

Serenity

no. 157

Little Sisters of the Poor

October 2012

*We walk by faith
and not by sight...*



Our Mission

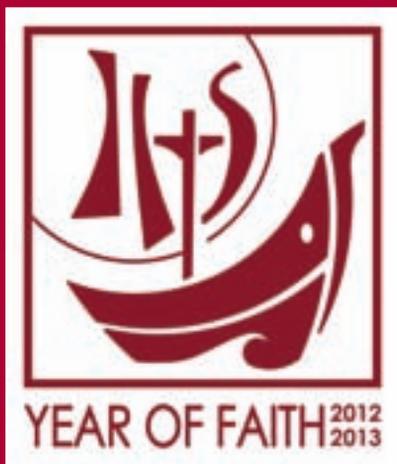
Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

Serenity

OCTOBER 2012, No. 157

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The mustard seed that grew into a great tree

“THE ‘DOOR OF FAITH’ (ACTS 14:27) IS ALWAYS OPEN FOR US,” Pope Benedict XVI wrote in announcing the Year of Faith that has just begun. “It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace.” In the weeks leading up to the opening of this special Year on October 11th, a quiet sense of excitement has permeated our homes. Plans to participate in local Church events, to study the faith with our Residents or to renew liturgical life in our homes are underway, nurtured by the Word of God and the wisdom of the elderly.

Each summer Mother Church offers us a menu of Scripture readings describing faith and the kingdom of heaven in simple, earthy images. Two of these readings resonate in a special way with the life of Saint Jeanne Jugan, reminding us of her heroic faith as we seek to deepen our own. The first is from the Letter of Saint James and the second from Saint Matthew’s Gospel:

Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him? (James 2:5).

The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.... The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till it was leavened (Matthew 13:31–33).

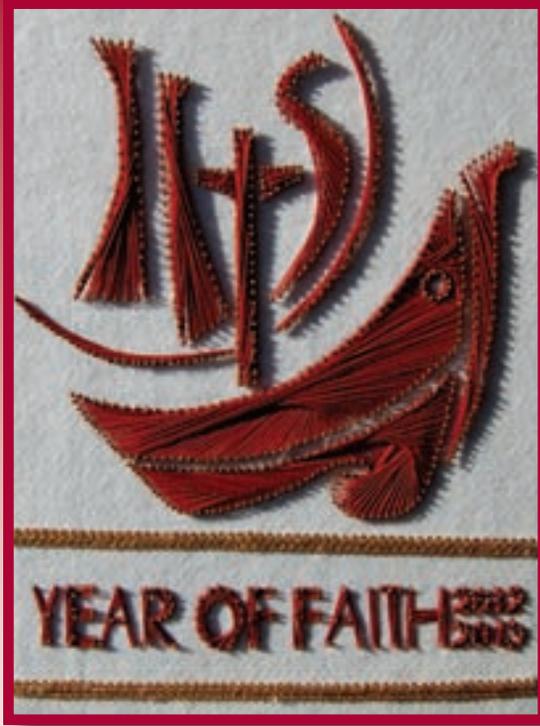


In Taipei, Taiwan, Mr. Shen Chun-Hsiung works on his contribution to the Year of Faith, creating the logo in intricate string art, like the panel on the opposite page.

No one could provide a more poignant example of Saint James' words than our foundress. She was a modest woman with a rudimentary education and no resources, and yet she changed the lives of those who are poor in this world's eyes, becoming a saint in the process! What was her secret? Faith — the faith of the anawim, who know first-hand that every good thing comes from God, who believe that with him nothing is impossible, and who know how to allow their hearts to be transformed by grace, so that God can use them as he wishes, accomplishing great things in and through them.

This is the story of Saint Jeanne Jugan. The movement of her faith “strong and joyful, active and humble,” led her to God and to the people of her time. Jeanne’s faith and love were a leaven giving rise to a much needed work in the Church. And then, though completely hidden for many years — or perhaps *because* so completely hidden — she was a leaven nurturing a unique charism in the hearts of generations of young Little Sisters.

Jeanne was also like the mustard seed in the Gospel. She started out with nothing; her work was “the smallest of all seeds,” but in the hand of God it became a great tree inviting many to rest in its branches — her spiritual daughters, the Little Sisters; needy elderly persons all over the world and thousands of people who share in our spirit and mission in so many ways. To all of us, Saint Jeanne is a strong and enduring tree in whose branches we find a spiritual home and ever-renewed inspiration to live our faith and to let it bear fruit in works of charity. 🌸

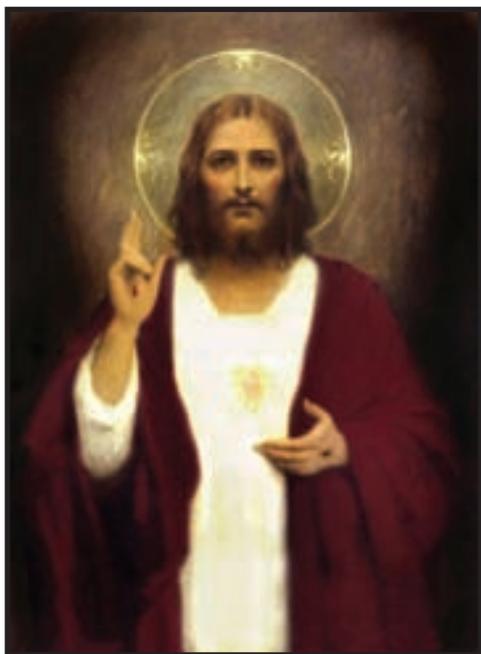


Signs and Symbols of Faith

THE OFFICIAL LOGO FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH is composed of several traditional Christian symbols: the Church is often represented as a boat, and in this case, its mast and sails are formed from a cross and the ancient Greek Christogram "IHS." The circle behind the sails represents both the sun and the Eucharist.

Various signs and symbols have always been a part of the sacramental life of the Church and of the popular piety of the faithful. These include icons, relics, pilgrimages, processions, the stations of the cross, rosaries and medals ... the list is endless.

On the following pages Residents and Little Sisters reflect on religious signs and symbols that have a special significance to them.



Amelia said that it has been hard going through changes as she has aged and that this has affected her faith. But every day she prays; she prays to God to have the faith that she once had when she was young. She does this because she trusts him and she loves him. “I can love and I love God,” she said.

Amelia’s room is decorated simply with mementos and pictures that mean a lot to her. Butterfly figures, paintings and calendars line her window sill and walls. Her sincere devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is also evident. She pointed out pictures of the Sacred Heart all over her room. Daily, her gaze falls upon one and she is reminded of her love for God and her trust in him. “God is the most important thing in my life,” Amelia says again and again. Looking at the crucifix above her bed she says, “I believe in the cross.”

– *from an interview with Amelia Falcon,
Jeanne Jugan Residence, Bronx, NY*

Cathy Anzalone has always been religious. Her room providentially placed in our home, her window looks directly out to the chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is always present. When asked how she prays, she points a long finger toward the chapel outside her window and says, as if talking to Jesus, “Hi, how ya doin, good morning.” Simple as that. Cathy talks to Jesus as she would talk to a friend or relative. Since childhood she has prayed in this conversational way.



“The Holy Spirit is my daily companion,” she says, speaking softly. “I never make a move without turning to the Holy Spirit.” Looking to the Holy Spirit she is guided to Jesus, and in turn brought close to the Father. She calls this the “one-two-three step.” A dance that has established her relationship with God her whole life. As a young girl she remembers going to the chapel to sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament. She turned to the Blessed Mother and Jesus with all her problems and woes.

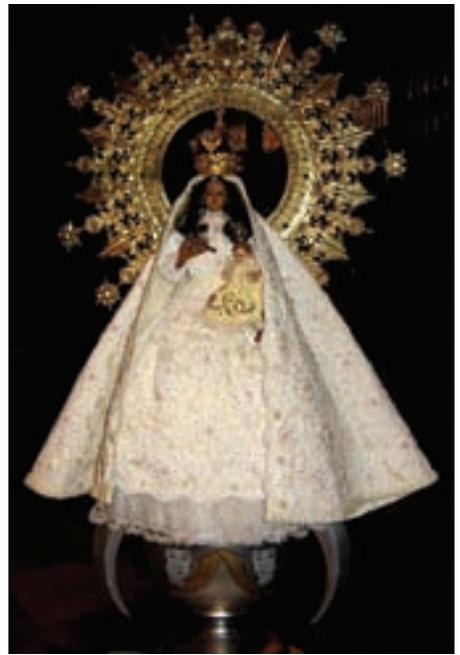
Cathy has had many unique life experiences and willingly shares her stories of grace and adversity. “I feel that if God didn’t love us, He wouldn’t test us,” says Cathy. “He wants to know how much we love him, trust him, and how far we are willing to go.”

She puts these tests of faith into perspective with an image: “Look at a crucifix,” she says. “Jesus is there, hanging on the front. But the back is empty. The trials, the suffering, the tests ... those are tiny little splinters in your life. Those splinters make up that cross, and make up a place for you yourself to be on the back of that cross. The splinters are little tests, an opportunity to be more like Jesus and Mary, to be more compassionate and loving. And when all the splinters add up to your place on the cross, Jesus will call you to heaven.”

*– from an interview with
Cathy Anzalone, Jeanne Jugan
Residence, Bronx, NY*



As a young child growing up in Cuba, a deep love for Our Lady of Charity del Cobre, patroness of Cuba, was very much part of our life. For Cubans Our Lady of Charity is indeed a real Mother and a real model in our lives. Because she is Charity, this symbol of Love has been my path of life on my journey of faith. Her feast is celebrated as a Solemnity in Cuba each year; and she was declared the patroness of the Island by Pope Benedict XV in 1916. This year is the 400th



anniversary of the apparition of the small statue that appeared to three miners who were going to capsize in the Bay of Nipe during a tropical storm. Over the years she has shown her maternal love in saving many of her children from peril and disease.

– *Sister Lourdes Marie,*
St. Martin's Home, Baltimore

I began collecting statues when my eldest daughter made her First Communion. After years of collecting, I had hundreds of statues all over my house. I enjoy the statues because I feel like God's angels and saints are surrounding me. When I moved from my home, I had to give away numerous statues. I was very sad that I had to part with so many of my statues, and I cried. But now I have over 100 statues in my room at the Little Sisters. My favorite statue is Our Lady of Fatima. I have also collected a lot of little nun statues. They always bring a smile to my face!

– *Mary Taylor,*
St. John's Home, Evansville



Just the other day Sister Leema Rose stopped outside Carmeta's door reading a small square of paper posted at eye level. A verse from Psalm 133 was scrawled out in purple marker by a determined hand: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1), it read. Every now and then there is a new post outside Carmeta Mills' door. Often visitors and staff of the home find themselves stopping there, reading a thought-provoking quote snipped from a newsletter or a selected verse from Scripture.

"You don't have to be an evangelist," said Carmeta one July morning while thunder rolled outside her rain splattered window. "Let your life speak for you." She has practiced her Protestant faith her whole life; her interactions with others illustrate her faith in God's goodness. She lives her belief in God boldly, appreciates what she has and honestly encourages her fellow Residents to do the same. She said she is turned off by believers who ask people if they have been saved yet. "God is always part of every little bit of my life," she said with gumption, "I pray all day long ... I try to stay in touch."

Carmeta's little messages, through her actions or the sharing of quotes and verses, keep her ever focused on God. "It doesn't hurt anybody," she said, "I let my religion come through [by how I live.]" Her simple actions and little posts on her door are ways she shares her faith and her love for God. Carmeta said, "If you have love in your heart that is what counts."

*– from an interview with Carmeta Mills,
Jeanne Jugan Residence, Bronx, NY*





*Imagine today were a thread
sewn into a large tapestry. Each day of
a life woven in and tied as it was lived.
“There isn’t too much that makes sense
in this world,” says Eileen Raspitha, who
uses this tapestry image to make sense
of this time we spend on earth before
heaven. She trusts that — God willing
— in heaven she will get to see the whole
tapestry; both the big picture and the
back, where all the knots detail why cer-
tain things happened. She looks toward
heaven, knowing that that is really what
this life journey is for....*

*In every trial she turns to Romans
8:28: “And we know that, for those who
love God, all things work together unto
good...” For Eileen that is what we are
here for; to work toward heaven, that
ultimate good.*

*— from an interview with Eileen Raspitha,
Jeanne Jugan Residence, Bronx*

*The tapestry is the work of Maria Manzilla, a
Resident of our home in San Isidro, Argentina.
Her untitled piece, she points out, is asymmetrical,
“because that is how life is.”*



Where did I come from? A question every child wonders. Curiosity doesn't necessarily wane with age, all humans look for an explanation. "We need to know who created us and the world ... and it has to be somebody very powerful," said Catherine Becker, a long-time Resident in the Bronx home. "That powerful person is God."

In her 100 years of life Catherine has had to answer children's curious questions often. As a school teacher she guided many through their beginning years of understanding the world.

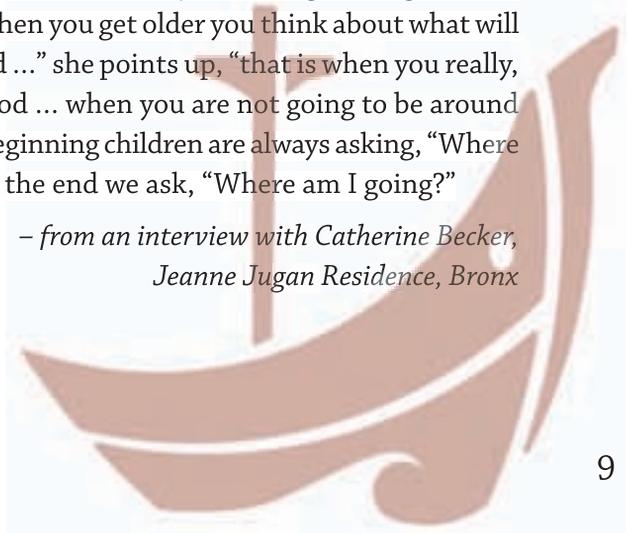
"We should pray every day," she said in a teacher-like tone. She thought about each question posed for a long time, pursing her lips as she searched for the right words, finding it difficult to put God into "question and answer" format.

Catherine strolls around the home in her wheelchair daily, using her feet to maneuver over the waxed floors. Though she has an independent spirit herself, Catherine said the most important thing about having faith is dependence on God. Having full trust in him, the One who created us. "We owe him that," Catherine adds.

"I pray when I am frightened ... thunder, lightening..." she says with a shrug. It is hard to imagine having fears after living through so much. If anything, living this long has made her need God more, not less. Catherine said she also prays when she is met by people who she finds it difficult to love.

"I'm a hundred years old," she says, pausing to laugh at the thought of a century. "When you get older you think about what will happen when you die and ..." she points up, "that is when you really, really, really believe in God ... when you are not going to be around here any longer." In the beginning children are always asking, "Where do I come from?" And in the end we ask, "Where am I going?"

*– from an interview with Catherine Becker,
Jeanne Jugan Residence, Bronx*





Grandparents play a variety of roles in the lives of their families. Some grandparents are actively involved in raising their grandchildren. Others play vital supportive roles for their children and grandchildren. Many of us have fond childhood memories of lessons we learned from our grandparents — cooking, sewing, fishing, riding a bike... But, perhaps the most important lessons that grandparents can teach are of the faith, as Ruth Healey testifies. When asked if

she had a symbol of faith, Ruth thought carefully about it, and decided that a picture of her “Grannie” is her symbol of faith.

Upon further inquiry, it was easy to see that it was not so much the picture itself — but rather the memories she has of her grandmother’s faith — that had a profound influence on her own faith as she grew up. As a young child, Ruth would often go to spend a few days with her grandmother, and during these visits, Grannie taught Ruth the Catholic faith through her example. “There was never a question about going to Sunday Mass,” she said. Grannie was very involved in Saint Raymond’s Parish in Pawtucket, and it was she who taught Ruth many prayers, including the Hail Mary. Grannie passed away when Ruth was eight years old, but even to this day, she says, “When I see her [picture], I see faith — great faith.”

– from an interview with Ruth Healey,
Jeanne Jugan Residence, Pawtucket, RI



This is Jesus' name in Chinese and it has been my symbol of faith since I learned what the characters meant.

In the Cantonese dialect, it's pronounced "Yèh Sōu." Try saying "yeah, so" and it will sound about right. The character for Yèh is made up of two characters, the left is the Chinese word for 'ear' and the right for 'district or area'. The character for Sōu also comprises two characters, the left means 'fish' and the right means 'grain'. His name in Chinese is the perfect expression of who he is. The Obedient one, the one who sustains us in all our trials, especially, those of us who are studying to read and write Chinese characters and learning to speak the Cantonese dialect! In Jesus, all things are possible including mastering the Chinese language!

– Sister Susanna, Kowloon, Hong Kong

As a Little Sister of the Poor, I frequently use holy water, especially in caring for the dying. This sacramental recalls our Baptism and, in its purity, it helps to "chase the devil away" at a time when he could well be trying to sway a soul in his direction. At the time of death and the moment when a soul is about to enter into eternal Light, the placing of a lighted candle in the hand of that person, calls to mind the mystical experience we are encountering with this soul as we are aware that as he/she is ending an earthly life, and is about to embrace eternal Life with God in heaven. At Baptism a candle is lit and a life burns for God until he leads that soul to himself. In the other hand we place another sacramental, a small crucifix, which reminds us of the passion and death of Christ, who is accompanying that soul on his journey to eternity.

– Sister Maureen,
Holy Family Residence, Scranton, PA

Maria Tetreault, a bright and enthusiastic Resident at our home, celebrated her 102nd birthday a few months ago. She has faithfully kept the custom of sleeping with a rosary under her pillow for almost that long! “Since I was a young girl I would reach for my rosary often and felt accompanied by the Blessed Mother.” The beads, of course, became her favorite symbol of faith.



Maria has a few rosaries but there’s one in particular that she preserves most carefully. The story of this rosary, which she has used for over 74 years, is a little revelation for her son who thought he bought it for her birthday when he was only six years old.

Maria worked at a fashion store in Providence for twenty-five years. One day, her mother-in-law took her two sons, Roger and Paul (now deceased), to shop for a gift for their mother’s birthday. They spoke to Maria’s manager to get ideas for a gift, explaining to him that their mom was always busy in Church helping and directing the choir. Paul exclaimed that their mom “is very old so we have to get something nice” (she was only 38!). Roger offered more useful information by pointing out a beautiful rosary that he obviously felt matched their mom’s elegant and religious spirit. It turned out that the meager savings the two boys had wasn’t near the price for the beads. The manager called Maria and she told him to take their pennies and give it to them; she would later pay for it herself. She never told them — “but he’ll find out now!” — she joyfully proclaims.

In Maria’s room you’ll find beautiful little medals of saints and angels, as well as crosses and plaques of the Holy Family, but it’s the



rosary that holds her tightly to her faith. It's a beautiful prayer that covers the whole life of Christ. "It places me near the Blessed Mother as I look at Christ in the mysteries and in the events in my own family's life. It has always been enough for me to pray the Rosary, or even just to hold it in my hand, and then I know she will bring me to her Son. I'm not good enough to thank God; I feel inadequate saying "thank you" so I stay close to the Blessed Mother and she knows what to do."

– from an interview with Maria Tetreault,
Jeanne Jugan Residence, Pawtucket, RI

The word "fiancée" comes from the French meaning "the one in whom I put my faith." I never thought of it before you asked for my symbol of faith, but my profession crucifix is indeed, for me, the sign and reminder of the one in whom I put my faith, as a fiancée. Moreover, like a wedding band, it signifies the covenant of love made on the day of my profession of vows as a religious and it is worn 24/7. As I kiss my crucifix each morning and night, renewing my vows to Jesus, meek and humble of heart, I once again place my faith in him, who is the Faithful One.



– Sister Kathleen,
Holy Family Residence, Scranton, PA

The symbol, if you want to call it that, which has most significance for my personal, spiritual, religious and even practical life is a sort of journal. It's not a journal *per se* but a little book in which I began, around 1968, to make entries — to write thoughts, phrases and quotes which meant something to me deeply at that moment in my life and have helped along the way. Most of the points still provide much faith, guidance and inspiration; but some of them, well, I guess I just outgrew them. I have never really shared publicly about this little book and find it easy to speak of generally — but to live it is the true challenge. It contains excerpts from letters from my sister, books, and articles as well as a few poems and hymns. Yes, I would suggest to young people — and even older ones! — to consider jotting down some spontaneous and practical points from their life journey of faith. This is my life. I read it or simply look at it and can smile with gratitude to the Lord. We have gotten through so much together!

– *Jeanne Jalbert, Resident*

Jeanne Jugan Residence, Pawtucket, RI

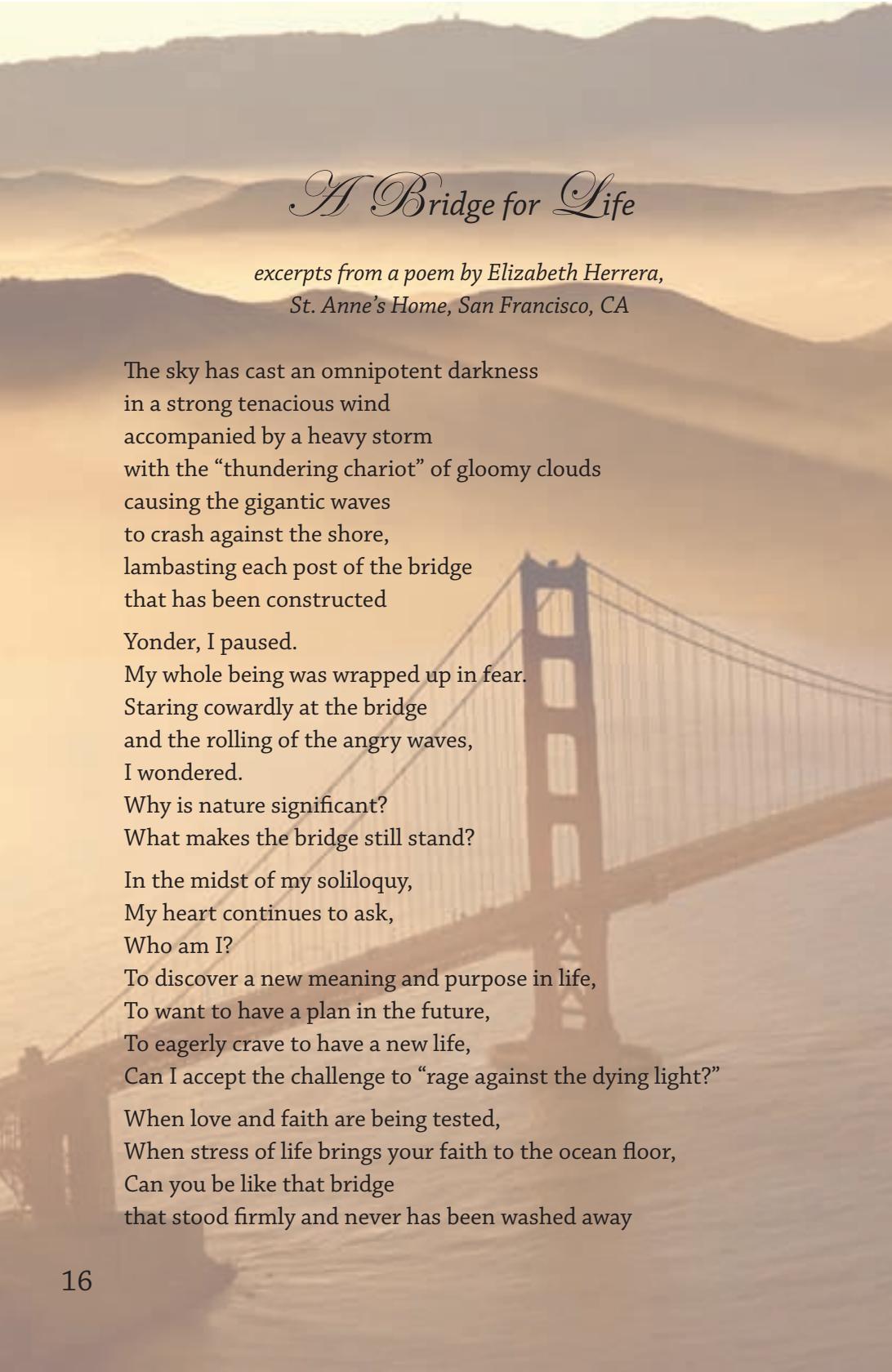




The Residents of St. Anne's Home in San Francisco found the Golden Gate Bridge, whose 75th anniversary is being celebrated this year, an apt metaphor for faith. A group of them wrote the following reflection...

Faith is like a Bridge

FAITH is like a bridge that ...
unites earth to heaven.
connects us to God
lights the Way
leads us to hope
brings life meaning
leads us to peace
opens our horizons
leads us over troubled waters
holds us up above stormy trials
leads to new beginnings
carries us to eternal light
is paved with sacramental grace
supports our convictions
takes us beyond our sight
passes from darkness to light
crosses over from sadness to joy
carries the heavy load of attachment to the freedom of poverty
closes the gap between generation and nations,
the rich and the poor, and those pleasant and unpleasant.



A Bridge for Life

*excerpts from a poem by Elizabeth Herrera,
St. Anne's Home, San Francisco, CA*

The sky has cast an omnipotent darkness
in a strong tenacious wind
accompanied by a heavy storm
with the "thundering chariot" of gloomy clouds
causing the gigantic waves
to crash against the shore,
lambasting each post of the bridge
that has been constructed

Yonder, I paused.

My whole being was wrapped up in fear.
Staring cowardly at the bridge
and the rolling of the angry waves,
I wondered.

Why is nature significant?
What makes the bridge still stand?

In the midst of my soliloquy,
My heart continues to ask,
Who am I?

To discover a new meaning and purpose in life,
To want to have a plan in the future,
To eagerly crave to have a new life,
Can I accept the challenge to "rage against the dying light?"

When love and faith are being tested,
When stress of life brings your faith to the ocean floor,
Can you be like that bridge
that stood firmly and never has been washed away



even when tossed in the storm
in the midst of the angry waves?

This is a real challenge that makes our life worthwhile.
With courage and determination,
we must keep our faith strong
and it must be put into action....

Where love is the keynote for everything,
In the womb of our hearts
faith is born and will be opened
to a “transcending beauty” for everybody.
It is love that unites people,
For “no man is an island.”

It is our faith that connects us to God.
It give us the full meaning of life.
It makes us “real witnesses in the world
of the crying need for God.”

Like a bridge that connects one place to another,
Bringing vehicles/people securely from end to end,
Surprisingly, we will notice that despair
changes to hope.

Unceasingly, we hope for the good things to come
when the “light of glory” has full operation
in the divine life of our souls.
then in an ecstatic moment, in the depth of our hearts,
we feel that God’s joy is our joy,
Faith is truly alive! 🕊



Our New York Summer

Our Spring into Service program offers young women from round the country the opportunity to spend the summer in one of our homes gaining hands-on experience with the elderly and at the same time, a close-up view of religious life. Among the twenty college students who spent this summer with the Little Sisters, six young women from Carroll College in Helena, Montana, spent the summer in our two New York City homes, where they accompanied the Residents on many fun day trips, from Coney Island (left) to Radio City Music Hall. Several of the young women share their stories here.

MY NAME IS RACHAEL LOWE, and I spent the summer with the Little Sisters of the Poor at the Jeanne Jugan Residence in the Bronx, NY. With the love and support of all the Sisters and Residents, I passed my state boards in June and began working as a registered nurse! Having already spent last summer at the Bronx residence, the transition from being a nurse's aide to a full-blown nurse went relatively smoothly. I loved having the opportunity to provide direct care for all of the Residents, whether it was passing my morning medications or praying the rosary for the Residents as I tried to stay awake during the night shift. I especially enjoyed learning more about the Little Sisters' vow of hospitality and how they incorporate this into their care of the Residents. Hospitality doesn't just mean giving the Residents excellent medical care, but also providing for their spiritual well-being and accompanying them as they near the end of their earthly journey. During my time in the home, I tried to be attentive to ways I could serve the Residents better as a nurse, even if it just meant giving someone a little extra applesauce with their medicine because they enjoyed it.



As Saint Jeanne Jugan said, “It is a great grace God is giving you, for in serving the aged, it is he himself whom you are serving.” Geriatric nursing may not seem like the most glamorous job when compared to the bells and whistles of a hospital, but I could never dream of serving anyone but the elderly after my time here at the Jeanne Jugan Residence. I am grateful for all of the wonderful opportunities to work alongside Little Sisters, some of whom are also excellent nurses, and who taught me so much about caring for the Residents with a joyful and selfless heart.



I had just wheeled Sister Marie Louis back to her room in the infirmary after evening prayer. I found early on in the summer that each Little Sister has a way of wrapping you in the presence of God. In her twinkling eyes, Sister Marie Louis is no different. I am always reminded of how good God is when I depart her room. This day, as I made my way to leave, I kissed her on the cheek and she gripped my hand.

“You’re lucky,” she said, as if the status of my luck was a matter of fact.

I looked at her, puzzled. We had just been talking about how



hard it was going to be for me to leave this place. The Jeanne Jugan Residence quickly became a home to me and I didn't see how luck was going to ease the difficulty of saying farewell.

"Why?" I said, placing my other hand over hers.

"Because you found God's love," she said without hesitation, her eyes brimming with the delight of knowing a secret.

My mouth hung open. My spine straightened with the acknowledgment that she was right. All I could do was

stare; her starchy white habit seemed brighter than usual.

"I can tell..." she said, her whole face smiling.

She had found me out. I was speechless. Just like I am speechless when people ask me about my summer with the Little Sisters of the Poor. For someone who is always eager to share, to talk, and use words to the point of abuse — it is remarkable that I have trouble coming up with an explanation that will suffice.

I found God's love this summer. Something I previously thought I knew well enough. I got by, I worked hard, I tried harder and I crashed to the pillow every night, tired from a day of doing a lot for God. All is different now. Unlike what I had thought I knew about God's love I didn't have to earn it, I didn't deserve it more than my fellow man and I certainly didn't have to be perfect to find it.

Being a part of the Little Sisters life showed me the power of simplicity. Every action they do, from sorting mail, setting the dining table, feeding a Resident, or planting flowers, is done with

patience and boundless consideration. They move quickly about the home and amaze me with the amount of duties they fulfill without rushing at all. From them and from the elderly Residents I learned the beauty of the “present.” Living each moment for what God is asking of you and what he is giving you in that task.

When one works with the elderly I think death can become very real. For me working with the aged poor this summer made life very real. It made me appreciate the ability to live each moment with Christ and to enjoy what I have. Living, eating, serving and hanging out with those so close to heaven brought me closer to God. As I spent time with them I got glimpses into that eternal life. I am forever grateful for this.

This summer program created the opportunity for me to have the freedom to search for him and learn how much I needed to rely on his grace. This summer was a challenge. I was away from everything I knew. Yet it was because of this that I was able to be completely open to God and I had all the time I needed to wait patiently on his time. I now want what God wants for me. Before I felt obligated to follow the will of God. Though I knew it was good, I would almost begrudge the whole thing. I am no longer afraid of his will in my life.

It is hard to say good-bye to this leg of my journey. Yet I have this incredible blessing of God’s grace and I am giddy with anticipation to share it. I know this summer program is different for each girl. For me, as Sister Marie Louis so gracefully pointed out, I found the gift of God’s love. A gift that needs no location other than my heart to remain powerful.

– *Raven Dryden*



While most people spend their summer vacations doing just that — vacationing — the Little Sisters of the Poor offer a different experience for college-age women to get involved in helping the elderly. Here at Queen of Peace, we were four young women



volunteering for the summer. We came from all over the country — Idaho, Texas, and Montana — in order to further experience the work of the Little Sisters. The summer live-in program allowed us an incredible opportunity to work closely with the Little Sisters and the Residents. We were able to work all over the home, including with the Residents, in the dining rooms, the front desk, and in activities. Along with working in the home we also were given room and board in order to get the full experience of life with the Sisters. Being in Queens gave us the special privilege of being next door to the Novitiate, so we had many opportunities to understand the mission of the Little Sisters and where it all begins. As the summer draws to an end we must return to our lives at home, but the Little Sisters of the Poor will always be in our hearts.

– Celeste and Maggy Petesch

Saint Jeanne Jugan finds a new home in Nebraska

SAINT JEANNE JUGAN'S ARRIVAL IN NEBRASKA was two years in the making. Her journey to Omaha began in 2010 when Mrs. Jeanne Gatz, the wife of Dr. Edward Gatz — whose miraculous cure from cancer led to the canonization of our foundress — and Mrs. Kathy Rowen, a fellow Creighton University alumna, united to bring a common inspiration to fruition. Together, they wished to see a statue of Saint Jeanne erected on the Creighton University campus in honor of the late Rev. Richard D. McGloin, S.J., a longtime residence hall advisor and professor at Creighton University who was instrumental in the canonization.

It was Father McGloin who, in January 1989, had suggested that Jeanne Gatz, also a Creighton graduate, join him in seeking the intercession of Jeanne Jugan for a cure for her husband, Edward, who had been diagnosed with terminal esophageal cancer. Father McGloin had been a chaplain at the Little Sisters' home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and had retained a strong devotion to our foundress when he moved on to other assignments. He shared a tattered prayer card of Jeanne Jugan with Jeanne Gatz, insisting that she pray the novena prayer every day without fail. Dr. Edward Gatz's cure from cancer would become the crucial miracle attributed to Jeanne Jugan which paved the way for her canonization on October 11, 2009.

Kathy Rowen first contacted the Little Sisters to share her idea in December 2010, explaining that both she and her husband were Creighton alumni and friends of Father McGloin, and that they knew many people who would contribute to the realization of the project. Contacts were made with our motherhouse and Creighton



Mother Provincial and Mother Marguerite unveil the statue of Saint Jeanne.

University officials, and the project was soon underway. Nothing could deter Kathy from bringing her idea to fruition — not even the death of her dear husband Tom following a long illness. With the Gatz's support she forged ahead and, on August 30, 2012, Saint Jeanne's feast day, the statue was dedicated.

Among those in attendance at Creighton on August 30th were Dr. and Mrs. Gatz and Kathy Rowen, along with many friends and family members; Archbishop-Emeritus Elden Curtiss and several members of the Jesuit community in Omaha; and a large delegation of Little Sisters, Residents, Association Jeanne Jugan members, volunteers, and staff from our Jeanne Jugan Center in Kansas City.

The statue was placed in a lovely and prominent spot in front of the residence hall bearing the name of Father McGloin. The many guests gathered in the first floor lounge area of McGloin Residence, happy to find shelter from the day's extreme heat. The team of planners had also thoughtfully reprinted a large stack of the memorial cards that had been distributed at the time of Father McGloin's death in 2005, and our Little Sisters prepared packets of information on Saint Jeanne Jugan for each guest.

Father Roc O'Connor, S.J. rector of the Jesuit community at the University, served as master of ceremonies. Father Roc, a member of the original St. Louis Jesuits musical group, had spent time at our home in Saint Paul, Minnesota, during his novitiate in the 1970s. He recalled affectionately the attention he and his fellow Jesuit novices received from the Little Sisters there.

Doctor and Mrs. Gatz each spoke briefly about the presence of Father McGloin and Saint Jeanne Jugan in their lives over the years, highlighting how their combined faith and humility opened the way for a miracle from what was deemed medically and humanly impossible. Mother Provincial Maria Christine Joseph thanked everyone on behalf of all the Little Sisters, reading a congratulatory message from Mother General Celine.

Archbishop-Emeritus Elden Curtiss concluded the speakers' portion of the program, first by recalling the investigation process for Dr. Gatz's miracle and his great joy to concelebrate at the canonization Mass alongside Pope Benedict XVI. His formal remarks were followed by a short walk outdoors and up the sidewalk for the actual dedication and blessing.

In anticipation of the big event the statue and plaque had been covered with a black cloth after their erection a week before. Mother Marguerite Marie de Lourdes, superior of our home in Palatine, who had met Fr. McGloin on several occasions and who was the first Little Sister to meet Jeanne and Ed Gatz, was given the joy of unveiling the statue and plaque after the archbishop's prayer.

For all the humility that enveloped our Mother's obscure existence during her lifetime, this was a moment of impressive sentiment. Spontaneous applause and "oohs and aahs" expressed the joy of all as the kind face and outstretched hand offering bread were unveiled. The front of the statue faces away from McGloin Residence toward the surrounding buildings and expansive campus. Nearby are two other statues — one of Moses holding the Ten Commandments and the other of our great heavenly protector, Saint Joseph, depicted under the title of "Teacher of the Young Jesus." From her



Top: The statue and plaque in front of McGloin Residence hall at Creighton University.

Bottom: Rev. Timothy Lannon, S.J., president of Creighton University, poses with Mother Provincial, the community of Little Sisters from Kansas City, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Gatz (center) and Mrs. Kathy Rowen (far right), who spear-headed the project in honor of Father McGloin.



Mother Provincial Maria Christine with Kathy Rowen and Archbishop-emeritus Elden Curtiss.

place Saint Jeanne quietly invites the students and faculty walking the red-bricked paths to stop and pause awhile in order to ponder “God’s story” of love toward one of his chosen ones. This statue of Saint Jeanne can

offer all those who pass by a lesson in selfless charity and love of neighbor. As Pope Benedict XVI said in his canonization homily: “The spirit of hospitality and fraternal love ... illuminated her entire existence.”

How grateful we are for the dedication of Kathy Rowen, Jeanne Gatz and many others in honoring the late Fr. McGloin and making it possible for the statue of Saint Jeanne to have a permanent presence on the campus of Creighton University!

We conclude our story with a few words from Mrs. Jeanne Gatz, whose faith in the power of prayer really set this project in motion back in 1989:

“Ed and I feel honored that God directed our paths to Father McGloin, and that he directed Father McGloin’s path to the Little Sisters and their foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. We feel blessed that through Saint Jeanne Jugan’s incredible faith, we were ushered to a place of mercy and healing.

“It is Ed’s and my hope that over the years, this statue from the Little Sisters of the Poor — having found its way to Creighton all the way from Barcelona, Spain — will stir the curiosity of many Creighton students. Perhaps they will want to learn about the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the intercession of all the saints, as they respond to the prayers of the faithful.” 🌸

Little Sisters participate in Sydney's "SCENE 2012"

THE SYDNEY CONGRESS EMBRACING THE NEW EVANGELIZATION, known as SCENE, is an annual event offering people of all ages a mini World Youth Day experience in the heart of Sydney during non-WYD years. SCENE 2012 was held July 11–15, 2012.

The theme of SCENE 2012, "IN HIM," invited young people to contemplate the face of Christ and to recognize and respond to the graces offered to us in him. Participants were invited by Bishop

Julian Porteus to start IN HIM through prayer, preaching, the Scriptures and the Sacraments; to continue IN HIM through teachings and workshops; and finally, by their presence in the city, to GO FORTH IN HIM to witness to the abundant life he offers.

A highlight of the event was the Night of Mercy on July 13, during which four separate candlelight processions wound their way through the city, giving public witness of our





Catholic faith. Each procession was led and animated by a different movement in the Church — the Neocatechumenal Way, Youth for Christ, the Latin Mass Community and the Emmanuel Community. The four processions merged at St. Mary’s Cathedral, where Bishop Julian Porteus stood ready to welcome the “night pilgrims,” telling them how proud he was of their public witness of faith. The Night of Mercy continued with music, Eucharistic adoration, preaching by Bishop Porteus and the sacrament of Penance.

Our Little Sisters in Australia participated actively in the many events of these exciting days. They also met many people, both young and old, who visited their vocation booth in Martin Place, the center of Sydney. The Sisters had placed a box for prayer petitions there and it was quickly filled. At the conclusion of the event they took the prayer intentions home and presented them in a basket during the offertory procession at Sunday Mass, thus inviting all the Residents and Sisters to pray for the many people who had entrusted themselves to their prayers. 🌹

Joy for the living Church of Christ

which, ever
animated by the Holy Spirit,
continues to advance
in the heart of the world...



Images from the ceremony of
perpetual profession at our
motherhouse, August 26, 2012...



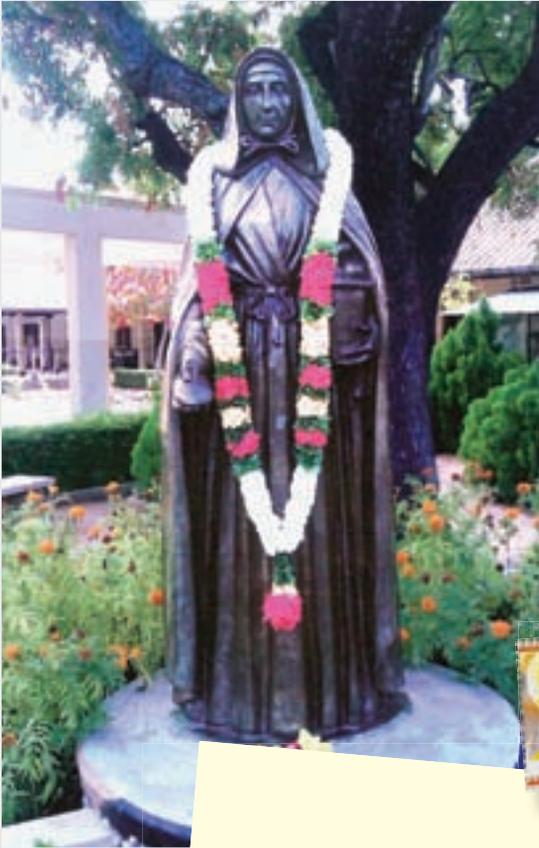


... and from the temporary profession of four new Little Sisters at St. Ann's Novitiate in Queens Village, New York, July 21, 2012. The ceremony was presided by Most Rev. Raymond Chappetto, auxiliary bishop of Brooklyn, New York.



*Please
join us in
praying for
vocations!*





30th August 2012

The Editor, "Serenity":

As a non-Catholic Resident of this Home, my devotion, gratitude and thanksgiving is for our Foundress whose precious memory we commemorate today.

The garland of flowers that you see round the neck of our Foundress is only an affectionate symbol of our everlasting indebtedness to the Little Sisters who are our ministering angels. We pray in earnest and deep fervour for more vocations.

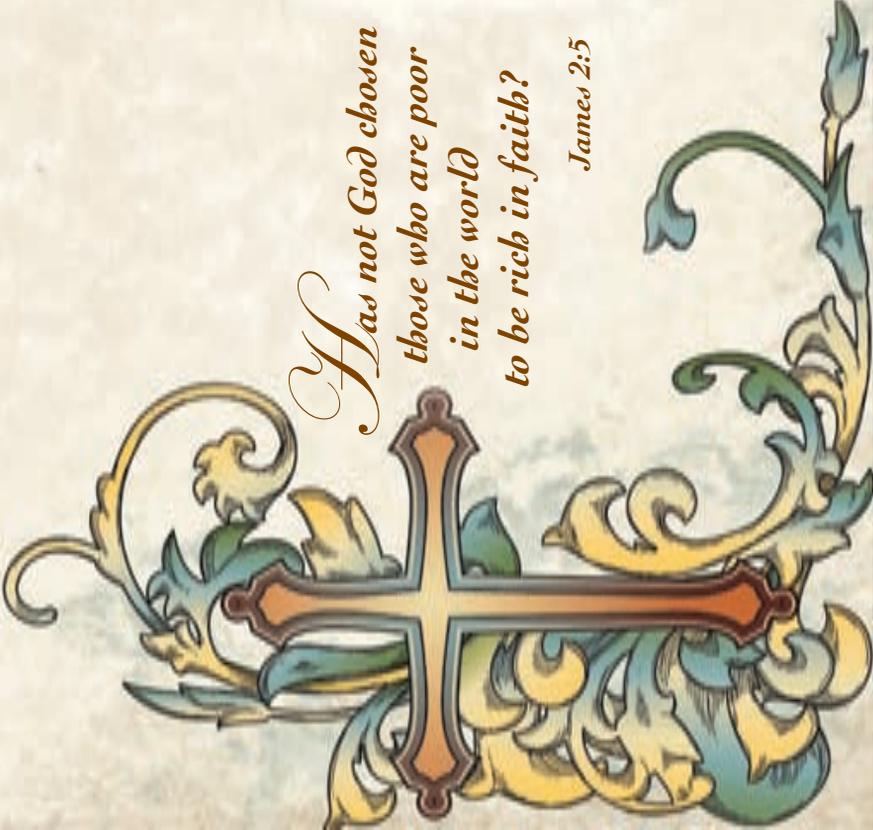
- a Resident from Batticaloa, Sri Lanka

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*Has not God chosen
those who are poor
in the world
to be rich in faith?*

James 2:5

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