



Sr. Dorothy shares a moment with Kelly McCarthy, a member of the DBE, and Kearsley Rand, State President of DBE in Virginia.



Sr. Jeanne Veronique finds herself amidst an impromptu dance party with DBE members Heidi Schneble, Chapter Regent of Pimm's & Poppies, her mother Jane Schneble, and Kelly, who holds the teapot.

## Tea, Scones, and Joy with The Daughters of the British Empire

On February 21, the Pimm's and Poppies Chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire (DBE), hosted a delightful afternoon tea at the Jeanne Jugan Residence, bringing the warmth and heritage of the Commonwealth of Nations to our Residents.

The festivities began early as nine volunteers arrived to transform our Café. They came prepared with kettles, an impressively large church-hall teapot, and a curated assortment of teas. The spread was equally remarkable: a scrumptious array of homemade treats featuring traditional scones, buttery shortbread, and rich chocolate walnut cupcakes. To complete the setting, staff and volunteers gathered floral Spode and classic blue-and-white Wedgwood teacups to lend an air of authentic British charm to every table.

As the afternoon unfolded, the Café filled with the sound of conversation and laughter. More than two dozen Residents were treated to table-side service by the DBE ladies. The aroma of freshly brewed tea soon mingled with spontaneous singing – and even a bit of dancing – as everyone embraced the cheerful spirit of the occasion.

The generosity and warmth of these women served as a beautiful reminder of how small acts of kindness can transform an ordinary afternoon into a lasting memory. Their presence highlighted that volunteers are more than just helpers; they are vital partners in fostering the well-being of our Residents.

The gratitude from our Residents was palpable. “Thank you, lovely ladies, for everything. You bring England to our Home,” shared Stal Epshteyn. Later and with a smile, Tom Cronin added, “You’ve brought a lot of class to our Home this afternoon! It was such a treat.” Others like Eloise, found the event to be a bridge to the past: “I learned a lot. It was so nice to reminisce and catch up,” she noted, recalling her sister’s time living in London.

The volunteers were delighted to see the joy their visit brought. They said they would be back for another visit in September and would plan to make their relationship with the Home an ongoing one.

The tea party blossomed into a celebration of community that uplifted spirits. Every laugh, story, and quiet

moment over a cup of tea helped knit our hearts a little closer.

Events like this are only possible because of the kindness of volunteers and the support of friends like you. Your involvement allows us to create moments of joy, dignity, and belonging that enrich our Residents’ lives. We are always looking for new partners: if you or your organization would like to bring a bit of joy to our Residents, we invite you to join our volunteer community. For more information, visit our website.

“Thank you for sharing in our mission to care for the elderly,” said Mother Patricia Mary. “We look forward to more afternoons filled with laughter, camaraderie, and tea, of course!”

The Daughters of the British Empire is an American nonprofit society of women of British and Commonwealth of Nations birth or ancestry. The organization is over one hundred years old, is multi-generational and united by shared values of sisterhood, heritage, and service. It was founded to help senior Britons who had fallen on hard times in America and its enduring legacy is its continued support for the elderly across the U.S.

# Windows to Wellness: Renewing St. Joseph's Villa

St. Joseph's Villa, which houses 24 independent-living apartments for low-income seniors, urgently needs to replace 54 original fibrex (a wood fiber and thermoplastic polymer composite) sliding windows installed when the building was constructed 28 years ago. The windows have reached the end of their expected 20-25-year lifespan; many are difficult to open, locks are failing and Residents feel noticeable drafts on cold, windy days.

Without modern thermal breaks, the windows allow significant heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer, increasing utility costs, reducing comfort, and raising moisture-related health risks for Residents. Replacing them will improve energy efficiency, lower operating costs, eliminate persistent drafts and leaks, and reduce the risk of mold and structural damage.

"As stewards of the Villa's upkeep, we see this project as essential to caring for our Residents and to responsibly managing the resources entrusted to us," Mother Patricia Mary said. We have already replaced more than 300 windows in our 1964 and 1982 buildings, resolving long-standing safety concerns and improving living conditions; finishing work at St. Joseph's Villa completes that effort.



Resident Alvin Williams gazes out one of the 28-year-old windows at St. Joseph's Villa. "You can really feel a draft on cold days," he says. The replacement of these windows is essential to Resident comfort and safety.

Support for this upgrade will directly improve daily comfort and safety for Residents, protect the building, and preserve our mission of serving the city's elders. Donations will help ensure the Villa remains safe, efficient, and sustainable for generations to come.



## Save the Date

### Join Us for Our Mother Foundress' Feast Day

August 30 | Mass at 10:30 a.m.

On a cold winter's day in 1839, St. Jeanne Jugan welcomed an elderly destitute, blind woman, Anne Chauvin into her home. Jeanne gave Anne her bed, a "home," where meals were shared, joys multiplied and sorrows divided. Please join us as we unite in prayer to offer our gratitude for the life and example of Saint Jeanne Jugan. We will gather in our chapel to celebrate Jeanne's gesture of loving hospitality.

## Faith, Family, and Fast Answers

### *On a Roll with Resident, Carl Wicktor Bergquist*



Carl Wicktor Bergquist was born in 1937 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, two months early and weighing just three pounds. Named for his Swedish grandfather, he was diagnosed with spastic cerebral palsy. He faced challenges from the start – but never accepted limitations. After a pivotal surgery at age four and a half, Carl learned to walk, defying expectations. “He didn’t let anything stop him,” shared his older sister, Anne, “he took the bus all over this city and later learned to drive.”

His early childhood unfolded against the backdrop of World War II. His father, Floyd, was commissioned into the Army after college and had 10 days to report for duty; he worked his entire career for the Department of Defense at the Pentagon. In 1945, after the war,

the family reunited in Kensington, Maryland, following a journey that left a lasting impression on Carl: his mother, Winifred, traveling alone by train from Minnesota to Washington, D.C. with five young children, ages 4 to 9. “Her courage and resilience,” Carl says, “helped form the values that guide my life.”

The Bergquist children were raised in the close-knit Blessed Sacrament parish, surrounded by faith and community. He remains close to two surviving sisters, Anne and Brenda. After attending Blessed Sacrament Elementary School, Carl graduated in 1955 as part of the first graduating class of Archbishop Carroll High School, located adjacent to our Home. Among his classmates were General Charlie May and our own Father Flanagan, one of many enduring connections from that time.

Carl studied economics at American University, where his aptitude for numbers stood out. He later went into business with his brother William and spent most of his career in sales, where his quick thinking and engaging personality made him successful.

Carl and his beloved wife, Lucy, built a life together in Prince William County, Virginia. He adopted Lucy’s two sons, Steven and Joel, and together they welcomed a

son, Michael. Today, Carl is a proud grandfather.

A man of deep faith, Carl treasures the rosary and keeps it close, lifting up family, friends, former classmates, and the world in prayer. And, in a reflection of both his faith and personality, he also keeps the Washington Nationals in his prayers. A lifelong baseball fan, Carl delights in cheering them on. He remembers praying the rosary during the World Series and says he believes the Blessed Mother had a hand in Howie Kendrick’s dramatic hit that struck the foul pole and stayed in play. “I said a lot of rosaries for the Nats that year,” he said.

Bright, quick-witted, and always ready with an answer, Carl has a talent for outpacing sisters, staff and fellow residents during games and trivia. He has lived at the Jeanne Jugan Residence with the Little Sisters of the Poor for 20 years, where his humor and steady faith continue to enrich the community around him.

One of Carl’s favorite memories is captured in a cherished photograph: seated in his wheelchair, he holds his wedding-day portrait with Lucy. Behind him, his grandson Matthew’s baseball photo peeks out – a quiet reflection of love, legacy, and the everyday moments that continue to bring him joy.



Resident Margarita Cifuentes sports sparkly shamrocks.



Sr. Jacintha holds seedling potatoes ready for Sr. Frances Catherine to plant.



Resident George (Stephen) Cardillo concentrates on word search and crossword.

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day Together

Our French Café was transformed into a bit of the Emerald Isle on March 17. At 2:30 pm, about twenty-five Residents – many in green – gathered for a St. Patrick's Day Social filled with laughter and learning.

The program opened with a brief history of Ireland's patron saint presented by Resident, Theresa Nowgruckes. St. Patrick (385-461), born in Roman Britain, was kidnapped at 16, escaped, then returned to Ireland as a missionary, converting thousands and founding churches, monasteries, and schools. As legend has it, he used the three-leaf shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity and is said to have "driven out snakes," a colorful

metaphor, since Ireland had no native snakes.

Residents enjoyed green punch and Irish coffee made with Irish whiskey topped with whipped cream. Mother Patricia Mary and several Sisters provided homemade cookies, alongside doughnuts and tiny stuffed hot dogs.

A highlight was Sr. Frances Catherine's hands-on gardening demonstration. She explained the ideal soil, cool temperatures, and sunlight needed to plant "seed potatoes," and how to hill them as they grow. Jane shared family tips, noting they cut the potatoes in half before planting, while Sister demonstrated planting them whole.

A spontaneous game between Sr. Jacintha and Sr. Constance drew laughter as the two tossed green ping-pong balls into umbrellas hanging from the ceiling. Others worked St. Patrick's-themed word searches and a crossword.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Cristy Lugo, who celebrated with an Irish coffee. We are also grateful to the two JPII Seminarians who served refreshments and spent time with Residents.

"Thank you for making afternoons like this possible," said Mother Patricia Mary. "Our donors' generosity keeps our community nourished in body and spirit."



## Empty Shelves, Swift Responses

### *Community Steps Up for Sister Jeanne Veronique's Call*

“Our pantry shelves are bare,” said Sr. Jeanne Veronique. “We need food donations.” She outlined immediate needs, including green beans, carrots, corn, mixed vegetables, peas, mixed fruits, pears, oranges, peaches, and other canned goods.

Members of the Holy Redeemer School quickly answered the call, braving a bitterly cold, windy day to deliver more than 20 bags of food, personal care items, and snacks. Sisters Frances Catherine and Jeanne Veronique welcomed students and their family members at the loading dock. Among those making the delivery were two families, a grandmother and granddaughter with deep roots in the neighborhood, as well as a mother-son-duo. Together, they helped deliver and unload two minivans filled with much needed supplies.

DeMatha High School students also responded generously. Several student clubs donated all or a portion of their fundraising proceeds, and Miller, a CUA student intern at DeMatha, delivered a check within three days of Sr. Jeanne Veronique's request. Erin Bright, DeMatha's Director of Christian Service, noted that the students “decided on their own that they wanted to help,” even as spring break approached. The school – known for its large annual fall food drive – held an impromptu collection for the benefit of our residence when students returned after Easter. Erin, and Damon Austin, Director of Library and Media Services and faculty advisor to the Black Student Union (BSU), and BSU members personally delivered the food.

**Sr. Jeanne Veronique emphasized that “food is needed year-round, not only during holidays. Your generosity sustains our Home. We are deeply grateful to Holy Redeemer School, DeMatha High School's student clubs, Erin Bright, and the many families and volunteers whose prompt generosity answered our call.”**

#### How to Help

- Drop off requested food items (see list above) at our Home.
- Make a monetary gift online or via check.

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Recent visits of Pope Leo XIV in Turkey and Algeria included visits to homes for the elderly. Little Sisters of the Poor and Residents welcomed him in Istanbul and Annaba. The short visits brought joy, awe, and blessings!



Reminding the elderly men and women, he said:

“...you are the wisdom of a people, treasure for your grandchildren, families and society.” To sisters, two brief reflections: “first inspired by your name, you are ‘Little Sisters of the Poor’ a beautiful name, one that makes us think! The Lord has called you to assist and help the poor but also called you to be their ‘sisters!’ You are to be like Jesus, whom the Father sent to us not only to help save us, but also to be our brother. The secret of Christian charity is that before being for others, we must be with others in a communion based on fraternity.”

In Annaba, a Resident spoke about their Home, with people from many nations and religions, living together in fraternity. Pope Leo was touched. “Yes, there is hope!” “God’s heart is with the little ones, with the humble, and with them He builds up His kingdom of Love and Peace, day by day, just as you are striving to do here in your daily service, in your friendship and life together.”

Joy filled an encounter in Washington for our Sisters sharing an afternoon tea and luncheon with several young women and religious. The St. John Paul the Great Vocation Society at St. John Neumann Church hosted the tea; where guests enjoyed elegant teapots, china, linens, finger sandwiches, festive desserts, and conversations about vocations. Years ago, Fr. William Braidsford, deceased, began this event to plant seeds and inspire youth about religious life. Moments like this remind us, hospitality can open hearts to hear a call from the Lord, “follow me.” Please continue to pray for vocations to religious life and priesthood.

To quote Pope Leo: “Hospitality is a gift... that comes from God, brought to fruition, by (sharing and caring) Sisters, staff, benefactors, volunteers and Residents, in daily life together.” Thank You for your prayers, support, generosity, friendship, and help, for our Home. We pray daily for you, your family and intentions.

May God bless you,  
*Sr. Patricia Mary*



## Saying Goodbye to a Dear Friend

On March 7, the Holy See announced that Pope Leo XIV had accepted the resignation of Cardinal Christophe Pierre as Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. After a distinguished decade of service in Washington, D.C., Cardinal Pierre – who turned eighty on January 30 – begins a well-earned retirement divided between France and Rome.

For the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Residents in our care, Cardinal Pierre has been more than a diplomat; he has been a friend. He shares humble roots with our Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan, as they are both from Saint Servan, a humble fishing village, in France. He has long shown a tender affection for the charism of hospitality to the elderly poor. Over the years he visited our Homes, sat at our tables, celebrated with our communities, and reminded us that each person – especially our elders – bears the face of Christ. His personal connection ran deep: as the Sisters once cared for his mother, and Cardinal Pierre frequently spoke of the Little Sisters with gratitude.

The Little Sisters of the Poor and our Residents send Cardinal Pierre our heartfelt thanks for his encouragement, and for modeling the humility and charity at the heart of our mission, and prayers for this new chapter.

We also welcome Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, appointed as the new Apostolic Nuncio, and ask God’s guidance for him as he accompanies the Church in the United States.