

Serenity

no. 201 • Little Sisters of the Poor • January 2024

JEANNE JUGAN





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: Fifth grader Eva, whose grandmother is a Jeanne Jugan Associate at our Home in Kansas City, Missouri, does a presentation on Jeanne Jugan for her All Saints project. She poses here with Sr. Grace.

Image at right: dreamstime.com

Back cover: Miriam Clark, a Resident of our Home in Washington, D.C., poses with her great grandson on her 100th birthday.



Serenity

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Thank God for old and young, the bookends of life

Often in the preparation of *Serenity* this page is the last one to be written. It is only when the individual articles are finalized and placed side by side, that the overall theme becomes clear. When this issue of *Serenity* reached that stage, we noticed that both the opening and closing pages spoke of young people and their involvement with the elderly, even to committing their whole lives to them. Young people seemed to serve as the bookends of this issue!

This realization reminded us Pope Francis' first World Youth Day in July, 2013, when he spoke for the first time about his desire to see closer relationships between the young and the old. Our society has the tendency to exclude "the two ends of life," he said, referring to the very young and the very old. Yet, it is "the two ends of life that are most full of promise for peoples."

"You could easily think there is a kind of hidden euthanasia, that is, we don't take care of the elderly; but there is also a cultural euthanasia, because we don't allow them to speak, we don't allow them to act. And there is the exclusion of the young," he lamented. "This civilization, in other words, has led us to exclude the two peaks that make up our future."

How grateful we are that in the Homes of the Little Sisters, neither the old nor the young — the two ends, or peaks, of life — are excluded, but both are welcomed and appreciated, leading them to enrich each other's lives and ours. Blessed be God!

Wishing you and all you love a healthy and happy New Year full of beautiful intergenerational relationships! ☺

Jeanne Jugan, a Saint for all ages

from our Little Sisters in Kansas City, Missouri

Fifth-grader Eva was looking for a saint to do a report on for her school's All Saints Day assignment. But who to choose? There are so many good ones! Eva learned that her birthday fell on the feast day of the Little Sisters of the Poor's foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, so she talked to her grandma Kate, who works here at our Home in Kansas City, and is a Jeanne Jugan associate.

The Little Sisters gave Kate some books to give to Eva to learn more about Jeanne Jugan, and after studying them, she decided Saint Jeanne would be a perfect saint to report on. Her grandma agreed and even offered to sew her a costume that looked just like Jeanne Jugan's habit. Eva helped and they made sure to get every detail just right, even down to a basket like one that Jeanne carried to collect food on her daily begging rounds.

On the big day of Eva's presentation, her grandma came and brought a special guest — Sr. Grace, an actual Little Sister of the Poor! Eva did a great job telling the other students and their parents all about Saint Jeanne Jugan and the Congregation she founded. She explained about the Little Sisters' mission of caring for the elderly all over the world, and told a little about our Home here in Kansas City.

She made a beautiful display of things she had learned about Jeanne Jugan, including some of her sayings. Eva said that her favorite saying of Saint Jeanne's is, "He is so good. Love God very much, all for Him, do everything through love." We agree, that is a great one!



After a long day of giving reports, she and her classmates were tired and getting hungry. In true Jeanne Jugan fashion, Eva shared her bounty of bread, carrots, and kale from her collecting basket with everyone.

Thank you, Eva, for helping to spread the word about our beloved Foundress. We believe Saint Jeanne Jugan would be proud of how you embraced her caring spirit. ☺



Father Henry Chow with his parents, Sr. Clement of Jesus and Resident priest Fr. Dino Doimo, PIME.

From volunteer to priest: one young man's vocation story

Our Little Sisters in Kowloon, Hong Kong, recently shared news of a very special new priest in their diocese. As a youngster, Father Henry Chow first met the Little Sisters of the Poor in 2013 when they were collecting in his parish. He soon began volunteering in the Home, rendering service in a variety of ways, even going collecting at the vegetable market. Later, Chow's mother became a volunteer as well.

Little by little, the life of the Little Sisters at the service of the elderly awakened in the young man a desire to be like them. Sensing a call to serve Jesus as a priest, he decided to enter the seminary. Father Chow's parents received the gift of faith during his time as a seminarian.

During Father Chow's ordination Mass, Sr. Clement of Jesus, the first Little Sister he had met, was invited to confer the stole on him as part of the vesting ceremony. After Mass he went to visit

the Residents of our Home, many of whom remembered him well. They recalled happy memories and the Residents promised to pray for him.

Father Chow reminds us of Father Ernest Lelièvre, the French priest who devoted his life to our Congregation in the early years of our history.

As a contemporary of Saint Jeanne Jugan, Father Lelièvre resembled her in several ways: great love for the poor, concern for the salvation of their souls, boundless confidence in Provi-

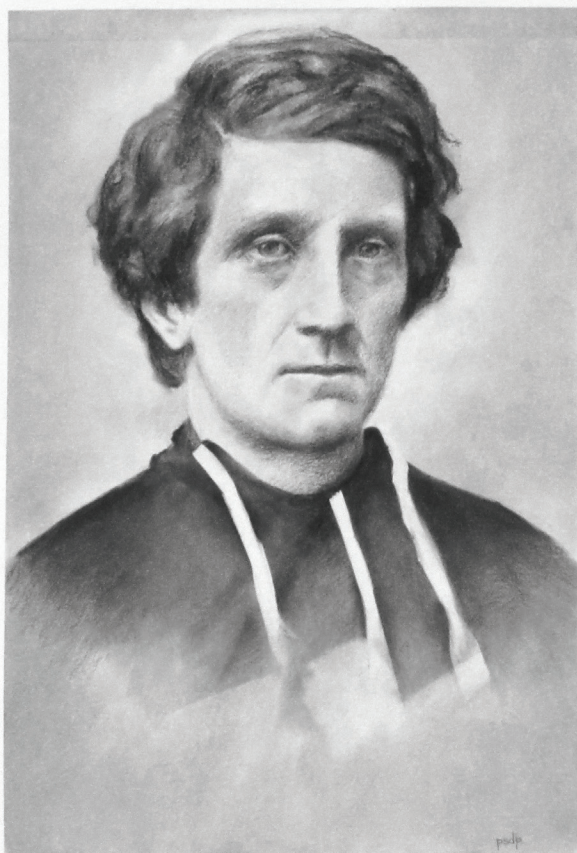
dence, profound humility and total detachment from all that is not God. Lelièvre spent his life in the service of the Congregation, traveling the world, from Europe to North America, to establish homes for the elderly. In his wake, foundations flourished by the dozen.

Father Lelièvre's happiness was to see the elderly poor welcomed and loved, rediscovering a living faith in God. Having thus consumed his life for the glory of God, exhausted, he died on July 3, 1889. His body reposes in the little cemetery of our motherhouse, La Tour Saint Joseph in St. Pern, France. ©



Father Chow with Father Dino Doimo, PIME, Father Patrick Sun, the Home's chaplain, and Father Mario Marazzi, PIME. Fathers Doimo and Marazzi are Residents of the Home.

WE INVITE
YOU TO
CONFIDE
YOUR NEEDS
TO FATHER
ERNEST
LELIÈVRE:



Lord Jesus, through the life and ministry of Father Ernest Lelièvre, You have given Your Church a friend of the poor and a tireless missionary at the service of the elderly, in the religious family founded by Saint Jeanne Jugan. You gave him the grace of immense confidence in Saint Joseph, Spouse of Mary.

Graciously answer our prayers and grant us the grace we are requesting through his intercession...

We ask this of You who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



23 acres, 650 friends and 150 years: Indianapolis sesquicentennial

compiled by our Little Sisters in Indianapolis

More than 650 persons gathered on Saturday, August 26 to celebrate the Little Sisters' presence in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the last 150 years. Indianapolis was the fourteenth Home of our Congregation founded in the United States. Unlike the sesquicentennial celebrations in our other Homes, which took place in cathedrals or other large churches, the community of St. Augustine Home decided to stage this event as a giant lawn party on the Home's 23-acre property.

An intense three-month preparation period brought together the community, staff, Jeanne Jugan Associates, volunteers, Ladies Guild and service providers. Our patron St. Joseph was confided the task of obtaining good weather for our big event. "There is no contingency plan," we responded when asked what we would do if the weather did not cooperate; "the event is outdoors, and we are



Above: Sr. Christian greets guests as they arrive. **Opposite page:** The entrance procession for Mass; Mother Maria Christine Joseph with Archbishop Charles Thompson.

confident that St. Joseph is arranging everything.” There were a few puzzled looks after this statement of confidence, but the weather on August 26 was indeed ideal — an intermittent breeze cooled the crowd and passing clouds assured a measure of shade.

Local Knights of Columbus Councils were enlisted to coordinate parking on the grass. Our driver and the security at the hospital next door graciously provided shuttle service for people parking in the hospital lot, while two off-duty police officers assured traffic control at our entrance. Friends, volunteers and master gardeners surprised us by the more-than-generous gift of their time and talents trimming bushes, planting flowers and making the property look its very best.

Providence took care of all the expenses, either through gifts-in-kind or monetary donations. Each day the collecting Little Sisters could not wait to share about the goodness of those they approached for donations. Not only would Sarah, our florist, prepare two large arrangements for the sanctuary, she also insisted on providing centerpieces for the tables under the large tent. Her



gesture did not go unnoticed, as compliments abounded.

Soda, sports drinks and game prizes all came from Providence. A local business that handles water filtration systems was on site to offer guests cold, refreshing water. This reduced the need for disposable water bottles. Even the large garbage receptacles were donated by our waste management company.

After the tents went up the day before, a business located across the street called to inquire what was happening. When the owner heard of our big anniversary, he





Sampling the day's activities: dancing, face painting and games for young and old alike.

said he wanted to be a part of it and asked what we needed for the celebration. He promised something for the dessert table, after the Little Sister explained that all the desserts were being donated from different shops and our lay Jeanne Jugan Associates. Just days before the celebration, an anonymous donor also promised 700 ice cream sandwiches!

Little Sisters from Louisville, Chicago and Palatine joined us, together with friends and two employees from our former Home in Cincinnati, as well as families of Little Sisters, creating the feeling of one big reunion. The first 500 guests were seated comfortably around tables under one enormous tent and enjoyed shade for the Mass.

The chalice used by Archbishop Charles Thompson for Mass had belonged to Bishop Henry Pinger, OFM, during his 28 years as chaplain, both at St. Augustine Home on Vermont Street and the present Home on 86th Street. Bishop Pinger was a longtime mis-





sionary in China. The two ciboria used for the celebration had been used by Pope Francis during the closing Mass of the 8th World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

in 2015.

Doug G. Carter, Superintendent of the Indiana State Police, brought a color guard with our Nation's flag and that of the State of Indiana for a ceremony immediately preceding Mass.

Six priests joined Archbishop Thompson for Mass. The choir was composed of singers representing parishes in the archdiocese of Indianapolis and neighboring



diocese of Lafayette. Violin, flute and trumpet complimented the keyboard. The director of liturgy at St. John the Evangelist, the Little Sisters' first parish in Indianapolis, was honored to lead the music.

A Resident and benefactor proclaimed the readings. A transitional deacon from the archdiocese of Louisville assisted at the



Mother Maria Christine with members of the Home's kitchen staff.

liturgy and sang the Gospel.

In his homily, Archbishop Thompson said, “Rather than seeking worldly riches, honor and power, since the founding of their religious order by Saint Jeanne Jugan in France, in 1839, the Little Sisters have sought the divine treasures of the Kingdom of God that can only be found in Word, Sacrament and Service, especially in service to the poor, sick and elderly. Long before Pope Francis exhorted the Church to go the margins and peripheries of society in outreach to others, the Little Sisters could already be found in such places.”

He continued, “We take this opportunity to give thanks for the witness of the Little Sisters here in central Indiana. In many ways, they epitomize what is taking place in the Church; namely Pope Francis’ call for more intentional synodality and the National Eucharistic Revival. The Little Sisters have long been committed to a synodal way of dialogue, discernment, encounter, healing and welcoming. They have rooted themselves in intimacy with Jesus in the Eucharist.”

In her remarks after Communion, Mother Provincial Julie Marie of the Sacred Heart recalled the Holy Father’s words for the

2015 Year of Consecrated Life: “To look to the past with gratitude; to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.” To the delight of everyone present, she announced that the Little Sisters had made the decision to build a new Home on the present property. Loud applause confirmed the happiness of all present, and lots of encouraging words of support were shared throughout the remainder of the evening.

Picnic food, including “all the fried chicken one can eat in 2 hours,” was a big hit with everyone. The original owner of Jug’s Catering used to let the collecting Sisters take whatever they needed from his freezer on their begging rounds. That was more than 40 years ago! His widow, now close to 90, is a member of our Ladies Guild and she was delighted to attend our event.

A four-piece band provided lively music for two hours. Oldies from the 1950’s and 60’s had young and old alike up dancing. A magician captivated folks in one spot, while face painting was busy in another. Games and prizes ensured that no one went home empty handed. High school and college-age students volunteered throughout the day, taking charge of the games after Mass. Some students wanted to stay to the very end and promised to return.

The Lawn Party was in full swing at 6:15 pm when everyone was invited to leave the big tent to look up at the sky. A flyover of three biplanes wowed all who saw it. These Indy Biplanes were arranged by one of our newest Jeanne Jugan Associates. The planes made three passes over our property. Radio towers and a heliport at the hospital next door limited the aircraft number and reduced the formation possibilities, but the guests were still in total awe.

Our hearts were overflowing with gratitude at day’s end as our desire to praise God, thank the generations of friends who have supported us, and bring joy to our current Residents, friends and supporters was fulfilled. We know many Little Sisters have served in Indianapolis and our present community thanks them for their service. This celebration marking 150 years honors all our Little Sisters and the Residents we have had the privilege to serve. ©

Eucharistic faith expressed in art

submitted by our Little Sisters in Enfield, Connecticut

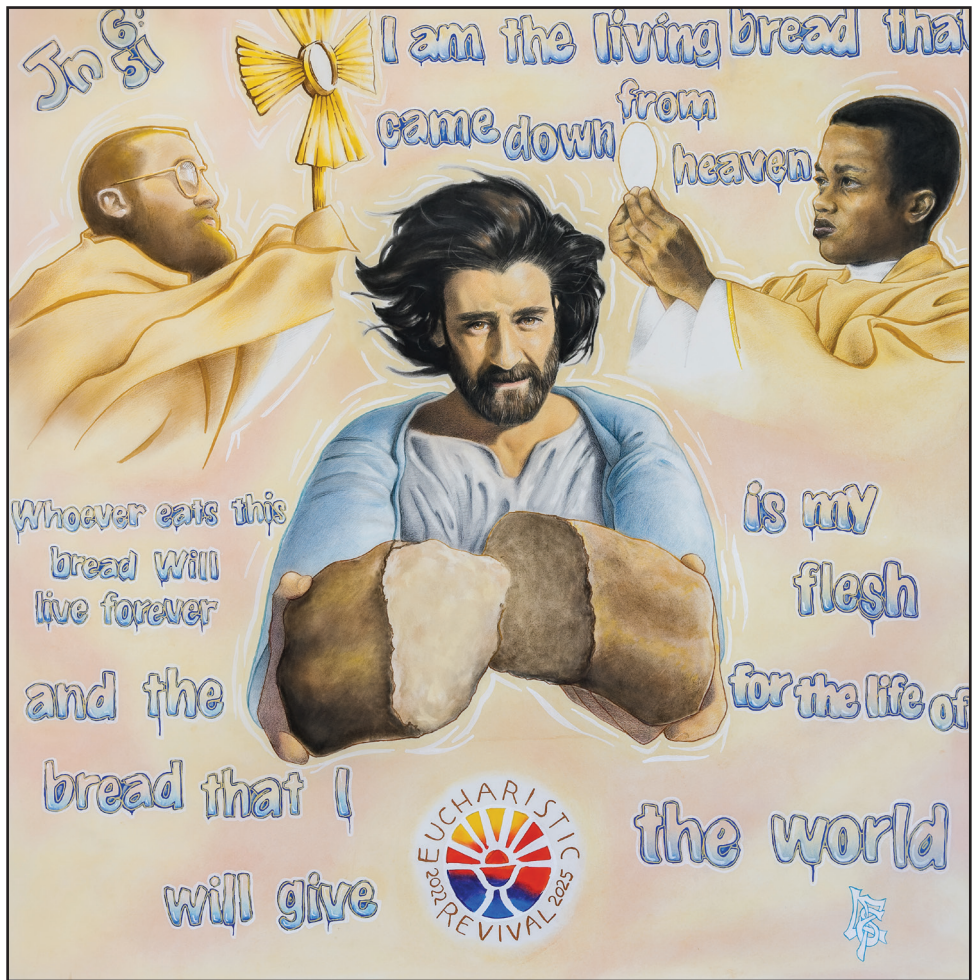
The three-year National Eucharistic Revival inaugurated by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the solemnity of Corpus Christi in June of 2022 launched its initial phase with a diocesan level/leadership preparation emphasis. As of Corpus Christi, 2023, the focus shifted to a more local level, with activities and resources aimed at increasing Catholics' understanding of what the Eucharist really means in our daily lives.

For several months in advance of this year's solemnity of Corpus Christi on June 11, our Residents, Jeanne Jugan Associates, staff, volunteers and other friends joined the Little Sisters in painting a beautiful Eucharistic mural.

The mural was originally the creation of an artistically gifted Little Sister, who created a collage of Eucharistic images using soft pastels. She then enlarged the image quite a bit and transformed it into a paint-by-number format, inviting the participation of many hands and brushes. From this point on, artistic talent was not required of the participants, for the blending of everyone's contribution to the project was its greatest beauty.

As the clock ticked toward the planned Corpus Christi date for the unveiling, and there was still much to be done on the mural, Sister received her obedience to another Home. How would the mural reach completion on time? Almost miraculously, local artist David Pluta became known to us and graciously agreed to bring it all together into the final masterpiece it was to become.

With prayerful intensity and dedication, he labored on the mural from early morning to late afternoon every day until our master-

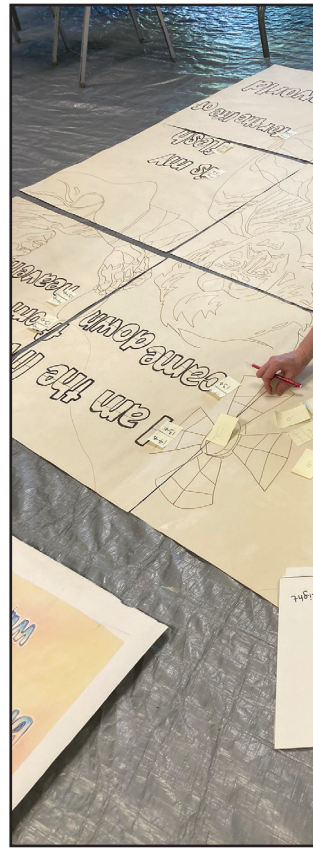


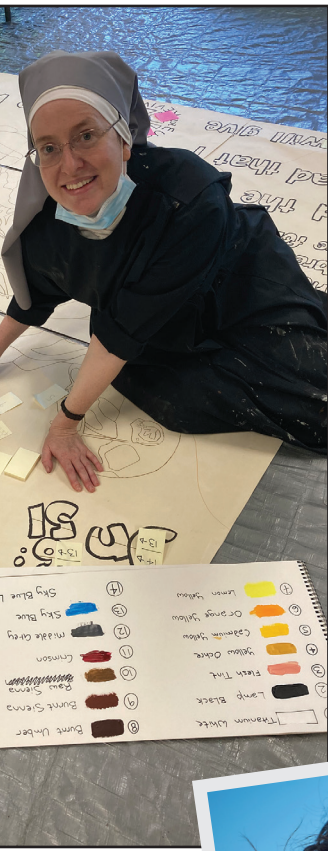
The original collage.

piece — truly a labor of love on the part of our whole St. Joseph’s family — emerged.

The finished mural, unveiled in our lobby on Corpus Christi and remaining there to inspire passersby, effectively blends “street art” — where “the medium is the message” — with evangelization, which is central to the Church’s message of the good news of the Gospel being open to all who seek faith in Jesus Christ. As David describes it, the representation of the visual image of the Heart of Jesus in the background reflects the boundless love of His blood “flowing out for the world, beyond borders and unconfined by

(continued on page 18)





Some of the mural project participants at work, and samples of the reference photographs that served as inspiration for the design.





The finished mural in the Home's lobby.

artificial boundaries.” The vivid colors of the mural are designed to convey the spiritual movement from darkness to light as made possible through Jesus. This ties in with the overall meaning of the mural and its relevance to the promise of the Eucharistic Revival: The broken bread offered at the holy Mass is the source from which we all partake of the message and then incorporate it into our everyday lives to foster good within and among us, that we may in turn become a leaven for our world. ©

Philadelphia's "Big Move"

As we celebrated the sesquicentennial of our Congregation's presence in the United States in 2018, we Little Sisters renewed our commitment to the founding charism of Saint Jeanne Jugan, describing it as a precious flame which we were eager to pass on to new generations of Little Sisters.

In 2018 we shared with our supporters a strategic plan by which we hoped to strengthen our ministry and bolster the quality of our religious and community life. This plan acknowledged the need to withdraw from a certain number of our Homes in the United States, while at the same time dedicating our resources to much needed upgrades and reconstruction projects in several locations.

So far, this strategic plan has been realized mostly through withdrawals from a number of Homes — or so it may have seemed — but behind the scenes plans have also been underway to update and transform several of our Homes around the country.

As mentioned in the preceding article, our Home in Indianapolis, Indiana, will be rebuilt on the same property we currently occupy. While this project is still in the planning stages, the transformation of our Home in Philadelphia is well underway. The situation in Philadelphia was particularly urgent, since sections of the building were judged to be out of compliance with Pennsylvania's updated fire safety code. In addition, the fifty year old building was requiring constant, costly infrastructure repairs.

For these reasons, as well as the knowledge that the needs of our growing aging population require adaptation to new models of care such as aging in place, our Congregation has prioritized



rebuilding Holy Family Home on the current site as part of our ongoing commitment to serving the elderly poor.

“By building a more modern and manageable facility that structurally aligns with our charism of hospitality,” the Home’s case statement reads, “we can dedicate ourselves more efficiently to maintaining a family-like atmosphere which enhances every Resident’s experience.”

“The new design of Holy Family Home will support Residents’ ‘Aging in Place.’ This model of care allows them to remain in their original living space as we adjust their continuum of care to meet their changing needs and bring that care to them without the disruption of relocation to another room.”

Despite delays related to the pandemic, the reconstruction of our new Holy Family Home began in 2022. By the end of August, 2023, Phase I had been accomplished and the first group of Residents, along with the community of Little Sisters, were able to move into their new accommodations. On the following pages our Little Sisters in the City of Brotherly Love share the joy and excitement of The Big Move!

The Big Move

The end of August 2023 brought some long awaited and widely expected new beginnings. Nine months before the COVID-19 pandemic began, we announced the planned renovation of Holy Family Home in Philadelphia. Because of the pandemic, plans were halted, altered, and finally launched in 2022. The Lord was with us. Weather cooperated and completion of Phase I was moved up from the Fall of 2023 to late August of this year.

To prepare for the required inspections by the Department of Health before actually moving in, the whole care unit had to be set up. Residents had to sleep in old hospital beds, while their newer beds were wheeled over to their future rooms. New nightstands, dressers, and wardrobes were purchased by the Board of St. Francis. Our housekeeping staff cleaned and shined up the brand spanking new facility. Little Sisters and Jeanne Jugan Associates distributed linens, made beds, checked all bathroom faucets, windows, light switches, etc. They discovered a major problem — the bedrooms became flooded whenever the showers ran! Intech Construction Company jumped in to correct the pitch for drainage in each shower. They worked 24/7 so that both convent and care center were saved from future inundations.

Blessing our New Home

On Thursday, August 17, Father Sullivan, our chaplain, Mother Celine and the Little Sisters, Residents and staff came in procession from the old building to the much-anticipated new healthcare-convent facility for the official blessing. They could not actually move in yet, but the Residents were overjoyed to see their new rooms all set up with beds made and their names on the doors. The grand opening would be delayed one week pending the official certificate of occupancy issued by the City of Philadelphia.



In the meantime, on August 21, Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica and her assistant, Sr. Robert Francis Marie arrived. During the previous week, we had begun to transport items from the common areas, like the convent library, archive room, sacristy, and storerooms. Provincialate beds had also been moved. Bravely Mother Provincial and Sr. Robert pioneered the way for our community by sleeping over in the already-blessed but not-yet-occupied convent. The professional movers for the former convent furniture came the next day, so the Little Sisters joined them in their new Home on August 22.





Ribbon Cutting Day

Just one week later, there was no stopping our Little Sisters, Residents, their families, staff and volunteers from parading to and cutting the ribbon on the doors of our new Home on Thursday, August 24. Rose Adams, our oldest, but youngest-in-spirit, Resident at almost 102 years, clipped the red ribbon and all marched through the doors as if they were the Israelites going

into the Promised Land. All eyes were wide open and full of awe as exclamations such as “Beautiful — Fantastic — Spectacular,” joyfully resonated from their lips.

Fran M., one of the Residents, felt she was seeing everything through the eyes of Jeanne Jugan making the Elderly happy. Dorothy, our oldest Apartment Resident, could be heard in a soft voice exclaiming, “Praise God!” Betty kept saying, “Beautiful, Beautiful!” Fran G. liked what she saw and just “loved the patio.” Marybelle cheerfully declared in a loud voice, “Wow, it’s nice!”



Settling-in

The Big Move was far from completed in one day. “Where’s my address book? ... Which way is the PT Gym? ... What happened to my pillow? ... How do I turn on that light? ... Which box has all my sweaters?” Such queries became familiar over the first few weeks in the new building. However, the million-dollar-question was: “How does the TV work?” It didn’t! Comcast Cable



Company never came until November to install cable boxes in each room! For two and a half months it was like the old days: everyone came out of their rooms to watch ball games and favorite shows. Lack of TV in their rooms actually enhanced the community spirit!



August, 2023 was for us the lived experience of the old adage: "It ain't easy to change!" Nevertheless, we are grateful to our Good God and our good benefactors for our beautiful, functional new building!



P.S. – New Spaces, New Fun

Our new snack bar provides the perfect place for Residents interested in candy apple making and tasting!

All sorts of discoveries have marked the months since we moved into the newly constructed Holy Family

Home Care Center. When we first saw the breakfast bar adjacent to the dining area, we never imagined it would be so handy for creative cooking activities for our Residents. Laurie, our food service supervisor, with Billie, our versatile dietary aide, thought candy-apple-making would be an awesome activity, bringing back memories of days gone by, when our Residents enjoyed this fall fun with their kids. They were right! ©

The irresistible attraction of joy

On July 9, 2023 ten Little Sisters made perpetual profession at our motherhouse, committing themselves forever to serving Christ in the Elderly within our religious family. This definitive Yes is their response to a call and a deep desire to base their lives on the holiness of God.

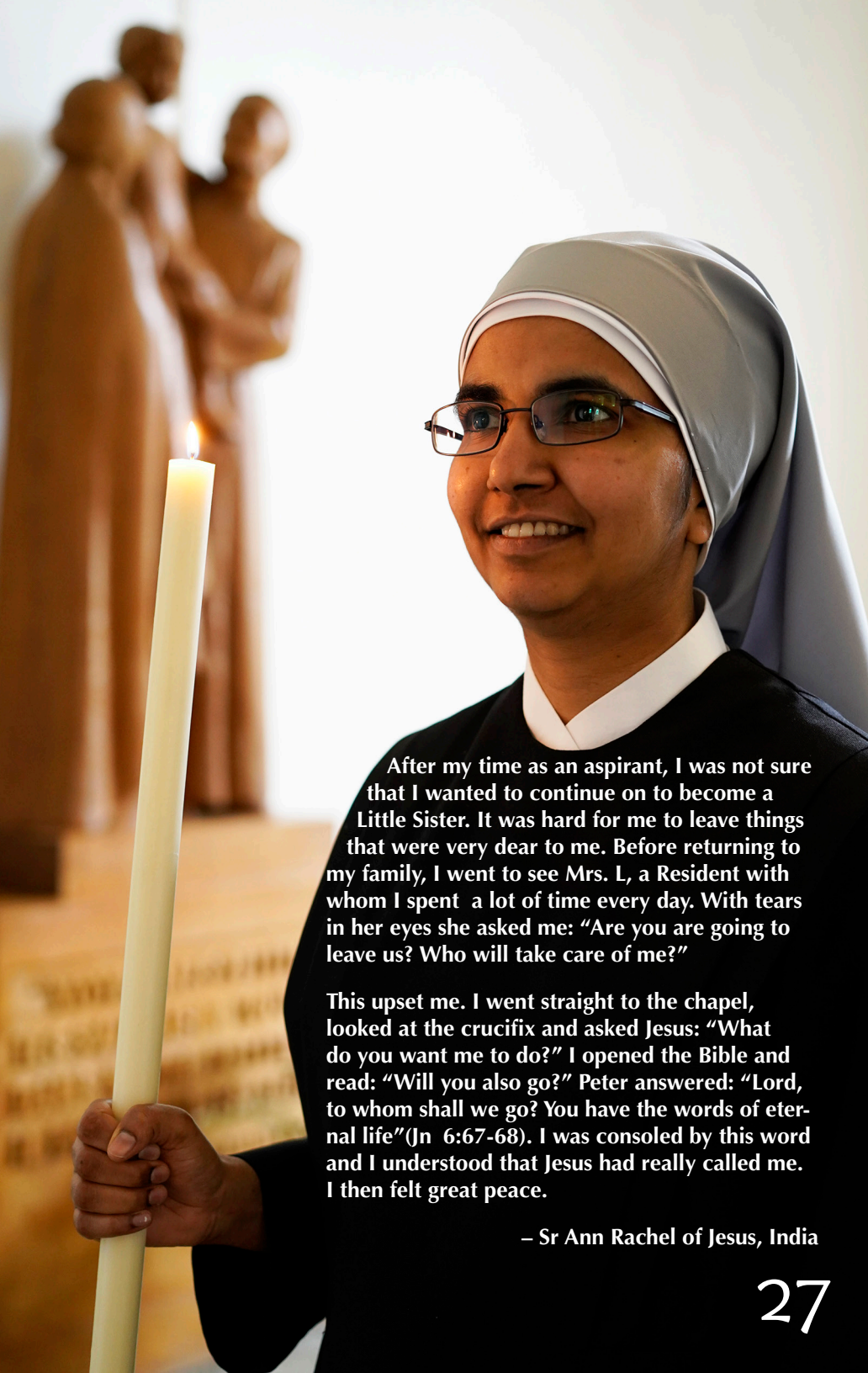
“When I visited the Home, I found a Little Sister ‘joyful in service,’ taking care of the Residents “as if they were her own parents,” one of the Sisters reflects. “I realized that life at the Home of the Little Sisters is a another way of being a family!” The joy, but also the peace present in our Homes attracted many of them.

These ten young Little Sisters come from the four corners of the world. “It’s the spirit of Jeanne Jugan that brings us together,” they like to say. “We live together, we know each other well, we accept each other and we marvel at each other’s riches,” adds another.

Of course, community life is not always easy. “As in any family, there can be arguments, but that doesn’t take away the joy of living together, especially with the help of forgiveness.”

“As on the road to Emmaus, Jesus Christ is always with us,” adds another. More profoundly, it is in prayer and the Eucharist that communion is achieved. “Let all be one, as You, Father and I, we are one,” Jesus once prayed (Jn 17:21).

At the source of their commitment, each of these Sisters bears witness to the reality and strength of a call. “It was he who chose me, who had the initiative. And it’s a bit like with the telephone — you are free to answer or not,” laughs one of the Sisters. “But why say no when it is a joy, a happiness, to serve and give your life like Christ, who fills us with love in return?” they conclude, unanimously and joyfully. ©



After my time as an aspirant, I was not sure that I wanted to continue on to become a Little Sister. It was hard for me to leave things that were very dear to me. Before returning to my family, I went to see Mrs. L, a Resident with whom I spent a lot of time every day. With tears in her eyes she asked me: "Are you are going to leave us? Who will take care of me?"


This upset me. I went straight to the chapel, looked at the crucifix and asked Jesus: "What do you want me to do?" I opened the Bible and read: "Will you also go?" Peter answered: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (Jn 6:67-68). I was consoled by this word and I understood that Jesus had really called me. I then felt great peace.

– Sr Ann Rachel of Jesus, India



On May 11, 2011 in Murcia, an earthquake trapped a person in a wheelchair on the third floor of my building. An inner voice led me to enter her apartment and recite an “Our Father” out loud; I obeyed. Then followed an inexpressible moment of peace, filled with a “Presence.” Finally, we both went downstairs, with great caution, but above all, with much peace and joy. Some months later, before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel of the Little Sisters in Palma de Mallorca, I had the deep conviction that God wanted me to be a Little Sister of the Poor. This event put an end to my inner struggle between a faith limited to religious practice and a Christian life 24 hours a day!

– Sr Lidia de Jesús, Spain

A young Black woman, Sr Euphemia of the Cross, is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a blue and black nun's habit with a white collar. She has a gentle smile and is looking slightly to the right of the camera. She is holding a single, tall, lit white candle in her hands. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

In my search to understand the will of God, I discovered the name of “Little Sisters of the Poor” on a calendar. The very moment my gaze landed on “Petite” and “Pauvre,” it was as if I had discovered the life of Christ, who, “though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave (Phil 2, 6-7). An irresistible voice spoke to me through this name and filled my heart with joy to imitate Christ, meek and humble of heart. Today I discover the graces found in the spirit of littleness, humility and the joy of serving Christ in the poor. “Never forget that the Poor are Our Lord,” as Saint Jeanne Jugan always said.

– Sr Euphemia of the Cross, Nigeria



When the Lord called me, it was as if the Cross had pierced through my whole being. The Lord led me to understand that this cross is the manifestation of his inestimable, saving love for me and for all humanity. He gives his only Son, the one he loves so much, to save me and save humanity! Even if there is suffering in this world, in our lives, his love is stronger than everything. The forgiveness and mercy of God are a priceless treasure in the heart of my life. It is this love — this free gift of Jesus, crucified for me — which will carry me in my life as a Little Sister.

— Sr Nadia Marie de la Croix, France

The treasure of my heart is the barque of the Church in which there is room for each of us. Jesus calls each of us personally by name to come after him. The words of Pope Benedict XVI, "Do not be afraid of Christ," have always given me great courage, and still accompany me on my path. "For He takes nothing away and He gives you everything freely."

– Sr Esther of the Sacred Heart, Kenya





“Refuse God nothing.” These words of Saint Jeanne Jugan struck me and inspired me throughout my formation as a Little Sister. Today, ten years later, these same words continue, more than ever, to accompany me, guide me and give me the courage to commit myself forever to the Congregation. This is the example of Saint Jeanne Jugan who shows me the way to follow the Lord and to be available to serve wherever I am needed among the Elderly, all over the world.

– Sr Bernadette Rose, U.S.A.

SPRING INTO SERVICE

A photograph of three women standing in a brightly lit hallway. On the left, a young woman with brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue and white striped pants, has her arm around the shoulder of an elderly woman in the center. The elderly woman has white hair, wears glasses, a white t-shirt with a small floral pattern, and a dark skirt. On the right, another young woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt and a light-colored button-down skirt, is smiling broadly. The hallway has large windows and a potted plant in the background.

a live-in volunteer program for young women
interested in consecrated life

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SUMMER 2024: APRIL 1

for more information or an application email
Sr. Constance at serenity@LittleSistersofthePoor.org

Serenity

JAN 2024, No. 201

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