



The Year Of St. Joseph

The Little Sisters welcomed the release of Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), which proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021 as a heavenly sign that we are coming out of the fear and uncertainty of the pandemic.

As you know, St. Jeanne Jugan turned to St. Joseph, head of the Holy Family and its provider, to obtain all she needed to care for the elderly poor. St. Joseph is the protector of the Little Sisters of the Poor. To this day, the Little Sisters of the Poor continue to confide their needs to St. Joseph, seeing in him the likeness of our heavenly Father,

"whose Providence watches over the little ones." It is natural to think of St. Joseph as the protector of our faith when we consider that our Lord came

into this world under great vulnerability. Our Lord needed to be protected, defended, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph to be the defender and protector of Jesus and to provide for Mary. Mary similarly trusted Joseph as someone who would always provide for her and her Son. It is because of this critical role, Joseph steadfastly and quietly performed what was bestowed on him - the devotional reference of "Guardian of Church" which is especially significant to us.

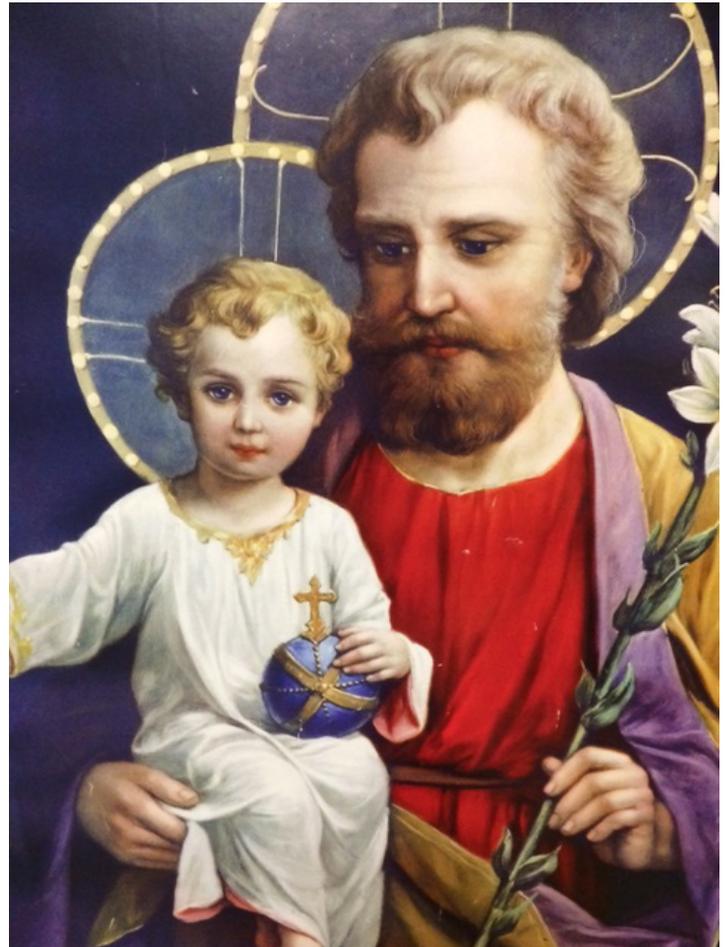
In his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as "a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a courageous father, a working father and a father in the shadows."

The Holy Father released "Patris corde" during the COVID-19 pandemic to emphasize our realization of the importance of so-called "ordinary" people who, although not in the limelight, "exercise patience and offer hope every day." These are the people who most resemble St. Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, and hidden presence, who nonetheless played an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

This expression by the Holy Father was of particular significance for us at Queen of Peace. During the darkest days of the pandemic, we came to realize and profoundly appreciate, the "daily and hidden presence" of our "unsung heroes" in our midst, who came to work every day, in harm's way to take care of our Residents. These heroes either cooked, cleaned, dispensed medicine, did the laundry, provided healthcare, gave companionship, expressed care,

“God trusted Joseph to love and protect Jesus and Mary, and calls us to do the same.”

Pope Francis



Donated by Br. Michael Gillen — Kellenberg Memorial H.S.

“We wonder why the Gospel makes so little mention of St. Joseph. But did it not say everything when it taught us that he was the husband of Mary?”

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

showed compassion and even smiled through it all. As Pope Francis so accurately recites, these heroes "exercised patience and offered hope every day."

How profound that in our devotion to St. Joseph for providence and protection, we know our prayers are being answered because God has surrounded us with so many people who truly resemble St. Joseph.

Welcome Father Amato

This spring we welcomed Fr. Salvatore Amato to our Home as our new chaplain. Fr. Amato has served the spiritual needs of the people of the Brooklyn diocese for over 50 years and comes to us from St. Kevin's Parish in Flushing. Father was ordained in 1969 and his first assignment was at Incarnation Parish in Queens Village. Over his priestly career, Father was assigned to several parishes and spent the last 23 years of his active ministry at Resurrection-Ascension Parish in Rego Park.



During his years of parish ministry, Fr. Amato also found time to earn a Master's Degree in Human Relations from the New York Institute of Technology and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Fordham University.

When one spends some time with Father, you get the sense that he is a true parish priest interested in assisting the spiritual needs of his parish family. Father feels he has come full circle in his parish ministry by returning to Queens Village once again. At Queen of Peace, Fr. Amato provides for the spiritual needs of the Residence through his celebration of daily Mass, the hearing of confessions and conducting prayer and reflection services.

We welcome the opportunity to have Father minister to our community at Queen of Peace. A true parish priest!

The Power Of Prayer

This photo was taken shortly after the day we had to lock down our Home to fight the pandemic. How things surely changed this past year. While there have been many changes to our daily lives and routines because of the pandemic, some things have not changed.



We are all safe at Home. We still smile, although at times this may take a little more effort than it usually does. We are still providing the care our dear Residents deserve. We have kept our sense of humor which is even more important today than ever before, especially on mandatory testing days. We are still thankful to our dedicated Staff who are either "Angels in our Midst" or "Unsung Heroes"; take your pick. We are still in awe when we reflect on the amount of time and selfless dedication our volunteers have provided us and our Residents over the years. You are truly loved and missed! We still enjoy being with our Residents despite the social distancing now required. We still like ice cream.

We are truly humbled by the support you provide us and our Mission, both in terms of your prayers and the sharing of your treasure, under these most difficult of times.

Perhaps most important to us is that you are in our prayers. We believe that through the wonderful and mysterious power of prayer, we stay connected even in a pandemic. We have so much to be thankful for, not the least of which is that we continue to fight the evil of this virus with the Grace of God and the Pfizer vaccine. We continue to express our thanks in prayer. Our trust in God's Providence and Protection has never wavered.

We continue to pray for the safety and good health of all of you, and ask that all who want to get the vaccine can get it safely and quickly.

Good Memories And More Memories To Come



As you know, due to the pandemic, we were unable to have our German Fest party at Hempstead Golf and Country Club in January and our Bandstand party at Antun's of Queens Village in March. This year, all we could do to ease our disappointment over not having the chance to spend time with you at these wonderful events, was to



remember the many fond memories we have of past events.

It is with a sense of great hope that we look forward to once again having the opportunity to spend fun-filled times with you at the 2022 German Fest and Bandstand events. There are many memories yet to be made from the fellowship of spending time with you once again.

Garden City resident completes virtual challenge race to benefit The Little Sisters

March 25, 2021, By Gary Simeone — Garden City News

When Garden City resident, Michael Gutierrez, found out about a running challenge inspired by a Navy SEAL, he was totally on board with the idea. The David Goggins Challenge, as it is called, involves running 4 miles every four hours for 48 hours.

From March 5th through 7th, Gutierrez, participated in the 4x4x48 challenge to honor the memory of his grandmother, 'Nonna,' who passed away last year.

"She was my best friend and one of the most influential people in my life," said Gutierrez. "She was such a tough and determined person and her work ethic throughout her life inspired me to participate in this challenge."

Gutierrez said running is not normally his forte, and that he grew up playing soccer and other sports.

"I happened to stumble upon this challenge a few months ago after reading up on David Goggins, who is a retired Navy SEAL and world-famous runner and triathlete. He has this great mental toughness about him and is always looking for ways to toughen himself up."

After making the 4x4x48 challenge public for the second year in a row, Gutierrez said that he took it upon himself to train for the grueling two-day challenge.

"In early February I began my



Michael Gutierrez

training routine, and I told myself I had five weeks to get myself in good enough shape to participate in this race," said Gutierrez.

He said that he started running fifteen miles per week and that he increased that distance to 55 miles over the course of five weeks. He ran two to three times a day at different intervals to prepare himself for the upcoming virtual challenge.

He began the challenge on Friday night, March 5th, and completed his last run on Sunday at 7 p.m.

"I ran at four-hour intervals, starting at 11 p.m. on Friday, and then ran at 3 a.m., 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. and finished my last run on stretch on Sunday night at 7 p.m. During my runs I had so much support from my family members and friends that I was inspired to run an additional two miles

to make it an even fifty."

His virtual runs took place throughout the Village, including the Garden City High School track, and in the neighboring town of Franklin Square.

He also ran on the running paths at Eisenhower Park and a four-mile stretch to the Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury, where his grandmother is buried.

During a few of his runs, his parents cheered him on in their car every half mile, and his father accompanied him during one run on his bicycle.

"People were really supportive of me, knowing that I was doing all of this for a good cause. I had people who ran laps with me at the high school track and other people who cheered me along on my runs," said Gutierrez.

In a two-week span, Gutierrez raised over \$3,500 which he has donated to Queen of Peace Residence, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, located in Queens Village.

The Little Sisters of the Poor at Queen of Peace Residence, holds a special meaning to him because that's where his grandmother, Carmela Conti, worked for over 20 years, before becoming a resident herself in the last year of her life.

"My Nonna worked there and then my mom worked there, so it's a very special place for me," said Gutierrez.

A Joyful Update On Our Capital Campaign

On a positive and most humbling note, since we announced the 2020 Capital Campaign for our Home in September, which will involve the replacement of the corroded and, otherwise damaged, sections of the original and existing hot water iron pipes being used in our heating system, we are most humbled to report that we are at 80% of our project goal of \$238,000. Thank you so much for supporting our Mission through your backing of this critical capital improvement to our Home.

We know how extraordinary difficult times

are. That is why we are so grateful to you for this essential support for the health and safety of our dear Residents. Thank you. Every dollar collected for this Capital Campaign will be held in a separate account and only dispersed as progress on the project occurs. At present, we plan to begin the work in September, and are estimating about six weeks of work until completion. The new heating pipe system will be a tremendous improvement to our Home and will, over future heating seasons, prove to be a significant cost savings.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



How swiftly the winter months pass and our thoughts once again turn to Spring and the beautiful Easter Season! The fact that Jesus is risen from the dead, that He was victorious over death and sin, is reason to celebrate. We continue to make our way through a global pandemic while holding tightly to the hands of our frail elders and allowing the hand of God to take the lead. Thanks to the grace of God and your support, we are surviving during this difficult time. You will read in the article on the first page of this newsletter about the “Year of Saint Joseph”, patron of the Universal Church. Yes, indeed! Our Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, had a great devotion and confidence in his intercession for all of our needs. It has been handed down to every Little Sister in our religious family. As the Universal Church celebrates this “Year of Saint Joseph” and following St. Joseph’s example, with the wisdom and strength that comes from the Spirit, let us adhere with total confidence to all that comes to us from God the Father. As we celebrate this Easter Season, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. May the Risen Savior bless each of you abundantly for your never-ending support of our Mission.

*Gratefully,
Sr. Celine Thérèse, lsp*



A Special Thank You To Our Friends At The Bronx Terminal Market

Although we have thanked them before, we are truly humbled by the in-kind support we continue to receive from our dear friends at the Bronx Terminal Market who have steadfastly furnished our Home with essential food supplies, fruits and vegetables during the pandemic.

These donations come from their hearts, not from their excess inventory. The commitment of these people who Pope Francis compares to St. Joseph as a “daily and hidden presence,” enables us to continue our most essential service to our Residents - providing the nourishing meals required for their continued health and safety. We give our most humble thanks to:

D’Arrigo Bros. Co. of NYC., S. Katzman Produce, Inc., Fierman Produce Exchange, Inc., Coosemans New York, Inc., Rubin Bros. Produce Corp., M & R Tomato Distributors, E. Armata, Inc., Nathel & Nathel, Jerry Porricelli Produce, Trucco, Pan-Hellenic Food of NY Corp., Top Banana Co., Beyer Lightening Fish Company, Crown Fish Co., and Country Wide Produce, Inc.

And Of Course, Thank You!

Where would we be without you? Without you, none of what we do at Queen of Peace would be possible. You have generously shared your time, talents and treasures with us to care for our dear Residents with the dignity and respect they so deserve. You pray for us as we pray for you and on many occasions, we pray together virtually! You understand the power of prayer and willingly join us in asking for God’s Protection and Providence.

As we continue to deal with the pandemic, we are confident that with your continued prayers and support, our Mission will compassionately continue. Blessed be God.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday August 23, 2021 - Our 32st Annual Golf Outing to be held at the beautiful and newly renovated Hempstead Golf and Country Club honoring Robert L. Dougherty, Esq.

Annual Queen of Peace Garden Party – Please stay tuned for further information.

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