



Sisters Serve Staff Christmas

Among the many pleasant and well-designed spaces created as part of the rebuilding of Holy Family Home is the Father Ernest Lelievre Center, a bright and welcoming gathering space.

On most days, Residents assemble there for engaging activities hosted by staff and volunteers. In mid-December, the Little Sisters hosted Holy Family's staff in the Center for a delightful Christmas celebration.

The Father Ernest Center was decorated with a magnificent Christmas tree and other festive decorations, offering staff a cheerful and hospitable environment for their holiday get-together. The Little Sisters joyfully served staff members a delicious buffet of foods prepared by Holy Family Home's dietary manager, Tara Perkins.

With background Christmas music provided by a DJ, staff were renewed in a spirit of friendship and sharing not only with coworkers from their own departments, but also with those staff with whom they might not have the daily opportunity to socialize. Conversations centered on past Christmas memories, as well as plans for the current Christmas season. An atmosphere of laughter, peace and merriment permeated the room

as the Sisters delighted the staff with thoughtful gifts in acknowledgement of their dedicated work.

Father Ernest Lelievre, after whom the Center is named, was a humble French priest who devoted his life to caring for the poor and to supporting the Little Sisters of the Poor throughout their early years of ministry, particularly in establishing their earliest homes here in

the United States. He was known to have encouraged the Little Sisters with "The Lord is with you; that says everything... Are you not his family, his people?"

Within the positive setting of the Father Ernest Center, staff were offered the occasion to grow in bonds of friendship and to increase the spirit of family which is the heart of the mission of Holy Family Home.





Board President Writes to You

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is a privilege to write to you as the new President of the Advisory Board of Holy Family Home. I am deeply grateful for the faithful generosity and commitment that continue to sustain the Little Sisters' sacred mission of caring for the elderly poor with dignity, compassion, and love.

Thanks to the generosity and faithfulness of our supporters, our Home has reopened after extensive renovations and new additions that enhance safety, comfort and dignity for the Residents we serve. As we begin a new chapter, this beautiful renewal ensures that our Residents can continue to live in a warm, secure, and faith-filled environment, surrounded by the loving care of the Sisters.

This fall, after the re-opening of the Home, my wife Angie and I were invited to lunch with its Residents. Beyond the beauty of the new light-filled spaces, as we shared a meal, the joy and happiness we experienced among the elderly Residents put a smile on our faces that remained long after we left. Our visit reminded us that the Little Sisters are doing Christ's work every day, and the culture of compassion and caring they have nurtured on Chester Avenue deserves our thoughtful stewardship.

And so, while we celebrate the newly rebuilt Holy Family Home, its reopening is only the beginning. A renewed Home also brings ongoing responsibility – maintaining the facility, supporting daily operations, and ensuring that no elderly person is ever turned away due to lack of resources. Your continued partnership makes this possible.

This Lenten Season, we warmly invite you to remain an important part of the Little Sisters' mission through your financial support, volunteering, and prayerful advocacy. Every gift of time, resources, and prayer directly touches the lives of the elderly poor and will strengthen the new Holy Family Home for generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support, faith, and generosity. Together, we will ensure that the Little Sisters' renewed Home remains a place of dignity, peace, and loving care – a true family where each Resident is cherished and respected.

With gratitude and blessings,
Richard Clark
President, Advisory Board
Holy Family Home

Novena of Masses to St. Joseph the Worker

St. Joseph is the patron and provider of the Holy Family – protecting and guiding Mary and Jesus. Following in the footsteps of our Mother, St. Jeanne Jugan, we confide our Homes to his protection. Be assured of his intercessory power to obtain from his foster son, Jesus, your spiritual and temporal needs. At Holy Family Home as in all of our Homes we celebrate March 19 with the deepest solemnity honoring him on the Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of the Church!

Join us in our novena of Masses – March 10 – 18.

Residents Reflect on Their First Anniversary

RESIDENTS respond to a reviewing their first anniversary of living at Holy Family Home (HFH).

Patricia S. recounts: “What I appreciated most when moving into HFH was that I was suddenly surrounded by friendly people after having lived in an anonymous apartment complex previously. I spent three lonely years there, as well as assisting my sister, Terri, who needed hospitalization but now also lives in HFH St. Joseph’s Healthcare. Here, I soon re-discovered the joy of belonging and of purpose. I am now a daily participant in Rosary, Mass, and many enriching activities. I really delight in being in part of “Holy Family Homemakers” who attend to the Coffee Corner and dining room. It’s a happy first anniversary for me.”

Marie T. reminisces: After living in another care facility for five years and witnessing unfavorable experiences I prayed for God to intervene. I received a call in January of 2025 to come and meet Mother Celine and knew that God answers prayers. “God taught me a lot during my time of transition. With His help, I learned to focus on all the positive amenities instead of my new personal space. The beauty and peacefulness of spending time in the chapel for Mass and other services, as well as the warm welcome and graciousness of all the Sisters and staff. They truly live up to their charism of hospitality. My heart and mind are extremely grateful for all He has provided me at Holy Family Home.



Honoring the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

As we move forward, living in gratitude for our beautiful Holy Family Home, we reflect upon our origins. Who brought us to Philadelphia 156 years ago from our Motherhouse in France...offering us a row house to begin assisting the vast growing number of indigent elderly people?

In 1869 Archbishop Wood invited the Little Sisters of the Poor, who had been featured in an article in Charles Dickens’ weekly magazine, Household Words, to come and assist the elderly of Philadelphia.

While providing several row houses upon the Sisters’ arrival, the archdiocese, under the leadership of Archbishop Wood, helped to build not just one home for 250 people, but another as well for 300 more.

Bishop Prendergast followed years later with another home on Chester Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia for another 300 elderly.

Today the parish priests continue to support our mission by inviting us and encouraging their parish families to donate. Holy Family Home was honored on June 24, 2025 with Archbishop Nelson Pérez celebrating a Mass of an official ‘reopening.’



The Little Sisters of the Poor wish to recognize and honor the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on September 27 at the Drexelbrook Banquet Center, presenting Archbishop Pérez with the St. Jeanne Jugan Award. Information will be forthcoming.

A NOTE FROM MOTHER

In my last newsletter, I explained about the new Home and rebuilding accomplishments. Here our new Residents



experience much joy living in their new apartments and the Saint Joseph care unit. They have found safety, security and accompaniment in their remaining days and enjoyment in their last stages of life.

We Little Sisters are focusing on building long-term relationships with our friends and benefactors based on trust and transparency. This means considering Residents' desires, needs, and core values in our services. We view our sustainability not only as an obligation to those who contributed to the building of our new Home, but also as an opportunity to enhance our mission, using sustainable materials and processes throughout our Home.

We are grateful for the continuum of Dick Clark's leadership ability as he joins our Advisory Board as our Chair. Thanks to you all for joining us in our mission of caring for the needy elderly with your financial assistance. Your kindness and generosity in support of the mission of Little Sisters of the Poor are appreciated very much. We also appreciate your continued prayers for the safety of all at Holy Family Home.

Prayerfully,
Mother Celine Thérèse, ISP

Which Way?

Which way? Barbara M. is delighted to say: "My Way is St. Carlo Acutis Way."

She was the one who proposed this "Saint in Sneakers" as patron of the Third Floor Apartments when we asked the Residents for suggestions for designating the various areas of the newly renovated Apartment wing.

Lyn, who lives a few feet from the St. Carlo Acutis Way sign, says she was grateful to discover a young, computer savvy intercessor when she moved in. "I need all the help I can get, so I read up on him," she smiled.

Wanting Holy Family Home to be an active participant in the New Evangelization, we thought of the tradition of naming places after saints. It seemed to be the way go to reinforce faith, provide role models, and create a patron for Residents on each floor of the Apartments.

This worked for some, like Pat S. who said: "Every time I get off the elevator at St. Katharine Drexel Way, I look up to her picture and whisper a little prayer to ask her to help me . . ."

For others, our efforts seemed a failure. When asked: "Do you like having your Floor named after Bishop Neumann?" Bob A. answered frankly, "I never thought of it. I didn't even

notice that this floor is called St. John Neumann Way."

However, on second thought, Bob mused: "You know, I owe a lot to Bishop Neumann. It was thanks to him that I had Catholic schools to go to when I was growing up. I really should give him a shout-out when I get off the elevator and see his picture."

Indeed, naming each Way after a patron saint was the way to go for our Apartment Residents. They could then have their own spiritual anchor, as did the Residents of the Care Unit, which was named for St. Joseph almost from day one.

St. Jeanne Jugan herself taught her Little Sisters to encourage the Elderly to "Go to Joseph" with their needs. He would provide for them in the same way as he watched over the Holy Family.

To this day, St Joseph's presence as the protector of ST. JOSEPH'S CARE UNIT inspires them to have confidence in their powerful intercessor.

Which way to go? Let's go with this old pious practice of dedicating various places to a holy patron. We are happy to see how it can be a way to evangelize and to connect our Home to the larger "Communion of Saints."

Wish List

Poise pads

Bottled water
8 oz. & 16 oz.

