

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

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



JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE

Fall 2015
Volume 8 | Issue 2

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

Top photo: The Holy Father tells our Sisters how their work is important and ministry to the elderly is often overlooked.

Pope Francis' Surprise Visit

With Great Love For the Elderly Poor, He Encourages Us In Our Mission

Pope Francis made an impromptu visit to our home after celebrating the Mass canonizing Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception September 23. Earlier that day, three Little Sisters attended the White House 'Papal Welcome,' where they were notified by the Papal Nuncio that the Pope wanted to stop by for a private visit with all the Little Sisters.

However, the Sisters had very good tickets to the Mass so they went to the Basilica hoping to make it home on time. At 2:30 p.m., a member of the Pope's planning committee instructed them to return home.

The first car in the Pope's entourage pulled into our driveway at 6:54 p.m., followed by the Pope's car and several SUV's. Under a beautiful sky, Pope Francis unfolded from his little Fiat 500, and promptly stepped toward Mother Mary Michael, who was waiting by our chapel door to welcome him.

More than 40 little Sisters quietly waited in the chapel. The Pope moved slowly and with great care among them, taking their hands, and speaking to each Little Sister. Then, he spoke about the importance of our mission in a society

that tends to marginalize the aged and the poor.

"Caring for the elderly is not a job that many people like to do," he said. "In the world we live in it is regarded as burdensome and useless... many of the elderly are put aside, forgotten... what you are actually doing [in caring for the elderly poor], is that you are safeguarding the memory of the church's family, the memory of faith..."

Our Lord said, whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me. When you sing to the elderly, when you pray to them, when you caress them or show tenderness, you are doing it to Christ..."

After praying a Hail Mary together, he blessed the Sisters, and then the Holy Father said, "Pray for me because I have a difficult task."

Little Sisters around the world are deeply moved and encouraged by the Holy Father's words. The Sisters live the mission of St. Jeanne Jugan, by offering the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.



SAVE THE DATE

**2015 Combined
Federal Campaign**
Sept. 1- Dec. 15

Fall Sweepstakes
Oct. 19 - Dec. 29

Thanksgiving
November 26

Christmas
December 25



Mother Mary Michael welcomes Pope Francis and Cardinal Wuerl to our home. The Pope, who prefers his native Spanish, spoke to our Sisters with a translator by his side.



The Holy Father greets Sr. Marie Mathilde, 102 years old. He spoke to each Sister, from the youngest postulant to our centenarian.



Sr. Jeanne Veronique, our begging Sister, is thrilled to receive a donation of locally grown produce. Sister carries on our 175-year-old tradition of begging for all the needs of our home.



Maude and Miriam, enjoy a chat as they peel carrots as members of the veggie patrol, a social club that meets each week to peel more than 200 pounds of vegetables.

Little Sisters Community News

- Everyone gathered at the front door to welcome the new Little Sister joining our community. Sr. Margaret comes to us from our home in Cleveland, Ohio, and attends to the Residents on the Guardian Angel and St. Francis units. “We welcome her with great joy to our home and to Washington, D.C., and are blessed to have her as part of our family,” said Mother Mary Michael.

- Little Sisters from around the world — delegates of our General Chapter — gathered at our motherhouse, La Tour St. Joseph, in Brittany, France in August. On September 8, they elected as our Congregation’s new superior general, Sister María del Monte Auxiliadora. Mother María, as she asked us to call her, is originally from Seville, Spain, and our first Spanish superior general.

Mother María succeeds Mother Celine de la Visitation, who served as superior general from 1996-2015. Mother Celine was elected to the General Council, assuming the role of Vicar General. Five other Little Sisters were also elected to the General Council.

Mother María served in a variety of roles prior to her election to the General Council in 2009, including mistress of novices in our Spanish novitiate and provincial superior in Spain. She made her profession there in 1982.

Please keep Mother María, the General Council, and our Congregation in your prayers!

Local Growers’ Bountiful Harvests...

Blessings of Local Produce and Improved Health For Residents

Local gardeners are helping to provide meals for our Residents by sharing their bountiful summer harvests of “locally grown” fruits and vegetables. They have donated everything from apricots, corn on the cob, and summer squash, to green beans, tomatoes and peaches.

It should come as no surprise that access to healthy food improves health outcomes. Locally grown produce is fresh, contains little-to-no

preservatives, and typically has superior texture, flavor, and a high nutritional value. “Fresh food at our tables helps to keep Residents out of the hospital and at home,” said Sr. Jeanne Veronique.

Continuing support from our friends in the community — local gardeners and farmers, and meat, paper and produce companies — defrays costs and ensures that we are able to offer 125,000 tasty and nutritious meals each year.

**“Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord.”
(Daniel 3:76)**

She Hung Up Her Apron After 28 Years But She’s Not Slowing Down

Louise Kelly hung up her apron this year and retired after 28 years as a pantry aide serving our Residents. The Jamaica native is one of five long-time (over 25 years) employees. During the course of her career, she has helped care for some of the more than 15,000 elderly poor persons who have lived at our home, and she’s seen quite a few changes; like the advent of the internet and cell phones. However, what hasn’t changed for Louise is how nice it is to see the Residents happy.

We held a celebration for Louise’s retirement in June, complete with delicious cake, retirement award, flowers, speeches and the piece de resistance, her 1-year old grandson, Joachin. “Louise is so personable,” said Tim Boyton, our kitchen manager. “You meet her, and immediately you know you can depend on her. She was dedicated to her job and to our Residents, and took a lot of pride in what she did. In fact, when she clocks out for the day she always says, ‘make sure they

keep my floor running smooth!’”

Louise likes the outdoors and is a woman on the move. She gardens, and cooks for her family. Louise met her husband in 1969. They dated for 12 years before marrying. “Retirement,” she said, “won’t be difficult. I thought I’m probably going to retire soon anyway. Why not do it now when I’m young enough to enjoy spending more time with my family... my grandson?” Shelly Kelly, Louise’s youngest daughter and our medical secretary, is Joachin’s mother.

“I like being able to do absolutely nothing but enjoy life,” she said, and is doing exactly that during her retirement by caring for her grandson who just started walking. “Her day is about more than preparing bottles and changing diapers, it is keeping up with Joachin’s changing interests,” said Shelly, “which include everything from playtime, pool time, and walk time, to chasing him around the house. It goes without saying,



“We all thank Louise for her family spirit, years of hard work, and dedication to our Residents,” said Sr. Celestine, seen here with Tim Boyton, presenting Louise with much deserved retirement gifts.

that the two really enjoy being together!”

Louise leaves behind a legacy of sage advice, family spirit, and her charming daughter Shelly. We will miss you, Louise!



Cardinal Baum blesses Mother Mary Michael upon her arrival at our home.

William Cardinal Baum

In Memoriam

November 21, 1926 – July 23, 2015

William Cardinal Wakefield Baum was welcomed into the Lord's Kingdom July 26, following a gradual failing of health. A Resident of our home and the longest-serving American cardinal, he was 88 years old. Despite his frail health and deteriorating eyesight, he was very caring of our "little family" of Residents, Little Sisters, staff and volunteers. He never hesitated to stop to listen, to offer a blessing and gentle words; everyone at the Jeanne Jugan Residence appreciated what a model of kindness, and humility he was in our midst.

Washington's Cardinal Donald Wuerl, and Msgr. Patrick Dempsey, the Cardinal's private secretary, visited frequently. They joined the Little Sisters in praying at Cardinal Baum's bedside as he died. "I can easily recall the tears in the eyes of some of the Sisters who also saw with the eyes of faith and love that it was a holy passing that we were witnessing," said Cardinal Wuerl, as reported by The Catholic Standard's editor, Mark Zimmermann.



Louise, holding Joachin, visits with Cardinal Baum and Rose, our charge nurse.

As the archbishop of Washington from 1973-80, Cardinal Baum hosted Pope John Paul II's historic first pastoral visit to the nation's capital in 1979. He then served at the Vatican as Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education and later as the head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican office for matters of conscience, until his retirement in 2001.

"With his death I have lost a longtime friend with whom I had the privilege of working in a variety of capacities going back to the late seventies," said Cardinal Wuerl in a statement posted on to the Archdiocese of Washington website July 24. "As I offer my prayers for him and my sympathy to his family and friends, I also thank God for the generosity with which Cardinal Baum responded with a quiet but firm and enduring yes to God's call that enabled him to touch, by his ministry, so many people over so many years. May God now grant him a place in the house of Our Father." Amen.



Cardinal Baum and Leonard chat during one of our afternoon socials.

Becoming U.S. Citizen

Brave New Patriot, Martha DiFilipi Joyfully Pledged Allegiance

Martha DiFilipi, a Resident on our Sacred Heart Unit, recited her pledge of allegiance to become a citizen of the United States August 11. Angeles Villarreal, her friend, joined Martha and a Little Sisters of the Poor volunteer, for the legal oath ceremony at the Federal Court House in Washington, D.C. "I am also a naturalized citizen and I know how special this is," said Ms. Villarreal, "it was such an honor to attend."

"Both Martha and Angeles really dressed up, so pretty!" said Sr. Joseph.

Upon leaving the courthouse, the 81-year-old enjoyed a celebration lunch with friends at a Chinese Restaurant. While she was out, our staff prepared a congratulatory Red, White and Blue sign for her door. When she returned home, Sister asked Martha if she said the Pledge of Allegiance. "Oh yes!" she replied. And, when asked if she is prepared to defend her country she charmingly put up her fists.

Peru-native Martha passed the hour-long oral exam several weeks ago. "My friend, Fanny Barrantes, helped me to make the arrangements and study for the exam," said Martha. "I'm so very grateful to Fanny for her help."

Apprehensive about the test, Martha put her dream of becoming a U.S. Citizen on hold for more than a decade. The death of her sister earlier this year made her realize that if she was going to fulfill her dream, she'd better do it now. And so, she started the process and began studying. "She was just so brave," said Sr. Joseph. The rest is history.

Congratulations Martha on becoming a U.S. Citizen.



Martha shares a joyful moment with Sr. Joseph and Joyce, our activities coordinator. Activities staff gave Martha a pretty bracelet to commemorate becoming a U. S. Citizen.

Mother's Corner

By: Mother Mary Michael



The recent visit of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to our beloved city brought many tears and joys to our entire family here at Jeanne Jugan Residence! His message of compassion and mercy was a source of renewal for all of us to deepen our faith and spread the joy of the Gospel.

We are happy to share our good news of the completion of our convent renovations and that Phase II of our Capital Campaign is nearing its realization. The Residents are delighted with their new windows and we hope this will be cost effective for the future. We are very thankful to all our friends who made gifts to our Fuel Fund and to our Capital Campaign.

The grand re-opening of our French Café took place on September 16 in conjunction with a "Pope Party" in preparation for our Holy Father's visit. We are indeed grateful for our benefactors who have helped to support this work in order to enhance the lives of our Residents.

As this newsletter goes to print, we ask for your prayers for our newly elected Mother General Maria del Monte Auxiliadora and her General Council. Mother Celine, our former Mother General, will remain at the motherhouse as the Vicar General and will continue her faithful service to our Congregation.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I reflect on our many blessings including our Residents, and our friends in the community whose generosity supports our mission of hospitality as we serve Jesus in the person of the elderly poor, and enables us to bring joy and happiness into the lives of our dear aged.

I remain united in prayer for your many intentions.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorwashingtondc.org

Instruments of God's Love Talent & Humble Service

Fortunate are the many families who celebrated Labor Day Weekend by attending the inaugural Appaloosa Roots Music Festival held at the beautiful Skyline Ranch Resort nestled among the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Blessed too are the Little Sisters of the Poor as Scythian, the band hosting Appaloosa, with great love for the elderly poor, donated 5% of the proceeds to benefit our mission!

The entire event was exciting; from Friday night's lighting of the acoustic bonfire until late Sunday, 20 bands performed a variety of great music, including bluegrass, Celtic, folk, and country.

Even our neighbors from the Dominican House of Studies, the "Hillbilly Thomists," took to the stage. They have a mission to share the truth of the Gospel, and their singing and



beautiful music is part of that. It was a delight to listen to Mandolin Virtuoso, Sierra Hull during her solo set and again as she joined Scythian on stage for a collaborative song.

Celtic-Gypsy-folk rockers Scythian brought the entire close-packed audience to their feet with their rousing performance that had everyone dancing.

"The Little Sisters are so very blessed to have such loving support from these talented musicians," said Sr. Jeanne Veronique. While the festival is over, the spirit it brought to those in attendance will surely encourage listeners to attend next year. Until then!

Thank you for helping us help others!

Upcoming Events

Combined Federal Campaign September 1 - December 15

Please remember you can support our mission to care for the needy aged by designating the Little Sisters of the Poor, #53116, in your workplace giving. Federal workers, retirees, and government contractors are eligible to donate to the CFC, the official workplace giving campaign of the federal government.

Winter Fuel Fund/Fall Sweepstakes October 19 - December 29

Watch for Sweepstakes tickets due in mailboxes this October! The sweeps runs October 19 thru December 29 - drawing December 31. All money raised goes to our Winter Fuel Fund.

Thanksgiving and Christmas November 28 and December 25

We have delightful celebrations planned for Residents complete with traditional foods.

Each year, we are blessed by the generosity of the local schools and businesses that run food drives and donate everything from canned goods and pies, to turkey and ham, making our Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts joyous!

We are so very grateful for the groups, singers, musicians and friends in the community who share the Joy of Christmas, their talents, and blessings with our Residents. Many bring gifts and treats for our Residents, and hope for our future.

