

Mother's Corner

By: Mother Mary Michael



Our little family delighted in the sunshine filled days, fun outings, and joyful fetes of summer – our 141st in this city! As temperatures soared, we were so thankful to our friends who made gifts to our Fuel Fund, which helps pay to keep the lights on and our Residents comfortable.

In early October, as the leaves began to brighten, we happily welcomed to our home five new Postulants. Here they share in daily life and are introduced to our spirituality and traditions. In fact, their arrival coincided with our announcement of this year's Jeanne Jugan Award winner, Theda Thompson who shares Jeanne Jugan's attributes of love and compassion for the elderly poor.

Several Little Sisters and Residents attended opening Mass for the Year of Faith at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on October 11, a start of a year for Catholics to deepen and share their faith, and a date that coincides with the third anniversary of the canonization of our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan. The celebration was presided by Archbishop Timothy Broglio, Archbishop for Military Services, U.S.A.

We recently had the honor of welcoming Mother General Celine and her companion, Mother Assistant Gerard Patricia from La Tour Saint Joseph, our motherhouse in Brittany, France. We were overjoyed to have this special time with Mother Celine.

We are pleased to report progress on projects identified as 'most necessary' to keeping our Residents safe. We completed updates to the fire safety system at St. Joseph's Villa by installing mini-horn units that emit an extremely loud siren and completed upgrades to the PA system speakers.

On behalf of our "little family," of Residents and Little Sisters, I thank you and wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving!

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org

Our Needs

WISH LIST OF ITEMS FOR OUR RESIDENTS

- Bath Towels and Washcloths (white)
- Body Wash and Dove Bar Soap
- Coffee
- Dish Cloths and Kitchen Towels
- Dish Soap
- Knee-high stockings
- Laundry Soap (ex: Tide)
- Lotion (Lubriderm and Eucerin are favorites)
- Mouthwash
- Pre-Electric Shaving Lotion
- Tissues (Kleenex)

Thank you, thank you, thank you for helping us help others!

Donate Saleable Goods Now for Fall Bazaar

Our home is accepting – now until November 11 — donations of saleable items for our annual Fall Bazaar.

We are accepting:

- Spa items – soap, lotion, cologne, bath oil, body wash/body scrub
- Kitchen, house wares and home décor items – glassware, silverware and serving sets, frames, vases, collectible figurines, baskets, curtains, table runners, tablecloths and napkins, and napkin rings
- Greeting cards, gift cards, boxes, gift-wrap and ribbons
- Jewelry (costume or real) and accessories for men and women – wallets, ties, belts, scarves and gloves
- Display structures for jewelry, scarves and other accessories
- Donations of baked goods accepted November 17 at 9 a.m.

For more information about this event or to donate goods, contact A.J.J. coordinators, Dorene Carey at zazoopitts@gmail.com or Carol Monaco at csmtapper@starpower.net

Upcoming Events

Fall Sweepstakes November 12 - December 19

Watch for your Fall Sweepstakes tickets due in mailboxes this November! The Fall Sweepstakes runs November 12 – December 19. The drawing will take place on December 21 — giving winners and our "little family" something extra to be thankful for during the holidays. All money raised through this drawing will go to the Fuel Fund of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Winners will be notified by phone and/or email.



Save the Date for our Fall Bazaar November 17

Save the date and attend our Annual Fall Bazaar Saturday, November 17 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The day also includes a Bake Sale, Basket Raffle, Food and Refreshment, and at 3 p.m. the \$5.00 Bag Sale."



Thanksgiving November 22

A wonderful day of celebration is planned for our Residents complete with traditional fixings from turkey, cranberry sauce and dinner rolls to sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. Football game optional. Thanksgiving Day Mass at 11 a.m.



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor in Washington, D.C. since 1871.

Fall, 2012
Volume 5, Issue 2

JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE
4200 Harewood Road, NE
Washington, D.C. 20017



A Special Visit With Our Mother General

Our auditorium filled with excited chatter on October 18, as our "little family" of Residents, staff, A.J.J. members and volunteers began to gather, all in eager anticipation of our Mother General's arrival.

It is not too long before Mother General Celine and her companion, Mother Assistant Gerard Patricia, arrive. Our Sisters, Little Sisters visiting from other homes, and our five new Postulants, greet these extremely special visitors at the front door.

Then it is on to the auditorium where happy faces, smiles and hearty applause greet Mother General Celine and Mother Assistant Gerard Patricia. Residents, Mary Nathan, wearing a gorgeous Indian sari, and Cecilia Joh, wearing a striking Korean hanbok, present Mother General and Mother Assistant with beautiful bouquets. At this point, Resident Leonard Donatelli steps forward, takes

"Mother General loves us and takes such good care of us." - Mary Nathan, Resident

the microphone and offers a warm welcome, speaking on behalf of everyone present.

Afterward Mother General addresses everyone and shares, "how happy I am to be at your lovely home here in Washington, D.C. after a journey that has taken

us to our homes in Colombia and San Francisco. From here it's on to Delaware, to New York and then France." Mother Celine then takes time to greet each person gathered to see her and presents each with a small gift. "I was so happy for Mother General's visit to our Little Sisters' home here in Washington, D.C.," shares Mary.

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Sweepstakes
November 12 - December 19

Fall Bazaar
November 17

Thanksgiving
November 22



William Cardinal Baum greets Mother General Celine upon her arrival at our home. We are all thrilled and blessed to have had this special visit with Mother Celine.



Mary and Cecilia present Mother General and Mother Assistant with beautiful bouquets. "Mother General loves us and takes such good care of us," says Mary, "she has a very big job... all over the world."



In Step with Our New “Begging Sister”

Prayers to St. Joseph Bear Salmon... and Benefactors



Sr. Jeanne Véronique, Brother, Jules and Sr. Janet unload much-appreciated food donations from the begging van. “Following Jeanne Jugan,” she says, “we always thank our benefactors by praying for them every day.”

A driving rain and chilly temperatures greet us as Sr. Jeanne Véronique and Sr. Janet prepare to go begging. They don’t go on foot, or by a horse and buggy driven by a Resident as Sisters did in years past, rather they head out in a van driven by Brother John, a Carmelite Brother who has worked for us for many years. He starts today’s effort by praying for a safe trip and the continuing generosity of our benefactors. The Sisters review the begging list — like a shopping list — provided by chef manager, Amy Otten, and dining services director, Tim Boykin, the begging Sister shares her plan for our day and then we are off to the wholesale food market in D.C.

“As we walk to the door of each merchant,” Sr. Janet explains, “we silently pray to St. Joseph that people are good to us and give what is needed for our Residents. For example, we ask for fish, beef, pork and any special items needed that week.” Jeanne Jugan had a special devotion to St. Joseph; it was to his powerful protection that she confided all her undertakings and all her cares, considering him the great provider of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The Sisters call on a food distributor and a meat company and come away with

chicken, onions, carrots and potatoes. The rain doesn’t slow our umbrella-wielding Sisters. When confronted by a river of water flowing between the van and us, Sr. Jeanne Véronique suddenly takes to the air, leaping across as the much taller Sr. Janet simply skips over the water, while instinctively reaching out a hand to steady her Sister — neither says a word. I follow.

Placing All One’s Confidence In God

Saint Jeanne Jugan founded the future of her work on an evangelical challenge to live from day to day, never amassing goods or money, refusing perpetual endowments, placing all one’s confidence in God. She traveled the roads on foot seeking alms, food, clothing and other items essential to the home.

If you’d like,” Jeanne Jugan said one day to a businessman, “we can share the elderly today; you can feed them, and I’ll take care of them.” As our new begging Sister, Sr. Jeanne Véronique carries on this 173-year-old tradition by begging for all the needs of our home.

They share an enthusiasm in getting new merchants to donate and are thankful that their next two visits are successful. The first with Peter Martone at ProFish yields several pounds of fresh Salmon and the second with Gustavo Balbuena at Mexican Fruits yields beautiful green, red and yellow bell peppers. “We will keep you in our prayers,” offer the Sisters after each visit.

Several more places and the van is nearly chock-full, so we return home. Brother John and Calixte Jules our cook, quickly unload everything so the Sisters can leave to go visit with a few of our long-time benefactors. Bowie Produce Co., Inc., Cantwell-Cleary Co., Delta Produce, Keany Produce Co., Ottenberg’s Bakery and Pete Pappas & Sons, Inc. generously give the many items that remain on the list, including vegetables, fruits, herbs, eggs and paper products. “Today’s food donations will help us to provide an entire week’s worth of nutritious meals for our Residents,” says Sr. Jeanne Véronique, “in these challenging economic times, we rejoice that God has provided for us through our generous friends and benefactors in the community.”



Opening Day of the 2012 Postulancy on October 25.



Our new Postulants pose for a photo with our Mother General, Mother Assitant and Sr. Maria Grace.

Blessed be God! Thank you, my God! Glory be to God! – Saint Jeanne Jugan

It is with happy hearts that our “little family” of Little Sisters, Residents and staff welcome five Postulants to our home this week — Maria Krasowski from Montana, Jamie Charest from Connecticut, Jessica Ruggiero from Massachusetts, Rachael Lowe from Washington State and Danielle Byrd from Florida. Here, they will share in our daily life and be introduced to our spirituality and traditions.

“It is such a privilege to pass on to them the beauty of the charism of St. Jeanne Jugan,” says Sr. Maria Grace. “We Little Sisters here in Washington are delighted to share this part of their journey, and the Residents just love having them here in our home.” So, if you see any new smiling faces around

our home it is probably one of our Postulants; be sure to say “hello.”

Postulancy is a first step on the journey through which Jesus reveals his loving plan to those who really seek him. For those who feel called to follow Saint Jeanne Jugan as a Little Sister of the Poor, formation is a process of progressively taking on the mind and heart of Christ. It means living charity, humility, and devotedness to the poor and unconditional trust in God’s loving Providence, just as our beloved foundress did. Also, it is a time of transition and usually lasts about 9 months — the final months spent in the novitiate, located in Queens Village, New York.

Please keep them in your prayers!

Jeanne Jugan Award Theda Thompson, Resident Accounts

Theda Thompson, a 25-year veteran of our home in charge of Resident Accounts, is the recipient of this year’s Jeanne Jugan Award for “best living out the spirit of our Mother Foundress as an employee of our home.”

“Theda emerged from a pool of fourteen nominees,” shares Mother Mary Michael, “because she shares Jeanne Jugan’s attributes of love, kindness, and compassion. I’m so very happy for you, for all that you do for our Residents and for our staff, hidden work,” explains Mother Mary Michael, while presenting the award.

This is the 10th anniversary of the Jeanne Jugan Award. Each year the employees of our home are invited to contemplate the virtues and vision of Jeanne Jugan, and to nominate a co-worker whom they feel contributes to living her spirit. Several weeks later, our little family gathers near the statue of Jeanne Jugan and our Mother proclaims the recipient of the honor.

“I’m so excited,” several employees spontaneously exclaim, “she is so deserving,” as a moved and misty-eyed Theda steps forward to accept the award, wipes at her tears and quietly says “Thank You!” Later, Theda shares, “it was a most unexpected and pleasant surprise, there were so many other deserving people!”

For those of us that know her, it is no surprise that Theda’s immediate plans include participating in the Annual Walk for the Homeless, which raises funds to provide families with small children a safe place to stay, or to know that she puts her kindness and compassion to noble use as a member of the Bereavement Committee of the Emory United Methodist Church.

Theda is a native of Jamaica and attended John Jay College in New York. She lives in Beltsville and enjoys spending time with her family and traveling.

