, to learn from their wisdom and to generously offer help in time of need. Help us, together, to envision a world full of hope. Through the intercession of St. Jeanne Jugan give me a heart for the elderly, a heart that will love them with your own merciful Heart.

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million project to build a new, state-of-the-art residence and renovate portions of the existing buildings. The options are so limited for our elderly poor, and the Home is making a vital community impact in providing their Residents with both independent living and health care support when needed, so they can age in place and not be displaced from their familiar, loving surroundings.

Angie and I were so moved by our visit with the Little Sisters that we decided to cochair the fundraising effort for their new residence. Today, despite a pandemic and the challenges of raising support, we are more than halfway to our goal, thanks to a committed group of volunteers and donors who are determined to keep the Home open.

I believe the Little Sisters' model of eldercare should be the north star to which all senior living facilities aspire. The elderly poor whom the Little Sisters serve are not merely patients. They are family members of a loving home that values and celebrates each resident's humanity as they journey through the final phase of life.

I hope you will share this story of hope and love that is the wellspring of our faith.

Dick Clark is the former chairman and CEO of Merck.



Our Foundress

Saint Jeanne Jugan was the first Little Sister of the Poor. She was born, lived and died in France at the turn of the 19th century. As any young person, Jeanne was seeking to give meaning to her life. When receiving a proposal to marriage, she was moved to say: "God wants me for himself, for a work not yet known."

Eventually, a poor blind, elderly lady was God's instrument in revealing to Jeanne her vocation. Jeanne responded by carrying the little lady home and giving her her own bed. After that, there were other poor old folks knocking on her door and tugging at her heart. Willingly accepting spiritual advice and the willing hands of friends, Jeanne courageously got organized. The work grew from her own little apartment, then on to numerous homes throughout the world, run by her Congregation.

From the beginning, she saw wonderful things happening in the lives of those who came to her assistance. The nearby farmer who offered her some produce, the village baker who saved his leftover bread for them, the volunteers who gave their time and talent — they too were experiencing the joy of giving and were discovering the Lord in the poor. That is why Jeanne's work always included the begging as an essential part of the Little Sisters' hospitaller life — to support each of their homes and to associate others in their work, so that they too could share in its blessings.

When the Little Sisters landed in Philadelphia over 150 years ago, they arrived with meager means but great trust in divine Providence. Armed with the charism of hospitality bequeathed to them by Jeanne Jugan, they responded to the needs of the elderly, many of whom were immigrants like themselves. Today the spirit of Saint Jeanne Jugan remains alive in the Philadelphia community of thirteen Little Sisters.

The Little Sisters of the Poor continue Saint Jeanne Jugan's work of caring for the elderly here at Holy Family Home In Philadelphia. As their foundress said, "Making the poor happy is all that counts!"



Kathy Kagel, RN, retires after 51 years of dedicated, loving service to countless Residents and Sisters. She has been a blessing to us!



The Little Sisters provide hands-on care to the health care Residents, most evident during meal times when they help serve and feed.

Jeanne Jugan's Legacy

Some of our Residents shared with us their thoughts about Saint Jeanne Jugan. Fran M. says, "Jeanne Jugan gave up her bed to a soul who needed her desperately. By reaching out just that once, a seed began to grow that became the Little Sisters of the Poor." Katherine B. agrees, "She was truly unselfish, taking in the elderly and becoming responsible for them."

Jim M. admires her willingness to dedicate her life to caring for the poor and the elderly, and that she could attract so many young women to follow in her footsteps. Katherine is amazed at her humility, especially how when a benefactor she approached slapped her, she merely said, "That was for me; now may I have something for the elderly." Mary Lou D. points to Jeanne Jugan's respect for the poor and her compassion for the elderly.

One common theme that emerged was Jeanne Jugan's complete trust in Divine Providence and her belief that He would take care of everything. Katherine

recounted the story of when Jeanne Jugan went to a pig farm looking for bacon for the Residents. All the farmer could give her was a sick pig, which she raised, nursed back to health, and then took to a butcher so the Residents wish for bacon was fulfilled.

Jeanne Jugan has guided Joe K. to become a better person by helping others like she did. Katherine tries to emulate Jeanne Jugan's selflessness and Jim enjoys interacting with other Residents and trying to connect with them.

The Residents realized that by being cared for by the Little Sisters of the Poor in one of their homes, they are part of their legacy. Mary Lou is happy to be part of this legacy and Katherine is grateful that she can benefit from Jeanne Jugan's starting the Congregation. Jim has a sense of pride being associated with this Congregation, which is well-known worldwide.

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

Residents are happy to be recipients of Saint Jeanne Jugan's legacy

Following Jeanne Jugan



Dear Friends,

Every day I am humbled by your request for prayers for different needs. God has called us to pray and work for His glory alone. We are blessed to have our Foundress Saint Jeanne Jugan as our guide and leader to accompany us with her example of fidelity to the call that is handed on to all of her daughters.

This year we Little Sisters have been on “A year with Sister Mary of the Cross (Saint Jeanne Jugan’s religious name).” We are working hard to understand and know her better. The better we know her, the better we will live her charism and imitate her littleness and unconditional confidence in Divine Providence.

What does she ask of us at this present time with all the challenges that surround us? To make Christ present to the world through our personal witness, which is living the hidden life of a Little Sister. “Making the poor happy” – such is the charism of the Little Sisters of the Poor, daughters of Saint Jeanne Jugan. We are called to reveal God’s compassion to each Resident confided to our care.

Please pray for vocations to our Congregation so that we may continue God’s work of caring for the elderly poor.

Saint Jeanne Jugan always thanked her benefactors by praying for them. Keep sending us your special intentions and know that the Little Sisters and our elderly Residents bring them before our Eucharistic Lord in prayer. Thank you for your support.

May God bless you,

Mother Celine Thèrèse

Building Update

The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity as phase 2 of our building project went into full gear. Four floors of apartments are taking shape. The new kitchen equipment has been delivered and the apartment dining room is being finished. We can see the main structure of the offices and front entrance; the basement storage rooms will soon be ready for us to move over our supplies. Two new elevators are being installed and we are waiting for the delivery of new laundry equipment.

We have also been busy interviewing applicants for our independent living apartments – the need is so great. We’ve met with our current apartment Residents to go over basic room plans.

It’s been a lot of work, a lot of worrying, and a lot of praying to Saint Joseph, for his guidance and intercession. Thank you for your prayers.



The renovated Chapel will seem airier, with the sanctuary extended forward, new stained glass windows on the side, and the balcony removed.

Ways to Support

Thank you for your ongoing support through:

- **Checks or credit card donations** to help us get to the finish line for the rebuild of our Holy Family Home.

- **Matching gifts** – Your employer’s generous employee benefit can help double your gift!

- **For Pennsylvania businesses** – Through the NAP tax credit program, your company can give to the rebuild campaign and get 90% in PA tax credits. Think of it as giving the Little Sisters \$100,000 in support for only a \$10,000 donation! Applications are open now through October 25, 2024. Please ask us how you can participate.

- **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 support the rebuild of our Holy Family Home, enabling us to count your gift to the campaign now while not impacting your discretionary income in any way.

- **Pray** for our Home and Residents and for more vocations to our Congregation.

We are most grateful for your generous help!



Our smaller kitchen will have a mix of new equipment, items from our now closed Totowa Home, and a few things from our current kitchen.



The front entrance is getting a facelift. To the right is the renovated building of four stories of apartments, along with offices on the 1st floor.