Little Sisters of the Poor
Hospitality at Heart

Jeanne Jugan Residence
Fall 2026



Residents Eloise, Yolanda, Patrice, and Bonnie gather at a table during the festival to savor fluffy cotton candy made by Sister Jacintha.



Serving up silliness one toss at a time: our volunteers, wearing enourmous plastic pants with exaggerated waistbands, wobble and shimmy as they try to catch small beach balls tossed their way by the Residents—laughter ensued.

A Feast Day of Grace and Joy

On August 30, our Home was filled with gratitude and joy as we gathered to honor our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, on her feast day.

For our Residents, the feast day was more than a celebration on the calendar. It was a joyful reflection of the love and daily companionship made possible through the generosity of friends.

The day began in a spirit of deep gratitude with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Father Becket Soule, O.P. Father focused on the Beatitudes, especially "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." He made the connection between the power in Jesus' meekness and littleness, and the power in the littleness of St. Jeanne Jugan as she cared for the elderly in need.

In the quiet of the liturgy, Residents and their family members, Little Sisters, Jeanne Jugan Associates, staff, and volunteers gave thanks for and reflected on the life and legacy of St. Jeanne Jugan and the mission of the Little Sisters.

After the morning liturgy, prayer gave way to a fun festival.

The Residents gathered in the auditorium, where the activities team had transformed the room into a cheerful fairground with music, games, and even a "horse race."

Young volunteers and our Jeanne Jugan Associates helped with the games and the Residents delighted in winning prizes and sharing fellowship!

Laughter filled the room during human "Whack-a-Mole." The part of the mole was played by the grandchildren of Nilla, our director of nursing. They climbed inside a giant cardboard box with holes cut in the top. As the children's heads popped up, Residents gathered around them and, with gleeful concentration, tried to tap them with colorful pool noodles! It was a very funny sight.

The beach ball toss was another crowd-pleaser. Volunteers donned hysterical, oversized plastic pants with exaggerated waistbands. Watching our Residents and Sisters try to toss small beach balls into the pants – and the volunteers' spirited efforts to catch them – had the whole room roaring with laughter.

Between the rounds of putt-putt and the rubber-duckie knockdown game, Mother Patricia Mary treated everyone to carnival snacks. The sweet scent of freshly made cotton candy and popcorn filled the air, and the orange vanilla ice cream floats made by Mother were the perfect, nostalgic treat to wrap up the festivities.







Resident Spotlight

Faith, Service, and the Gift of Community

Every Resident brings a lifetime of experience and traditions to our community. For Tom Cronin and Bonnie Connor, faith has been a constant source of strength, while family, service, and friendship have shaped the people they are today.

Tom Cronin

Steady Hands, Warm Heart, and Spirit of Service

From military service to hospital maintenance, Tom Cronin has spent his life helping others – and continues to strengthen the community at St. Joseph's Villa.

Tom lives in one of the Villa's 24 independent-living apartments. His military, professional, and volunteer service still shapes the practical help and generous spirit he brings to the community each day.

Born in New York City, Tom calls Vermont his 'native dirt.' He grew up just south of the Canadian border in Swanton and finished high school in San Juan, Puerto Rico, before enlisting in the Army National Guard. He served for more than two decades, including a 13-month tour in Vietnam and rose to platoon sergeant in a tank company.

After his military service, Tom spent 25 years in hospital engineering and facilities management, including time on the maintenance team at Mary Washington Hospital. Earlier in his career, he worked as a certified nursing assistant and an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (providing basic life support).



Long before his move to St. Joseph's Villa, Tom devoted many years to serving our Richmond Home. As a volunteer driver and maintenance helper, he was always ready to lend a hand wherever he was needed.

"Tom brings that same spirit of service to our Home today," said Francine Whitley, activities director. "He is an invaluable partner to our activities department and a familiar, friendly face in our café."

Tom may best be known for hosting the popular chili social twice a year, a tradition that brings Residents and staff together for fellowship.

Tom's connection to the Little Sisters was also shaped by Sister Colette, whom he knew during her years in Richmond. He remembers her as cheerful and sharp-witted, always quick to offer a kind word or brighten a difficult day with her humor. Her example continues to inspire Tom.

Faith remains central to Tom's life. He finds peace in "praying the rosary and participating in the celebration of the Eucharist," and he has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for more than 60 years. At our Home, Mass and fellowship continue to anchor his daily life.

Tom is the oldest in a family of nine children, the father of two daughters who hold master's degrees, and the grandfather of young adults pursuing careers in fields ranging from glassblowing to forensic science.

Tea & Tulips Match Grows Our Gardens

This spring's Tea & Tulips appeal raised $24,795, and a dollar-for-dollar match lifted the total to $49,590 for our Gardens and Grounds Beautification Project.

These funds will refresh planting beds, add shaded seating and expand seasonal blooms – creating richer outdoor spaces for the enjoyment of our Residents and their visitors.

The Sisters are enthusiastic about one beautifully crafted proposal recommended by our matching donor. In good stewardship, we will solicit two additional bids before choosing the contractor. Once selected, the work will unfold over the coming seasons and everyone who visits our Home will see – and feel – the difference.

Thank you to every donor whose gift was doubled and to the benefactor whose match made that doubling possible.

Bonnie Connor

Home in Faith and Friendship

Bonnie's lifelong connection to family, faith, and Washington, D.C. continues to shape her life at our Home.

Bonnie is a true Washingtonian. She grew up on 45th Street in Upper Northwest Washington, D.C., sharing a two-bedroom house with her parents and eight siblings.

"We had 11 people, because there were nine children and two parents in a two-bedroom house," Bonnie recalled.

When Bonnie's father died at age 47, her mother went to work in Sears' credit department to single handedly support the family. Bonnie and her older siblings helped care for the younger children and shared responsibilities at home.

She remembers her mother with deep admiration: "I figured I might as well help her as much as I can," Bonnie said. "She was an angel."

Bonnie attended St. Ann's School and later the Academy of Notre Dame. After graduating from high school, she began a career in administrative work that included positions with the National Bureau of Standards, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Sibley Hospital.

Today, Bonnie remains connected with family members and friends, including a cousin with whom she speaks nearly every week. She also treasures the friendships she has formed at the Home.

Bonnie's Catholic faith has always been an important part of her life. She grew up surrounded by priests and religious sisters. Two of her own sisters entered religious life.

At the Home, attending Mass in the chapel is one of her favorite parts of the day. "I really like that," she said. "That's very important in my life, my faith."

Bonnie also enjoys physical therapy, biblical word searches, book club meetings, local news, and community outings.



She especially likes trips that give Residents opportunities to shop or visit cultural places such as the Kennedy Center or Hartke Theater. Attending an opera at the theater was a memorable first for her.

After living independently in the same apartment for 40 years, Bonnie found the move into a larger community challenging.

She was surrounded by people she did not yet know and adjusting to community life took time.

"It took me about a year, and a little bit more, to get okay with being here," she said.

Over time, new friendships helped Bonnie feel more at home. She especially enjoys spending time with Jane, a fellow Resident born in Ireland, whose stories and humor bring her joy.

For Bonnie, the spirit of the Home is found in the kindness of the people who live and work here.

"Everyone who works here is so nice and always says hello," she said. "It's just great."

Bonnie is grateful for the care she receives from the nurses, aides, and Little Sisters – and for the donors who make that care possible.

"I would like to thank them," Bonnie said of the donors whose generosity supports the care she receives. "When people do that, it means a lot."

While Tom and Bonnie's stories reveal different paths to the Little Sisters of the Poor – both show how care, companionship, and the generosity of faithful friends like you help each person find a true sense of belonging.

Little Sisters Community News



Sr. Dorothy Christine
Fifty Years of Faithful Service

Sr. Dorothy Christine celebrated 50 years of perpetual vows on Oct. 3.

Since her first profession, March 20, 1971, she has devoted her life to the elderly poor, living the Little Sisters' charism with quiet humility.

Sr. Dorothy now oversees Guardian Angel and St. Francis – our two residential units – guiding the non-clinical care and comfort of the Residents.

She also facilitates the Association Jeanne Jugan, accompanying lay associates on their spiritual journey.

Sr. Catherine Mary Immaculate
A Warm Welcome

Our 'little family' of Sisters, Residents and staff were happy to welcome Sr. Catherine Mary Immaculate to Washington and to our family at the Jeanne Jugan Residence.

Sr. Catherine came to us from India, where she was born in Mumbai. She has been caring for the elderly in India since her profession in 1992.

Sr. Catherine brings a spirit of joy, reverence, and attention to the Residents whom she serves on the Good Shepherd Unit.

We are so very blessed to welcome her to our Home and family.

Thank you, Lord.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Sr. Angela de l'Immaculée
A Life of Grace and Tender Service

St. Jeanne Jugan died during the last days of August at the age of 87. So too, this August, our Little Sister, Sr. Angela de l'Immaculée, was called home to the Lord after 66 years of profession as a Little Sister of the Poor.

She spent her final years here in our Home and is deeply missed by all who knew her.

Sr. Angela's Mass of Christian Burial, celebrating her life and her passage into eternal life, took place on Sept. 3, with seven priests, Little Sisters from the community here and nearby Homes, as well as Residents, volunteers, staff, friends, some of whom came from Richmond, Virginia, members of her family, including her brother Paul and wife, Marsha, nieces, and grandnieces. It was a celebration of Sr. Angela's striking witness of total availability to God and to all.

In a small memoir, Sr. Angela wrote: "In France, at the Mother House, those preparing for Perpetual Profession were



invited to place their names in a box marked 'Missions' if they felt called to the foreign missions."

She remembered praying in the chapel and thinking, "How can I belong entirely to God if I make exceptions about where I will go?"

She put her name in the box. "His peace filled my soul."

Sr. Angela was sent to Africa, where she served joyfully for 22 years.

She later returned to the United States, where she spent the remaining years of her life.

Yet her love for the Missons never left her. She continued supporting them by raising funds through projects, sales of items in the Home's gift shop and her own talent of crochet.

Sr. Angela was always grateful to those who helped her and repaid their kindness with her prayers.

She also passed on a secret. "Don't let graces pass – they come by only once – actual grace at the actual moment."

Sr. Angela prayed daily for vocations to religious life, especially for vocations to the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Her voice was always clear and intent as she prayed at the end of the Divine Office. "Oh Lord of the Harvest, send Workers to the Vineyard."

May we honor Sr. Angela by continuing the prayer that was so dear to her heart. Please continue to pray for vocations.

We give thanks for Sr. Angela's life of humble service.

Our New Director of Nursing

How "Nilla" Found Her Calling

Since joining our Home in 2014, Corazon "Nilla" Ballesteros has brought warmth, professional skill, and steadfast devotion to every role she has held.

We are delighted to announce her as our new director of nursing – a fitting next step for a leader whose compassion is at the heart of excellent care.

Nilla's story begins in Camp 7, in the countryside of Cebu, Philippines, where her father supervised a large reforestation project. Surrounded by forest, she learned early what it means to nurture, protect, and help others flourish – lessons that have guided her decades-long service in health care.

Her path to nursing was not conventional.

Nilla first earned a degree in accounting, then a mentor encouraged her to study nursing so she could build an independent future for herself and her children. She entered nursing school later than many classmates and told interviewers she wanted to "serve humanity."

She laughs at that youthful phrasing now, but the conviction behind it has shaped her career.

After arriving in the United States in 1990, Nilla gained experience through demanding assignments – often working 16-hour shifts



– at DC General Hospital, the correctional facility at Lorton and nursing homes across the Washington area.

When she first walked through the doors of the Jeanne Jugan Residence, she felt she had found something special.

"I got goosebumps," she recalls. "The place is so holy; it is so pleasant to work here – it is home."

At our Home, Nilla has served as a nurse, assistant director of nursing, and now director of nursing. She has also contributed as an active Jeanne Jugan Associate, as the staffing coordinator and infection-control leader.

Whatever the title or task, her purpose remains the same: to safeguard every Resident's health, dignity, and quality of life.

That commitment shone especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a time of fear and uncertainty, Nilla kept showing up – day after day – caring for our elderly Residents with calm, courage, and resolve.

For Nilla, care is deeply personal. A mother of four and grandmother, she brings a family-centered spirit to her work and wants every Resident to feel heard, valued, and loved.

Her priorities are simple and heartfelt: meet their needs, bring them joy and offer the same devotion she gave her own mother.

Even on the busiest days, she brings the steady optimism that has long shaped her work. "I just keep smiling," she says, "and the time flies by."

Nilla's story is also a testament to what friends like you make possible.

Your support helps us recruit, train, and retain exceptional professionals who bring both expertise and heart to their work. Every gift strengthens life in our Home – from nourishing meals and essential medical supplies to safe surroundings and attentive, person-centered care.

Because of your generosity, our Residents can rely on skilled caregivers who meet each need with competence and compassion.

"I do this because they are like family," Nilla says. "To care for the Residents is an honor."

Thank you for helping compassionate care – and devoted caregivers like Nilla – thrive.

Mother's Message



Dear Friends,

It seems impossible that we are already welcoming the changing colors of the leaves, cooler weather, earlier darkness and the daily wait for the rising of the sun. All are God's gifts to us!

We hope your summer has been special and that you have taken time to enjoy family and friends.

Our Residents also have been able to enjoy some summer fun, with trips to museums and art exhibits in Washington D.C. and opportunities to go shopping or out to eat.

Several Residents are now taking an art class on Saturday afternoons with Sr. Constance. Her guidance with their painting projects is greatly appreciated. Some of their works of art now can be seen around the Home.

You may read in the next column about the blessings of our new windows, which have been installed throughout St. Joseph's Villa. They are a wonderful gift for our Residents. We are so grateful to you for your generous support of this project. Thank you!

It is edifying to receive so many requests for prayers for your deceased relatives and friends, recommending them to the prayers of our Sisters and Residents. What a blessing you have given them. We will carry their names in procession to the altar on Monday, November 2, the Feast of All Souls. Their names will remain near the altar throughout the month of November as we continue to remember them in prayer. I also wish to "Thank You" for your generosity and for the gifts you sent along with your prayer requests. God bless you!

Many readers of this newsletter may remember meeting Sr. Angela, now deceased, and being touched by her enthusiasm, listening ear and genuine care for you, her friends.

Like her, we all need to remember the goodness of those we meet and whose paths cross ours. Graces are in the present moment of each day.

Thank you for remembering Sr. Angela in your prayers, even if you did not have the opportunity to know her.

Sr. Patricia Mary



New Windows, Brighter Days

We're delighted to announce the completion of our window upgrade project: the installation of 54 new Pella windows throughout St. Joseph's Villa.

Residents are already enjoying brighter rooms, smoother operation, and far better insulation.

"The crew was professional and thorough," says Mother Patricia Mary. "They even showed each Resident how effortlessly the new windows open and lock. Comfort and safety have improved."

Resident Khieu agrees: "I sit by my new window and feel only sunshine – no drafts at all."

These windows do more than replace glass. Lower energy costs and improved security free us to direct more resources to nutritious meals, essential medical care, and programs that keep our seniors engaged and at peace.

Needs of the Home

Beverages: mini cans of caffeine-free Coke, Orange, Pepsi, Sprite, Root Beer; coffee
Candy: regular and sugar-free chocolate and confections
Gift cards: CVS, Target, Walmart, Giant
Holiday foods: turkeys, hams, pies
Laundry & Dish: laundry detergent (e.g., Tide), dish soap
Pantry: smooth peanut butter, seedless jelly
Paper goods: Kleenex tissues, paper plates, paper cups
Personal care: body wash, Dove bar soap, Lubriderm or Eucerin lotion, mouthwash
Snacks & cookies: Frito-Lay variety packs and cookies of all kinds.

Save the Date

WINTER FUEL FUND • WINTER SWEEPS
December 21, 2026 – March 1, 2027
Drawing: Wednesday, March 3, 2027

Watch your mailbox – Sweepstakes tickets arrive on the first day of winter, Dec. 21. Every dollar raised powers our Winter Fuel Fund, keeping the lights on and our Residents warm all season long!