



Being Tested

Over the last year and a half, we have been tested as many of us have never been tested before. The testing we talk about here goes way beyond being tested for the COVID-19 virus, which we all became all too familiar with. The testing we talk about here is having our core beliefs, personal traits and attitudes tested by the challenge that something is in our presence that is trying to change us.

The past year and a half, our health, safety, financial security, family stability, patience, sense of well-being and even our sense of humor, were all tested. These tests were so overwhelming to many that the biggest test of all was then faced, a test of our faith. It is here where faith withstood being tested. We turned to our faith and our trust in God to guide us through these challenges. We prayed for ourselves and for each other. Our trust in God allowed each of us in our own way to not let these tests consume us. Our faith allowed each of us, in our own way, to help others survive their own trials.

We have been tested, but we have not failed. Our love of God remains solid and our hope is boundless, because of our trust in God's Providence.

Being tested like this is not easy for anyone. We have learned in dealing with the pandemic that the time of testing is never a set time. We learned that there are variants to the time of testing. The Little Sisters are not exempt from being tested as well. During this time, the Little Sisters turned to a very profound statement made by our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan who, when speaking with an overwhelmed novice, said:

"When your patience and strength run out and you feel alone and helpless, Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Say to Him, 'Jesus, you know exactly what is going on. You are all I have, and you know all things. Come to my help.' And then go, and don't worry about how you are going to manage. That you have told God about it is enough. He has a good memory."

Many of you took St. Jeanne Jugan's guidance to heart and, while you couldn't necessarily go to church to pray, you took the time and made the effort to talk with Jesus and ask for His help. The tests we faced and continue to face are numerous. However, having our faith to turn to and lean on in these times, insures that no matter the test, no matter the time involved, no matter the personal hardship incurred, our faith will see us through.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 13, 2021
"Socially Distant" Turkey/Ham Drop
Queen of Peace Residence – Outside
10 AM – 3 PM

Thursday January 20, 2022
GermanFest
Hempstead Golf and Country Club
6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Thursday March 3, 2022
American Bandstand
Antun's of Queens Village
6:30 PM- 10:30 PM

Monday May 2, 2022
33rd Annual Golf Outing
Hempstead Golf and Country Club

Our 2021 Golf Outing – The Best Is Yet To Come

As Robert Burns so aptly observed, “the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” The same can be said for our 2021 Annual Golf Outing. As you may recall, our Outing was scheduled for Monday, August 23, having been moved from our traditional date of May 3 because of the pandemic. Well, Tropical Storm Henri had other ideas for us on August 23!



Being true to Mr. Burns, a great deal of work was put into the planning and preparation of the Outing by our extraordinary Golf Committee chaired by Joe Liana, Sr. In addition, our dedicated Auxiliary Committee members were ready to cover all of the various tasks and responsibilities that go into a successful Golf Outing. Mother Joseph and the Sisters were at the ready to greet our guests and start the sale of the much anticipated “Mulligans.” Our honoree and dear friend, Bob Dougherty, put in a tremendous effort to increase awareness of the Outing and generated a great deal of financial support for the day. We were looking forward to Bob’s acceptance speech as our 2021 Golf Outing Honoree.



Needless to say, there was great disappointment delivered by Henri. However, all is not lost. We were pleased to secure Monday, October 25, as the new date for our 2021 Annual Golf Outing at the beautiful Hempstead Golf and Country Club. As many of you are aware, October 25 is the birthday of St. Jeanne Jugan, the Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor. As St. Jeanne Jugan said, “If God is with us, it will be accomplished.”

As a result of our printing timetable, this Newsletter will go to print before October 25. However, as of now, we fully expect to have a majority of our guests still able to join us for a wonderful fun-filled day of golf and an evening of long-awaited fellowship. We certainly look forward to accomplishing this event.

Your support of our Annual Golf Outing and your patience in understanding the need to change the date (twice) is greatly appreciated.

Keeping In Shape During A Pandemic

One of the many challenges we face during the pandemic is the ability to stay in shape by getting enough exercise. Certainly with all the challenges presented, the time for exercise seemed to slip away from many of us. Specifically, our dedicated staff members found themselves putting in more hours of service in addition to the demands on their time from their own personal situations faced by the pandemic. Who could possibly exercise with all this going on?

Enter our own Human Resources Director, Vanessa Cox, and the creation of the Annual Queen of Peace Step Challenge. Vanessa managed to organize our staff into various teams. The teams were made up of our nurses, nursing assistants, housekeepers, kitchen staff, operations personnel and administrative staff. The challenge was this: which team could accumulate the most steps walked within our Home in one month?

During the month of July, the team members kept track of the number of steps walked per day while at work and the daily results were noted and accumulated



during the month. At the end of July, the winning team was the kitchen staff! The winners were all smiles (behind their masks) when Mother Joseph made the official announcement of their accomplishment.

Well done!

Welcome Mother Joseph Caroline

In July, we welcomed Mother Joseph Caroline as the new Mother Superior of our Home. When Mother Joseph first arrived at our Home she was greeted by an assembly of our Sisters, Residents, and Staff all to the sound of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline." Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica officially welcomed Mother Joseph to Queen of Peace on behalf of the Little Sisters. Our dear Resident, Winnie Valcancick, welcomed Mother Joseph on behalf of the Residents as everyone present recited the prayer of St. Jeanne Jugan.

Since her arrival, Mother Joseph has been busy becoming familiar with the operations and activities at Queen of Peace. She has also made it a point to get to know the members of our dedicated staff who support the mission of the Little Sisters on a daily basis by their devoted service to our Residents. Mother Joseph was instrumental in getting our 2020 Capital Project — the installation of new heating pipes for our Home — off to a good start by assisting in the selection of the contractor and getting the project ready for a timely implementation. As you can well imagine, Mother has had a few busy months already!

Despite her full schedule, Mother Joseph has also spent a great deal of time meeting and getting to know our Residents, who have been most pleased to spend time with Mother and have mentioned her kind and compassionate attitude toward them. The family spirit of Queen of Peace remains in place.

We all welcome our new Mother Superior and wish her many years of faith-filled joy, success and happiness.



Reflecting on St. Joseph

The Catholic Church has always honored St. Joseph as the foster father of Jesus. He is also the patron saint of workers, fathers and a happy death. As you know, Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph in honor of the 150th anniversary of his being proclaimed Patron Saint of the Universal Church. The year began on December 8, 2020 and will conclude on December 8, 2021.

It is quite providential that our individual struggles with a worldwide pandemic have occurred during this particular period of time as we honor St. Joseph. For as Pope Francis said, "Each of us can discover Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, an intercessor, a support, and a guide in troubled times."

As we reflect on this, think about how many "Josephs" have been in service to others during the



pandemic. The person who quietly and unassumingly helps someone in need because of the pandemic. The person who donates food for those struggling with hunger during this time. The person who drives someone to a much-needed medical appointment. A person who listens to another to provide comfort. A person who just calls another person to provide some companionship in a time of isolation. In this Year of St. Joseph, there are many "Josephs"

at work — and in the true spirit of St. Joseph, they mostly go "unnoticed" and are a "discreet and hidden presence."

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to "reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus."

As you reflect, please don't forget the ways in which you were a "Joseph" this past year to someone you served with charity and humility. Without your realization of your own "unnoticed" acts, you acted in the spirit of St. Joseph. We are most grateful to the many "Josephs" who made personal sacrifices to humbly assist us with the carrying out of our mission during a most difficult time.

If we have learned anything from this pandemic it is that it is not over yet. We are still in need of the "Josephs" who serve without being noticed.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



This past year and a half has brought with it a new way of life for each of us, since the start of the pandemic. There have been many choices each day to use our faith and to see the beauty of life all around us, even in the midst of sacrifice and sufferings that we have all witnessed in our world and in our own country and city. It is at moments like this that we see how great is the call to respond and put our faith in action as we respond to the needs around us.

The spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan has been alive and active since the beginning of the Congregation and has always instilled in each Little Sister to trust in Divine Providence to provide for the needs of each Home, while at the same time to pray for the needs of others. So many have been affected by the loss or illness of a loved one or have sacrificed many hours in caring for others. They have gone above and beyond in the call of their duty, and continue to support our mission to the elderly poor and at times, their support and witness goes unnoticed, just like that of St Joseph.

During this year our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared a Jubilee Year consecrated to St. Joseph and invites everyone to enrich their faith through his example and show forth their love and trust in him, even in these difficult times. This example of the hidden life of St. Joseph, portrays for us the generosity of our many friends and benefactors who provide for the needs of our Home, which are given in his name, and often which go unnoticed by the world and yet, reap rich benefits, as God is never outdone in generosity towards those who give so generously. Please know of our deepest gratitude to you for your continual support and know of our prayers for you and your special intentions.

Mother Joseph Caroline



Asking Your Help For Our Country Store

The Country Store at Queen of Peace, located on the ground floor of our Home, can be considered a type of general store for our Residents. In it, our Residents may purchase household items, such as paper towels and packets of tissues, beauty accessories such as cotton balls, nail polish and nail polish remover, treats such as sugar-free pudding cups and a wide assortment of individually wrapped cookies, candies, potato chips, pretzels and, of course, chocolate.

With the lockdown necessitated by the pandemic, in-kind donations to the Country Store stopped and the store was closed and cleaned out. There is no specific program in place to re-supply the Country Store. With the gradual easing of the lockdown within our Home, we would like to get the Country Store back up and running in order to meet the needs of our Residents in a most convenient way.

If you could donate any of the types of items mentioned, or any other type of individually wrapped "goodies" you think our Residents would enjoy, we would be most appreciative.

The Country Store has a storied tradition at Queen of Peace and it provides a very unique service to our Residents. Your help would be greatly appreciated in keeping this Queen of Peace tradition alive. For further information, please call our Activities Director, Mariann Marino at (718) 464-1800 ext. 2282.