

Serenity

no. 199 • Little Sisters of the Poor • July 2023



Looking to the future
with renewed hope:

Our three U.S. provinces become two



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.

Cover Photos

Front cover image: In Chicago Mother General is welcomed with open arms by Robert Matviu, Resident Council president. Mother Margaret Charles, local superior, looks on.

Back inside cover: The Little Sisters assigned to our new Home in Magalang, Philippines, process to their mission house to begin the foundation.

Back outside cover: A street in Lisbon, Portugal, site of this year's World Youth Day (Alamy.com photo).

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Contents

- 3 Starting afresh in the United States
- 15 Offering others the new life we have found
- 21 Caring for our common home with new enthusiasm
- 28 A new foundation in the Philippines

Acknowledgments:

Papal quotes on the inside and outside back covers are excerpted from the Pope's message for the 2023 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Read the whole message here: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20230531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

A note on face masks: Although the pandemic is officially over in the United States, it is still a daily reality in the world of long-term care. Regulations vary from one area to another, but in many of our Homes masking is still required. As a result, the Little Sisters, Residents and others are wearing masks in some photos and not wearing them in others.

From generation to generation, God’s mercy is always part of something greater than ourselves

In April Mother General María and her vicar, Mother Assistant Joseph Christine, came to the United States to formalize the consolidation of our three U.S. provinces into two, and to meet with the superiors of our U.S. Homes, together with a newly formed national vocation team, to create an action plan for the more energetic fostering of vocations in our country.

Providentially, as Mother General and Mother Assistant were meeting with us, Little Sisters on the other side of the world were preparing the way for a new foundation, the Congregation’s third house in the Philippines. So as we in the United States were trying to see the ongoing diminution in numbers and resulting down-sizing in the light of God’s Providential plan of love, our Little Sisters in the Philippines were giving us new reasons to hope. God’s love will never fail us. His mercy endures from age to age!

This is the theme of this year’s World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly — His mercy is from age to age. Although this theme was announced several months ago, the Holy Father’s long-awaited message explaining the theme was just published — just in time for us to include it in this reflection before we go to print!

The Pope writes, “This year, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly takes place close to World Youth Day. Both celebrations remind us of the “haste” (cf. v. 39) with which Mary set out to visit Elizabeth. In this way, they invite us to reflect on the bond that unites young and old. The Lord trusts that young people, through their rela-

tionships with the elderly, will realize that they are called to cultivate memory and recognize the beauty of being part of a much larger history. Friendship with an older person can help the young to see life not only in terms of the present and realize that not everything depends on them and their abilities. For the elderly, the presence of a young person in their lives can give them hope that their experience will not be lost and that their dreams can find fulfilment. Mary's visit to Elizabeth and their shared awareness that the Lord's mercy is from generation to generation remind us that, alone, we cannot move forward, much less save ourselves, and that God's presence and activity are always part of something greater, the history of a people. Mary herself said this in the Magnificat, as she rejoiced in God, who, in fidelity to the promise he had made to Abraham, had worked new and unexpected wonders (cf. vv. 51-55)."

"To better appreciate God's way of acting, let us remember that our life is meant to be lived to the full, and that our greatest hopes and dreams are not achieved instantly but through a process of growth and maturation, in dialogue and in relationship with others. Those who focus only on the here and now, on money and possessions, on 'having it all now,' are blind to the way God works. His loving plan spans past, present and future; it embraces and connects the generations. It is greater than we are, yet includes each of us and calls us at every moment to keep pressing forward. For the young, this means being ready to break free from the fleeting present in which virtual reality can entrap us, preventing us from doing something productive. For the elderly, it means not dwelling on the loss of physical strength and thinking with regret about missed opportunities. Let us all look ahead! And allow ourselves to be shaped by God's grace, which from generation to generation frees us from inertia and from dwelling on the past!"

Invaluable advice for us, as we plan for the future, despite diminished numbers — Let us look ahead and allow ourselves to be shaped by God's grace, which from generation to generation frees us from inertia and from dwelling on the past and orients us toward a future full of hope! ©

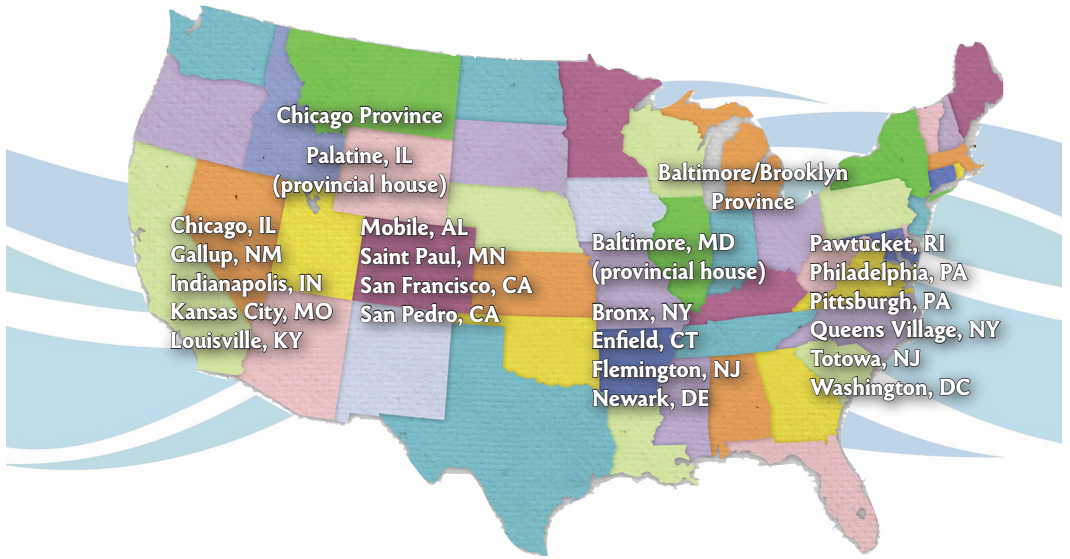


Little Sisters greet Mother General María and Mother Assistant in Philadelphia.

Starting afresh in the United States

Each year the joys of Easter follow the sacrifices of Lent and the sorrows of Holy Week. This year our Paschal joy was doubled as we welcomed Mother General María and her vicar, Mother Assistant Joseph Christine, for their second U.S. visit. Our visitors arrived in Chicago on Easter Wednesday. They spent several days in the Midwest, and then headed to New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, before concluding their trip with meetings back at our novitiate in Queens Village, New York.

Mother General María and Mother Joseph Christine came to the United States on a twofold mission — to realize the merger of our three U.S. provinces into two, and to help launch a national vocations team composed of Little Sisters from around the country who will collaborate in accompanying young women in their vocational discernment, participating in a variety of vocation events across the U.S. and making the Congregation better known.



Over the last several years we have withdrawn from a number of Homes across the United States in order to consolidate our aging communities and strengthen our religious life. This downsizing has taken place amidst a decrease in vocations, a pandemic and a growing crisis in the healthcare workforce. From over thirty Homes in three provinces at the dawn of the new millennium, we now count nineteen Homes in two U.S. provinces, or governing regions.

On April 19th Mother General María presided over the installation of Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica, previously provincial of the Brooklyn province, as the superior of the new Baltimore-Brooklyn province, whose headquarters will be in Baltimore. The new province is comprised of houses in the Bronx and Queens (NY), Pawtucket (RI), Enfield (CT), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Totowa (NJ), Baltimore, Newark (DE) and Washington, D.C., as well as our novitiate in New York and a retreat house in Flemington, NJ.

The Chicago province, which remains headquartered in Palatine, Illinois, picked up two Homes that previously belonged to the Baltimore province. This province is now comprised of two Homes in Chicagoland, and one house each in Kansas City (MO), Louisville, Indianapolis, Mobile (AL), St. Paul, San Francisco and Gallup, NM. We are in the process of withdrawing from our Home in San Pedro, a suburb of Los Angeles.

(continued on page 11)



Top and above: Mother General and Mother Assistant greet Residents and staff upon her arrival in Chicago.

Right: Mother General is presented with homemade honey in Indianapolis. Honey bees are raised on the Home's property.



Above: Mother Assistant Joseph Christine translates for Mother María as she meets Residents in Indianapolis. Our Home in Indianapolis, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, has just become part of the Chicago province.

Right: As she often does during her visits to the Homes, Mother General plays a bit of piano for everyone's enjoyment.

Opposite page, top: Greeting the Residents in Chicago.

Opposite page, bottom: In Baltimore, Mother María greets Jennie Libertini, at 108 the oldest Resident in the Baltimore Home and no doubt one of the oldest people in the United States. She had met her on her last visit to Baltimore and remembered her right away.









In Baltimore Residents, Little Sisters, staff and Jeanne Jugan associates staged a variety show welcoming Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica, Mother General María and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine. The highlight of the show was a humorous skit depicting the merger of the Baltimore and Brooklyn provinces as an agreement between Claudia the Crab, a popular Maryland symbol, and New York's Statue of Liberty. After a handshake ratifying the merger, everyone broke into an enthusiastic song, to the tune of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah...

Now Baltimore and Washington,
The Bronx, Philly and Flemington
Are all part of one happy family.

With Mother Alice at the head,
The Little Sisters will be led
In the mission of hospitality.

Pittsburgh, Newark, Totowa
Pawtucket, Enfield, Queen of Peace,
St. Anne' Novitiate, Hallelujah!

We pray that all will be just swell
The elderly will all be well.
Young women will join them, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Claudia the Crab was played by Shirley Ultzinger, while Joyce Smarr played the Statue of Liberty; both are Residents. Sadly, not long after Mother General's visit Joyce, a Jeanne Jugan Associate, employee and volunteer before becoming a Resident, passed away suddenly, leaving a huge void in the Home.

Top Photo: Jeanette Valdez and Pat Wells, both staff members for over thirty years, greet Mother General and Mother Provincial Alice Marie.



This page, top: Betsy Ross and several of Philadelphia's famous Mummers are all set for Mother's arrival. Bottom: Mother María greets staff members.

Opposite page: Mother General and other Little Sisters tour the construction site.



(continued from page 4)

We face our current challenges with both realism and hope, knowing that neither God nor our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, will ever abandon us. A number of Homes have quietly been undergoing transformations to better reflect the ideals of person-centered care, and a major reconstruction project is underway in Philadelphia. Mother General was happy to tour this work site during her visit.

Finally, Mother María and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine gathered with the superiors of our U.S. Homes and a group of Little Sisters experienced in vocation work to create an action plan for fostering vocations around the country. The new vocation team will launch national and regional projects, participate in a variety of events around the country, accompany young women in their discernment, and assist our communities to organize their own initiatives.

In his recent vocation message Pope Francis wrote that “God’s call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, ‘Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!’ (1 Cor 9:16).” We begin our renewed vocation efforts by asking God to inspire us with enthusiasm to proclaim the joy and beauty of our vocation. Please pray that our efforts will be fruitful! ©



This page, top: A group of Queen of Peace Residents with Mother General. It was touching to see how they greeted her as an old friend, having met her on her previous U.S. visit.

Right: Resident Bob Tiedemann spoke on behalf of his fellow Residents, humorously filling her in on what goes on behind the scenes in preparation for her visits.

Opposite page, top: Willie Pleau plays his harmonica for Mother General.

Opposite page, bottom: In the main dining room Ann Brady welcomes Mother General on behalf of her fellow Residents. The retired English professor concluded her speech with a prayer of the great poet T.S. Eliot to Our Lady!





Blessed Sister,
holy mother
And spirit of the
river,
spirit of the sea,
Suffer me not to
be separated
And let my cry
come unto thee.

– T.S. Eliot





Never forget
that the Poor
are Our Lord.

It is Jesus
whom you care
for in them.



Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica
is welcomed in Baltimore.



Offering others the new life we have found

In our recent meetings with Mother General she reminded us that growing the number of vocations to our community is not a question of “marketing” ourselves better or “catching” young women like fish. It is, rather, a matter of making Christ known to the younger generations, according to the words of the Apostle John, “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life — for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us — what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 Jn 1:1-4).

The Word of life was made manifest in the Incarnation. As Catholics we see, touch and even taste Christ in his real presence in the Eucharist; we hear the Word of life in the proclamation of Scripture, in lectio divina and in the Holy Spirit who speaks in the depths of our hearts. Additionally, we Little Sisters are privileged to see, hear and touch Christ in the person of the elderly poor, as he himself said, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt 25:40), and as Saint Jeanne Jugan often said, “Never forget that the poor are Our Lord ... It is Jesus whom you care for in them.”

Aside from the joy of belonging exclusively to Christ — something we share with all consecrated women — our greatest joy is



A touching moment
in Philadelphia.

found in our daily contact with Jesus Christ in the person of the poor. At the same time, however, we realize that in a society that values instant gratification and personal advancement, our apostolate with the elderly does not provide the tangible rewards our contemporaries commonly seek. We don't even have the satisfaction of seeing those we serve go on to live virtuous and productive lives, since without exception our Residents eventually leave us in death.

We expend our energies in our hospitaller vocation without expecting anything in return because we feel impelled to share the new life we have found in Christ. But while our efforts sometimes go unnoticed, they do not go unrewarded. Helping elders to find meaning and enjoyment in life — thus defying the prevailing assumption that lives that are no longer productive are not worth living — is spiritually thrilling; such apostolic charity is its own reward.



God encourages us
in our every affliction,
so that we may be able
to encourage those
who are in any affliction
with the encouragement
with which we
ourselves are
encouraged by God.

In his Second Letter to the Corinthians St. Paul comes close to expressing our experience: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. For as Christ’s sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow” (2 Cor 1:4-6).

In a culture that exalts youth and fears aging and death, we face human mortality on a daily basis. People often ask us if our apostolate is sad or depressing. We do not find it so, but we do realize how others might see it that way. We are both enriched and inspired as we witness the spiritual ascent of the elderly, even as their physical powers are ebbing away. As St. Paul wrote: “Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is

being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Cor 4:16-18).

Our longstanding practice of keeping vigil with the dying in order to prepare their souls for the eternal encounter is the summit of our apostolate. These times of vigil are intense moments of encounter — both

Praying a Hail Mary together in Portuguese.



interpersonally and spiritually — as “what is seen” is overshadowed by what is normally “unseen.” Earth and heaven meet in the room of each dying person and we are privileged to witness this mystery. Keeping watch with the dying never becomes routine, no matter how many times we experience it.

We know that the cloud of witnesses described in the Letter to the Hebrews (12:2) includes all the elderly with whom we have shared our lives and whom we have assisted in their last agony. They are praying for us, supporting us and waiting for us in heaven, ready to welcome us when our turn comes. What a consolation!

This orientation of our vocation toward eternal realities gives it a contemplative, even mystical dimension. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus counsels, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven.” How blessed we are that our vocation helps us to do just this, “for where our treasure is, there also will our hearts be.”

In our vocation work we often encounter young women who feel drawn to contemplative life. While some truly are being called to a monastic or cloistered community, for others a contemplative vocation merely seems like the most obvious way to quench their thirst for God and their desire to love him totally. But those called to the active religious life also strive to love Christ totally! Contemplation and action need not be in conflict. Our daily encounters with Christ in the person of the poor enable us to exercise our love for him in very real, concrete ways. Both Saint Jeanne Jugan and Saint Vincent de Paul, the great saint of charity, have been referred to as mystics in action. For both, their fervent love for God was the fire enlivening their very active lives at the service of the poor.

The following advice of Saint Vincent de Paul gives us great consolation, “If a needy person requires medicine or other help during prayer time, do whatever has to be done with peace of mind. Offer the deed to God as your prayer. Do not become upset or feel guilty because you interrupted your prayer to serve the poor. God is not

The Little Sisters pause to pray in Philadelphia.



We are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

neglected if you leave him for such service. One of God’s works is merely interrupted so that another can be carried out.”

Along with her advice that we focus on making Christ known to the young, Mother General María encouraged us to convey to them how much Christ needs them. Christ has need of us to keep the fire of his love burning on earth today and to bring this love to the people of our time. While we rejoice to see young people responding to their unique personal vocations — whatever they may be — we also sincerely desire to introduce young women to the joys of our vocation — both earthly and heavenly!

We began this reflection with a passage from the First Letter of St. John on the Word of life made manifest to us. We now close with an interpretation of this passage from Pope Francis’ message for this

year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations: "The Lord's initiative and his gracious gift call for a response on our part. Vocation is 'the interplay between divine choice and human freedom,' dynamic and exciting relationship between God and the human heart. The gift of vocation is like a divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God



and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found. This is the fundamental structure of what we mean by vocation: God calls us in love and we, in gratitude, respond to him in love...."

"God's call, we said, includes a 'sending.' There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found. God's call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, 'Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!' (1 Cor 9:16). And the First Letter of John begins with the words, 'What we have heard and seen, looked at and touched — the Word made flesh — we declare also to you, so that our joy may be complete' (cf. 1:1-4)." ©



Caring for our common home with new enthusiasm

Pope Francis often speaks about fostering bonds between the old and the young. He also frequently expresses his deep concerns about how we misuse the earth, our common home. During his visit to Indigenous communities in Canada last July, he combined these two themes. “Your hearts are springs from which the living water of faith flowed,” he told the grandmothers gathered around him; “and with it you quenched the thirst of your children and grandchildren.”

During his visit to Canada the Pope also said, “In a world that, tragically, is often all too individualistic, how precious is your profoundly genuine sense of family and community. How important it is to cultivate properly the bond between young and old, and to main-



Growing vegetables in Sydney, Australia.



tain a healthy and harmonious relationship with all of creation!”

Care for our common home ... harmonious relationships ... cultivating bonds between generations ... these phrases are often employed by our Holy Father. They contrast starkly with another set of words he uses: individualism ... instant gratification ... wasteful consumption ... the throw-away culture.

The Holy Father discussed these conflicting ideas in *Laudato Si*, his landmark encyclical on the environment. “The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us,” he wrote. “We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others....”

“The environment is part of a logic of receptivity,” he continued. “It is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the



Dunedin's Ecology Commission.

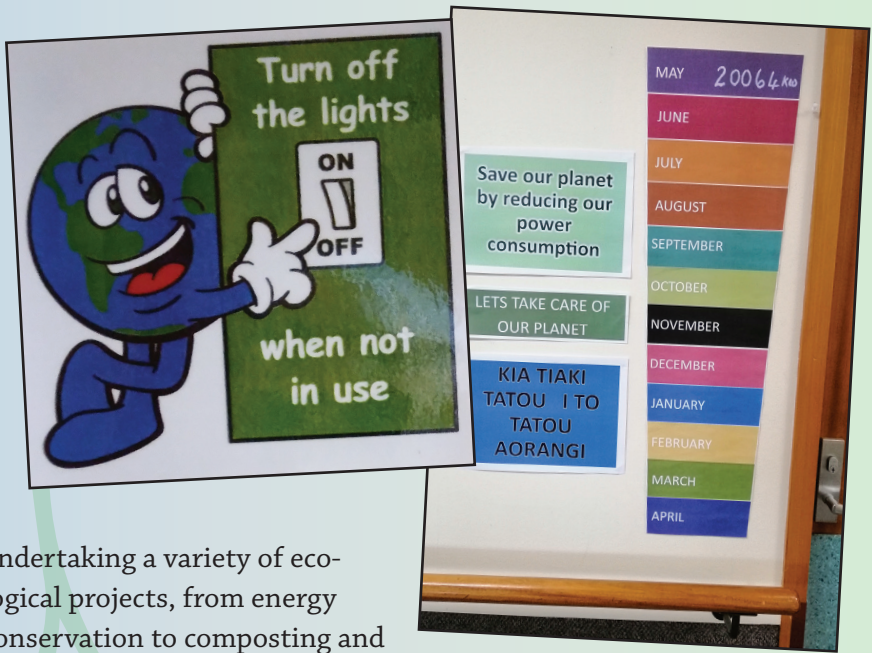
next. An integral ecology is marked by this broader vision.”

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? ... What need does the earth have of us?” the Pope asked. The delegates to our General Chapter last fall took these questions to heart, including an appeal on caring for our common home in the Chapter’s documents.

“Sister Mary of the Cross knew how to marvel at the beauty of creation by recognizing it as the work of her ‘Spouse,’” the delegates wrote. “Following her example, we will have at heart to create in our communities an atmosphere inviting us to give thanks for the material universe which speaks of God’s love and his boundless affection for us.”

The appeal on ecology concludes with words written by Mother General Celine de la Visitation in 2019, “We must be convinced that the earth, which God has given to all humanity, belongs to us too, and that we are responsible for taking care of it and protecting it through little acts, however humble and hidden they may be, thus helping to preserve creation.”

The Little Sisters and Residents in a number of our Homes around the world have taken the concern for our common home to heart,



undertaking a variety of ecological projects, from energy conservation to composting and gardening.

In Gallup, New Mexico, our Little Sisters are excited about their new composting project. “Spirit Farm owners, Joyce and James Skeet, came to show us how to make compost in order for us to



grow our own vegetables and flowers. We are very excited about this effort and look forward to the blossoms and homegrown vegetables that the compost will bring us in the months and years ahead!”

James Skeet grew up on the Navajo Nation; several years ago he and his wife, Joyce, returned to his family’s land to help care for

(continued on page 26)



Opposite page, top; Friendly reminders are placed around the Home in Dunedin, New Zealand. Below: In Sydney Brother Phillip Redding tends the greenery outside his room and the Home's grotto each day.

This page, top: In Sydney Rosaline Canterbury is proud, and rightfully so, of the garden she tends outside her room. Above: Nurturing cuttings in recycled juice bottles in Sydney.



(continued from page 24)

James' aging parents. Together the couple founded Spirit Farm in Vanderwagon, NM, as a demonstration farm aimed at encouraging Navajo people to pursue farming. Realizing that the soil had been seriously depleted over the years, the Skeets studied soil microbiology and developed methods for re-establishing the soil which they are now teaching to local folks.

A world away, our communities in Australia and New Zealand have taken the challenge of *Laudato Si* seriously. The Residents, Little Sisters, staff and volunteers at our Home in Dunedin, New Zealand, began by creating an ecology commission. This commission has as its main responsibility to create and gradually implement an action plan that provides "concrete actions that protect our common home" as *Laudato Si* describes it.

The commission meets once a month. The initial meeting involved a viewing of "The Letter," a *Laudato Si* film that documents the journeys of persons from different backgrounds to Rome to meet with Pope Francis and discuss climate change. The film drives home the tragic implications of climate change on the environment and the

lives of people throughout the world. The members of the commission were touched by it and motivated to make a difference.

It was decided that the plan should be gradual so as to be effective. One or two projects a month will be chosen for implementation and the results will be reviewed at the next meeting. The general theme of the action plan is “Let’s take care of our planet.”

The first project chosen and implemented concerns the usage of electricity. It was decided to post little reminders on all of the light switches to remind Residents, Sisters and staff to turn off all power when not in use. A ladder was created and placed alongside the monthly activity calendar. Each month’s Kw’s (kilowatt) consumption will be recorded as the year goes by to monitor the success of the project.

Our Little Sisters in Sydney, Australia, write about their activities, which are mostly focused on outdoor gardening. “Since we started our ecological awareness and conversion program last year it is rolling off very nicely with Residents enjoying their outdoor gardening and walks on the grass.”

They continue, “The Residents who are interested in gardening are encouraged and assisted by the gardener, Little Sisters, and Lifestyle staff. We take Residents on wheelchair walks to admire the beauty of flowers and plants in their garden and surroundings.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered activities in our Homes, all the while creating untold waste through the use of disposable PPE and other items, things are slowly returning to normal and we hope to initiate ecological projects in more of our Homes. We look forward to fostering healthy and harmonious relationships with one another and all of creation. ©

A new foundation in the Philippines

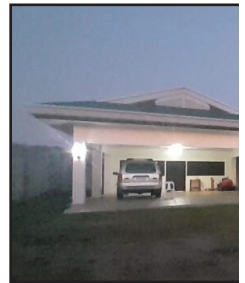
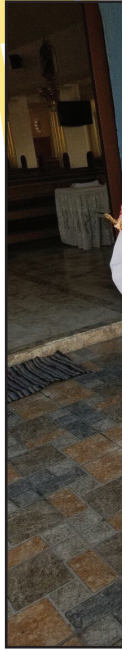
On April 27th a small band of Little Sisters, together with a Jeanne Jugan Associate, arrived in Magalang, Pampanga, a five-hour drive from Manila, to begin the Congregation's third foundation in the Philippines.

The house intended for the elderly was well maintained and in good order. As for the small house where the Little Sisters were to sleep, it was first necessary to declare war on the ants and spiders that had taken possession of the building! After a vigorous cleaning they happily settled in.

On the 29th two additional Little Sisters arrived from Manila with a van full of necessities. Life began to take shape. The Little Sisters welcomed the foundation's first Resident, a woman who had just lost everything in a house fire, on May 17th. Kind neighbors had noticed the fire, woke her up, and helped her escape the flames. They offered her hospitality for a night, and gave her some clothes and a bit of money.

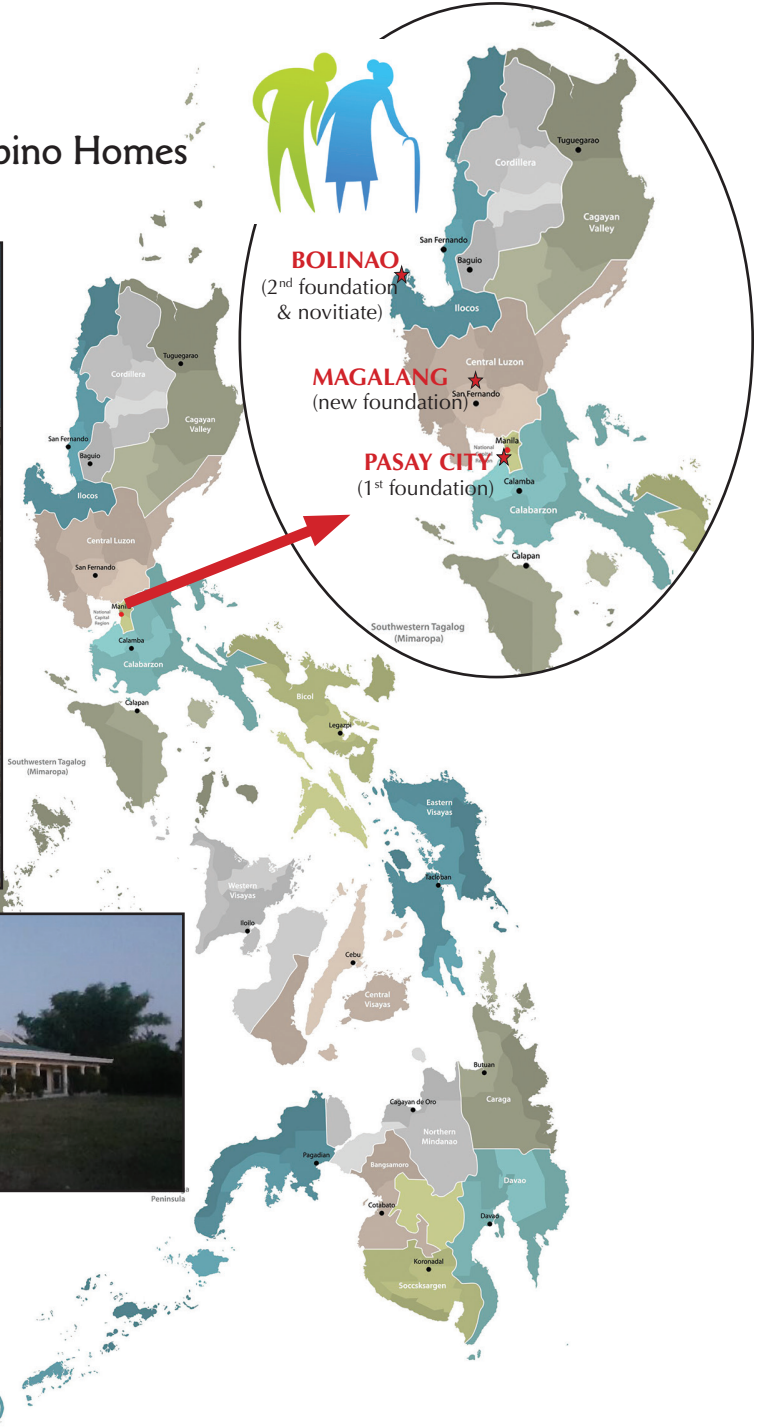
Magalang is located approximately half-way between our first two foundations in the Philippines. The first house was founded in Pasay City, just south of Manila, and a novitiate was constructed in Bolinao, a small resort and fishing town on the northern tip of the province of Pangasinan.

The municipality of Magalang is known for its fisheries and confections, called *pastilla de leche*, which are made from the milk of water buffalo that feed in the town's well-irrigated pastures. The town's human population is just over 124,000.





Our Filipino Homes





The town dates back to 1605; however, it has been relocated several times due to revolts and natural calamities. During World War II Magalang was captured by the Japanese on January 1, 1942. It was liberated by the U.S. Army, with help from Filipino guerillas, on January 25, 1945.

The Home was officially inaugurated on May 24th when Archbishop Florentino Lavarias celebrated the Mass with three concelebrants. The Little Sisters were happy to welcome Residents and Sisters from the Homes in Pasay City and Bolinao for the day, to the enjoyment of all.

After several speeches, the blessing of the small Home and its compound was carried out by the Archbishop and concelebrants. With great solemnity the Blessed Sacrament was given its rightful place in the chapel. The ribbon-cutting ceremony then took place, with the mother of a Filipino Little Sister whose family had been instrumental in initiating this foundation doing the cutting.



Photos, left to right from opposite page: Cleaning in preparation for the arrival of Residents. The first Resident arrives. Little Sisters and volunteers rejoice at the generosity of benefactors. The interior of the house is set up to welcome the elderly.

Along with this family, a large legacy from a benefactor in South Korea made this foundation possible and greatly facilitated the necessary logistics. The Little Sisters see in these two details, as well as the generosity of so many benefactors who donated needed supplies, the loving solicitude of Divine Providence. “If God is with us, it will be accomplished!” – Saint Jeanne Jugan ☺



Above: Residents from our three Filipino Homes enjoy a snack together.



Left: The celebratory Mass inaugurates the Home.

Below: The Blessed Sacrament is placed in the Home's chapel.





Mary's visit and Elizabeth's greeting
open our eyes to the dawn of salvation....
I encourage everyone to reflect on that meeting,
to picture, like a snapshot, that embrace
between the young Mother of God
and the elderly mother of Saint John the Baptist,
and to frame it in their minds and hearts as a radiant icon.

– Pope Francis

*In the meeting
between
Mary and Elizabeth,
between young and old,
God points us
towards the future
that he is opening up
before us.*

- Pope Francis

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