

Spring, 2018

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

QUEEN OF PEACE RESIDENCE

SERVING THE ELDERLY POOR SINCE 1868



SAVE THE DATES

GARDEN PARTY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
Queen of Peace Residence

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
NOVEMBER 10, 2018
Queen of Peace Residence

HAM AND TURKEY DROP
NOVEMBER 17, 2018
Queen of Peace Residence

GERMAN FEST
JANUARY 24, 2019
Hempstead Golf and Country Club

A MISSION FOR LIFE

St. Jeanne Jugan founded the Little Sisters of the Poor in a very simple, yet dramatic way. One winter evening in 1839 in St. Servan, France, she opened her heart and her home to an elderly, blind, paralyzed woman, Anne Chauvin. She brought her to her apartment and placed Anne in her own bed. Soon another old woman followed, then a third. The Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor, with its unique mission of hospitality to the elderly, poor was born.

Due to the great poverty in France in the years following the French Revolution, Jeanne's bold gesture of charity toward the elderly poor answered a pressing need. Her small apartment soon became too small to accommodate the growing number of elderly who were seeking hospitality. Several young women came to assist Jeanne to care for the elderly, and the group moved from one building to another until they could obtain a suitable home.

Jeanne and these young women formed a small community and began begging to support the large family. The community named themselves,

"Servants of the Poor". In 1844, their name was changed to "Sisters of the Poor". Five years later, because many people called them "Little Sisters of the Poor," the community finally adopted that name.

Jeanne's deep faith and loving heart motivated her to give up her own bed and devote her whole life to the service of the elderly poor. Jeanne took to heart the words of Jesus, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me." She would often say, "Never forget that the poor are Our Lord. It is Jesus whom you care for in them." Such faith and loving hearts and the charism of begging, are present today in the Little Sisters of the Poor at Queen of Peace Residence. This year, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Little Sisters to America.

The Little Sisters devoutly value the reverence for life. This is ever-present in the humble service they provide to the elderly poor at Queen of Peace Residence. Life just doesn't continue at our home, it thrives through the presence of a genuine family spirit. This, of course, is the hallmark of the Little

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CELEBRATING LIFE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY MASS CELEBRATION

April 9th marked a very special day for the Little Sisters of the Poor. At 2 pm, a special Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church in Jamaica, NY to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Little Sisters in America. The principal celebrant of the Mass was Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, the Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn. This was most fitting in that it was the very first Bishop of Brooklyn, Bishop John Loughlin, who welcomed the Little Sisters to America in 1868. The Mass was concelebrated by six auxiliary bishops from the diocese of Brooklyn and the diocese of Rockville Centre. Presiding at the Mass were forty-five clergy and several seminarians and deacons. The entrance procession into the church was led by members of the Knights of Columbus and of the Order of Malta. The Mass was attended by Little Sisters, Residents and guests from all of the homes in our province, as well as numerous other religious communities from the greater New York City area. In addition, Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica of the Brooklyn province, Mother Provincial Marie Christine Joseph of Chicago and Mother Provincial Lorraine Marie Clare of Baltimore were also in attendance.

Assisting our numerous guests throughout the day were students from Kellenberg Memorial High School. Their ever-present smiles and positive and respectful demeanor added a special blessing to the day.

In his homily, Bishop DiMarzio spoke fondly of the mission of the Little Sisters in their care for the elderly poor with dignity and respect, and by extension, their embrace of life at all stages. The Bishop reminded those present that in such care, the Little Sisters are serving Christ in the presence of those served. Our own Mother Provincial, Alice Marie Monica, read a letter to the Congregation from the Little Sisters' superior general, Mother Maria del Monte Auxiliadora.

After Mass there was a delightful and well-attended reception held in the parish Hall of St. Nicholas of Tolentine. It was a wonderful time to gather, share fellowship and celebrate a landmark in the storied history of the Little Sisters. We want to especially thank all those dear friends of ours who volunteered to plan, support and execute this special day for us. It was a great deal of work and we are most grateful to all of you.



My dear Sisters, you act as both sister and mother to those whom you serve. I am sure you have heard some of the elderly at the point of death, calling for their mothers. They are children returning to God, calling their earthly mothers and Mary, their heavenly Mother, at the hour of death. You are there in multiple capacities for them, the sick and the dying.

You, my dear Sisters, are also handmaids of the Lord. With your hands, hearts and souls you do God's will in caring lovingly for others. You become like Mary who, after the Annunciation hastened to Elizabeth who, in her old age, has conceived John the Baptist. Mary gives the correct example at the very beginning of the work of redemption, that the care for our elders is part of the continued work of redemption.

Mary's motherhood preceded by her attribute as the "handmaiden of the Lord," gives her the task of Mediatrix which the Church assigns to her, "pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death." You assist the dying at the hour of their death. Your mediation is an imitation of the love of the Mother of God for us all.

The Eucharist we celebrate today commemorates the anniversary of your Sister ancestors' first coming to America.

Our Communion today would not have been possible without Mary's "Yes" to the Lord, and the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor would not be possible without your "Yes" to your vocation of service to the elderly.

Excerpt from Bishop DiMarzio's homily



Our gratitude extends to all the Religious, Benefactors and Friends present at this celebration, as well as to so many other who, during the past 150 years, have been or remain the instruments of Providence in maintaining our Homes, thus enabling the Little Sisters to provide comfort and security for so many elderly persons throughout the States.

Mother General María del Monte Auxiliadora

Ceremony Photography Courtesy of Gregory A. Shemitz.

Our Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan often counseled the young Sisters saying: **“We must always say, Blessed Be God, Thank you My God, Glory be to God.”**

Today, I know that these words of praise and gratitude echo in the heart of each of the Little Sisters serving here in the Brooklyn diocese at Queen of Peace Residence and all the Little Sisters in these United States.

And they surely must have echoed in the hearts of the first seven Little Sisters of the Poor, who set foot on American soil in New York on September 13, 1868 after two weeks crossing the Atlantic Ocean from France. Three days later they opened their

first Home on DeKalb Avenue in Brooklyn and then, on September 20th, welcomed the first elderly Resident....

Today, 150 years later, this assembly is a beautiful reflection of the Family Spirit that our Mother Foundress, envisioned: A family of Little Sisters and Residents, Associates, Clergy, Religious, Friends, Benefactors, Volunteers, Staff, students and young people and so many others.

As a final word, I would ask everyone to please continue to pray for and encourage young people to consider a vocation to the priesthood and religious life – that they may respond generously to the Lord of the Harvest if they are being called.

Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica



PLEASE CONSIDER THE LITTLE SISTERS IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLAN



“Love God very much, so that you can look after the aged well, for it is Jesus whom you care for in them.”

St. Jeanne Jugan

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES CONTINUING THE COMMITMENT TO LIFE

The arrival of the Little Sisters of the Poor in America 150 years ago began with a faith-filled journey of seven Little Sisters who left the motherhouse, La Tour Saint Joseph, in France, on August 28, 1868 and arrived in Brooklyn on September 13, 1868. The mission of the Little Sisters is not only as vibrant as ever, but is being entrusted to the next generation of Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters continue to welcome young women into our community. In our history, we have never been without vocations. With St. Ann's Novitiate next door, Queen of Peace is often a place where young women come to experience the life and work of the Little Sisters. In this special anniversary year, there



are four postulants and two novices discerning their individual calling to be of service to God. Watching these wonderful young women engaged in the time-honored practice of discernment reminds all of us that every choice we make, no matter how small, is an opportunity to align ourselves with God's will.

We ask that you pray with us that God guide them and keep them steadfast in their commitment to serve. Thank you.



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Sisters. As was stated in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper on February 7, 1874, describing the first home in Brooklyn, "Everything about the home is neat and durable; there is no luxury and no waste.... Good cheer is seen in the dining hall, as well as much humor, especially around the men's table..." This statement would very well describe the mission for life that exists today at Queen of Peace Residence.

Queen of Peace Residence remains a vibrant and active place for our Residents. With the prayers and support of our friends, we are able to continue our work with the elderly poor and make our Home a place of joyful peace for them.

ST. JOSEPH – OUR PROTECTOR LIFETIME DEVOTION



St. Joseph, Protect Those Who Turn To You With Confidence. Amen.

St. Jeanne Jugan had a special devotion to St. Joseph, head of the Holy Family and its provider, to obtain all she needed to care for the elderly poor. She considered him to be the great Protector and Provider of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

In his book, *Humble So As To Love More*, Paul Milcent provides a descriptive account of her devotion as follows: "...Jeanne saw the old people eating dry bread. 'But this is the land of butter!' she exclaimed. 'Why on earth don't you ask St. Joseph for some?' She lit a night-light in front of St. Joseph's statue, and had all the empty butter-dishes fetched and propped up a card: 'Good St. Joseph, send us butter for our old folk!' Visitors were amazed or amused at such simplicity of heart; one of them expressed misgivings at the sight of the empty butter-dishes! But a few days later, an anonymous donor sent a very large amount of butter, and all the dishes were filled."

Today the Little Sisters continue to confide their needs to St. Joseph, seeing in him a father in the likeness of our heavenly Father, whose Providence watches especially over little ones. This year, the feast of St. Joseph was celebrated by a special Mass at Queen of Peace with

Bishop Paul R. Sanchez of the diocese of Brooklyn was the principal celebrant. After Mass, our guests and Residents enjoyed a special lunch along with the traditional St. Joseph's table.

REMEMBERING MSGR. RODGERS A LIFETIME IN GOD'S SERVICE

Msgr. William J. Rodgers, the first black man ordained for and in the diocese of Brooklyn, passed into eternal life on January 21st at Queen of Peace Residence. Msgr. Rodgers had been living at our Residence for many years and before retiring, had served as our chaplain since 1987. Msgr. Rodgers was 95 years old. He was ordained on June 11, 1949 by Bishop Thomas A. Molloy.

Auxiliary Bishop Raymond Chappetto was the principal celebrant at the funeral Mass held in the chapel at our Residence. Msgr. Joseph Nugent, who concelebrated the Mass, delivered the homily. He remembered Msgr. Rodgers as "a humble man who loved the Church and loved God. He was always ready to help those who needed it."

We remember Msgr. Rodgers as he attended daily Mass. He always had a smile and kind word for everyone. He enjoyed meeting people



Msgr. William Rodgers was a Dedicated Chaplain to the Little Sisters at Queen of Peace Residence.

and speaking with visitors to Queen of Peace especially high school students. Msgr. Rodgers' extensive library was donated to his beloved St. John's University, where his collection will be made available for Catholic research.

THE JUNIOR/SENIOR PROM CELEBRATING LIFE

On February 3rd, a traditional celebration of life continued at Queen of Peace. The 2018 Junior /Senior Prom was hosted by students from Chaminade and Kellenberg Memorial High Schools. Our Residents so look forward to this event each year. It has been occurring at Queen of Peace for the last 29 years! This year's theme was the Chinese New Year.

When the students or "Juniors" arrived, they were given a card with their "Senior" date's name and room number. Our Residents were decked out in their finest and were ready to enjoy the evening with these remarkable young people. Each student escorted their "date" to the auditorium. Before entering, each couple, surrounded by red and white balloons, stood to have their photo together. Then the party began with music, dancing, snacks and the opportunity of two distinct generations to enjoy each other's company in a splendid celebration of life.



A MOMENT WITH MOTHER CELINE THÉRÈSE



As you can see by the photos, our 150th year celebration, "Celebrating 150 Years Through the Decades" was a celebration filled with joy and gratitude. This is our first celebration of the arrival of the Little Sisters on American soil. Once again, your care and support of our Residents was awesome. A sincere thank you to all who contributed to our Residents' Enrichment program for our homes: in Bushwick -Brooklyn, Holy Family in Park Slope, Queen of Peace in Queens, and Holy Family in Bensonhurst. This program assures that our Residents will continue to have the personal necessities that Medicaid and Medicare do not cover. Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, reminded us in her simple manner, "towards the benefactors and friends who support the Homes....what gratitude we owe them! What could we do without them for our dear Residents? Let us pray very hard for their intentions". We include all of your intentions in our daily prayers!

Over the years, many building improvements have been completed for the benefit of our Residents' safety and enjoyment. We hope to continue to update our Home as we strive to create an atmosphere of comfortable and cheerful surroundings.

Our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, had a prophetic vision and she has left us this legacy. As we celebrate this 150th anniversary of our arrival, let us ask her to help each one of us to grow in our love for the elderly whom we so gratefully embrace as we would Jesus Christ himself.

Blessings,

Dr. Celine Thérèse, lsp

QUEEN OF PEACE RESIDENCE

2018 AMERICAN BANDSTAND MUSIC FOR A LIFETIME

Queen of Peace Residence held its 2nd annual American Bandstand event on March 8th at the beautiful Antun's of Queens Village. The very well-attended event featured a delicious cocktail hour and magnificent dinner, all sponsored by Joe King and the wonderful staff at Antun's. The highlight of the evening was the performance by the Acchords who donated their time and tremendous talent while dynamically performing the music of the 50s and 60s. The dance floor was filled all night. It was a lovely and nostalgic evening!

American Bandstand has become a wonderful opportunity for our Residents and Sisters to meet and speak with old friends and make new ones who support the mission of the Little Sisters. The Auxiliary Committee at Queen of Peace worked tirelessly in preparing for the event by decorating the dining room, greeting our guests during registration and selling raffle

and auction tickets throughout the evening. Everyone had the unique opportunity to purchase some delicious homemade scones.



**The Little Sisters with the World-Renowned
Acchords**

All proceeds support the mission of caring for the elderly poor with reverence and love by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Queen of Peace Residence. Thank you for supporting this newest and very entertaining tradition!

WIR GRATULIEREN! 2018 GERMAN FEST – THE TRADITION CONTINUES



Queen of Peace Residence held its 8th annual German Fest event on January 25th at the Hempstead Golf and Country Club. The sold-out event featured a magnificent buffet of German specialty foods and desserts, German beer and wines and authentic German music with costumed dance performers. Everyone had a great time!

Our traditional German Fest ushered in the start of the 150th anniversary year

of the Little Sisters arrival in America. The evening allowed our Residents and Sisters to meet and speak with those who steadfastly support the mission of the Little Sisters. It is a wonderful opportunity to thank old friends and make new friends. Once again, the Auxiliary Committee at Queen of Peace did a tremendous job of decorating the living room and preparing many unique raffle baskets. Additionally, they greeted our guests during registration and sold raffle and auction tickets during the evening. Thank you for carrying on the splendid tradition of German Fest for Queen of Peace.

The proceeds from this fun- filled event support the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Queen of Peace Residence - caring for the elderly poor with dignity and respect. Danke schoen! (Thank you very much!)

PLEASE CONSIDER THE LITTLE SISTERS IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLAN