

FROM A HUMBLE HEART, A GREAT WAVE OF CHARITY

FROM A HUMBLE HEART, A GREAT WAVE OF CHARITY **LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR CELEBRATE 150 YEARS IN AMERICA**

Beginning August 30, 2018, the Little Sisters of the Poor will celebrate a jubilee year marking the 150th anniversary of the community's arrival in the United States.

The Congregation was founded in France in 1839 when a humble woman named Jeanne Jugan opened her heart and her home to an elderly, blind and paralyzed woman in need. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, she devoted her life to the care of the elderly poor, establishing a new religious community in the process — the Little Sisters of the Poor.

From Jeanne Jugan's humble heart flowed a great wave of charity which eventually spread all over the world. This wave reached America on September 13, 1868, when seven Little Sisters arrived in Brooklyn, New York, after a long ocean voyage to establish the community's first Home in America.

Within four years, the Little Sisters of the Poor had established 13 Homes for the elderly in the United States. From Boston to St. Louis to New Orleans, they cared for needy older women and men regardless of race, religion or nationality. Today, the Little Sisters minister to the elderly in 27 Homes across America.

The Little Sisters believe that their mission is more urgently needed today than ever as the United States population rapidly ages, new models of elder care emerge and respect for the dignity of human life is challenged.

The Little Sisters cherish the charism that Saint Jeanne Jugan received from God as a precious flame and are eager to pass it on to new generations of Little Sisters as they serve needy elderly women and men in the United States for the next 150 years!



A SPECIAL INVITATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE

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If Pope Saint John Paul II was considered the Pope of Youth, Pope Francis could be called the Intergenerational Pope. From his first major encounter with young people during the celebration of World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, Pope Francis has urged young people to reach out to their grandparents and other elders.

At World Youth Day in 2017, the Pope asked young people to be bridges to the elderly: "To young people today, to young people life asks for a mission, the Church asks them for a mission, and I would like to give you this mission: go back and talk to your grandparents. Today we are in need of it more than ever, we are in need of this bridge, of the dialogue between grandparents and young people, between the old and the young."

The Holy Father then evoked well-known words of the prophet Joel: "The prophet Joel says this to us, as a prophecy: 'The old will dream dreams, and the young will prophesy,' namely, with prophesies they will take

concrete things forward. This is the task I give you in the name of the Church: to talk with the elderly ... Listen to the elderly person. Talk to them, ask them about things. Let them dream and draw from those dreams to go on, to prophesy and to render that prophecy concrete. This is your mission today; this is the mission that the Church asks of you today."

During their sesquicentennial year, the Little Sisters around the country invite young people to come and talk to the elderly. Come and listen; learn from the elderly. Let them dream and draw from their dreams a new vision of a more humane, loving society.

And especially to young women the Little Sisters say, "Come and discover the joy of serving the elderly as we have! Come and see how you too can make a difference! Come and discover the beauty of belonging to the Lord and following him along the way of the Beatitudes! Come, join us and you will experience the happiness we have found in being Little Sisters of the Poor!"



THE NEXT 150 YEARS: QUICKENING THE FLAME

Along with heartfelt celebrations, the Little Sisters of the Poor have chosen to use their sesquicentennial year as a time of reflection, recommitment and strategic planning for the next 150 years. Referring to the charism of Saint Jeanne Jugan as a living flame that they wish to pass on to future generations, the Little Sisters of the Poor have dubbed this strategic planning initiative *Quickening the Flame*.

They begin this effort by reaffirming their fundamental commitment to offering 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.

The Little Sisters want to be faithful stewards of the charism of their foundress. At the same time, they wish to create a new model of Christ-centered senior living communities for the needy elderly of tomorrow. The Sisters recognize that they do this at a moment of unprecedented change in the field of elder care.

The U.S. population is rapidly aging as Baby Boomers reach retirement. Today's seniors are claiming their share of financial benefits and attention in the public square, while making known their preference for the concept of aging in place at home rather than in group or institutional care settings.

But just as Christ told his followers, "the poor you will always have with you," the Little Sisters believe that there will always be older individuals who lack the health, financial resources or social support needed to make it on their own, and for whom the best or only solution will be to make their home in a caring community setting. The Little Sisters will continue to be there for those seniors who have nowhere else to go, just as the first Sisters who came to America were there for the very poorest elderly 150 years ago.

To strengthen their ministry and bolster the quality of their religious and community life, the Little Sisters recognize the need to withdraw from a certain number of Homes in the United States, while at the same time dedicating their resources to much needed upgrades and reconstruction projects in several others.

The Little Sisters cherish the founding charism of Saint Jeanne Jugan as a precious flame and they are eager to pass it on to new generations of Little Sisters. Their strategic planning will include envisioning new, more creative forms of outreach to the young so that they can make their vocation known, loved and lived with joy for another 150 years.



YESTERDAY AND TODAY: AN ORIGINAL GOSPEL CHARISM

The Little Sisters of the Poor arrived in the United States during a particularly painful period in our nation's history. The nativist movement of the 1850s, the Civil War and the failures of Reconstruction left an untold human toll, vast economic devastation and a profound racial divide in their wake.

This is the historical and social context into which the Little Sisters stepped when they arrived in New York on September 13, 1868. Father Ernest LeLièvre, a wealthy, well-educated French priest, served as the Congregation's ambassador to the New World; a brief note written to a friend as he set off for America was prophetic: "As we leave the old world for the new, we will still have the same responsibilities, the same struggles, the same people, the same God. On the shores of the Mississippi as on the banks of the Jordan, the world has need of being renewed!"

Like a healing balm, the Little Sisters of the Poor brought a much-needed infusion of humble service and merciful love to America.

First, the Little Sisters personified the Church's preferential option for the poor and most abandoned. In the early decades of our nation's history, elders depended on their children or personal wealth to assure a comfortable old age. Poorhouses, modeled on England's "Poor Laws" sheltered the indigent elderly, but they were characterized by primitive, often subhuman conditions.

By the 1850s, benevolent societies and fraternal organizations began to organize old age homes and other forms of assistance for those able to pay monthly dues while they were young so that they could receive help in their old age. What was novel about the Little Sisters' mission was that they came to America *specifically to care for those who could not pay their own way.*

The second mark of originality in the Little Sisters' charism of hospitality was its universal embrace. In a century characterized by nativist propaganda and unapologetic racial discrimination, the Little Sisters opened their doors to the needy elderly *regardless of race, religion or nationality* — Catholic and non-Catholic, immigrant and native-born, black and white.

The following excerpt from an early history of the Congregation describes this spirit of universality: "One of the distinctive characteristics of the home of the Little Sisters in the United States is the remarkable mixture of creeds, occupations, and nationalities of the various people who inhabit it. The reflection, as it were, of the population of the country is seen there — a population composed of a great number of immigrants from all countries of the world who came to seek fortune on this new soil. All live in peace under the kindly, peaceful influence of the Little Sisters. There all languages are spoken, which become blended in the universal tongue which is understood in every country, the language of charity."

Third, through their compassionate care for the infirm and the dying the Little Sisters offered a powerful witness of the sacredness of every human life until the very end, regardless of personal status, ability or wealth.

The Industrial Revolution had encouraged a utilitarian mindset that treated human workers as machines and erroneously associated self-worth with status and wealth. Those perceived as unproductive were cast aside. The Little Sisters' loving care of the poor and their accompaniment of the dying offered a counterbalance to the dehumanizing forces at work in 19th century American society.

The following advice of Father LeLièvre to the Little Sisters testifies to these ideals: "We must consider the elderly's needs and not our own. Let us not prefer the



younger, more able ones, or the most capable, but the blind, the disabled, the paralyzed, the one-armed, all who suffer from decrepitude or who have entered into their second childhood: these are the ones deserving of our preferences ... As poor as he is, the pauper is a man ... with the dignity of a man."

Finally, the Little Sisters of the Poor brought to America a powerful testimony to absolute faith in God's Providence. They arrived with almost nothing and set up shop in empty buildings, depending on the generosity of the local community to provide all that was needed to care for the poor. "What is our base of operations?" Father LeLievre once asked. "The word of Our Lord to those who seek his Kingdom and his justice," was his simple reply. On another occasion he reflected, "Divine goodness never disappoints us in our expectations and often surpasses them."

On seeing all that the Sisters received in their first collecting rounds, the Mother Superior in one home wept as she exclaimed, "O Providence! O Providence!" The Sisters in another Home expressed their sense of wonder, "Divine Providence provided according to our needs ... We were quite overcome with gratitude towards the good God; who disposed so well people's hearts in our favor."

After becoming acquainted with the Little Sisters, the Superior of the Jesuit community in Boston declared, "What I admire is that these Sisters are such as people describe them. One sees that they have confidence not only in Providence, but that they have not a doubt of its protection. One sees that they do not calculate, they do not reckon, they do not ask what people will give them for the needs of their poor. This is what is quite peculiar to them."

We have outlined four characteristics of the Little Sisters' charism of hospitality that brought a unique Gospel message to 19th century America:

1. The preferential option for the poor and most abandoned;
2. universal charity, without regard for race, creed or nationality;
3. profound reverence for the dignity of every human life;
4. absolute trust in Divine Providence.

These were the values personified by the founding Little Sisters in America. They are no less relevant today than they were in the post-Civil War era, for they also respond to the wounds in our 21st century culture and the longing in contemporary hearts for God's merciful love.

In fact, these values might be even more urgently needed today, as Pope Francis suggests: "The thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the Church as a field hospital after battle ... Heal the wounds, heal the wounds ... You have to start from the ground up" (*Interview with America, September 2013*).

MISSION OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

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The Little Sisters of the Poor, founded in 1839 by Saint Jeanne Jugan, are an international Congregation of Roman Catholic women religious. Together with a diverse network of collaborators, we continue the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan by serving the elderly poor in over 30 countries around the world.

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.

Our **VISION** is to contribute to the Culture of Life by nurturing communities where each person is valued, the solidarity of the human family and the wisdom of age are celebrated, and the compassionate love of Christ is shared with all.

Our **VALUES**

REVERENCE FOR THE SACREDNESS OF HUMAN LIFE and for the uniqueness of each person, especially those who are poorest and/or weakest. This is reflected in care that is holistic and person-centered.

FAMILY SPIRIT: a spirit of joyful hospitality embracing all with open arms, hearts and minds; fostering participation in the life of the Home and rejecting all forms of discrimination.

HUMBLE SERVICE: the desire to raise others up and to put their needs before our own; an appreciation of simple, everyday tasks and experiences and humble means in accomplishing our work.

COMPASSION: empathy for sharing the weaknesses and sufferings of others; eagerness to relieve pain in all its forms and to make the elderly happy.

STEWARDSHIP: the recognition that life and all other goods are gifts from God and should therefore be used responsibly for the good of all; trust in God's Providence and the generosity of others to provide for our needs; just compensation for our collaborators; a spirit of gratitude and sharing.



WHERE THE LITTLE SISTERS SERVE

WHERE THE LITTLE SISTERS SERVE **CURRENT U.S. DIOCESES IN ORDER OF FOUNDING**

Brooklyn, NY	1868	Kansas City, MO	1882
Cincinnati, OH	1868	St. Paul, MN	1883
Baltimore, MD	1869	Toledo, OH	1885
Louisville, KY	1869	Hartford, CT	1901
St. Louis, MO	1869	Mobile, AL	1901
Philadelphia, PA	1869	San Francisco, CA	1901
Boston, MA	1870	Paterson, NJ	1902
New York, NY	1870	Wilmington, DE	1903
Washington, DC	1871	Los Angeles, CA	1905
Pittsburgh, PA	1872	Scranton, PA	1908
Indianapolis, IN	1873	Denver, CO	1917
Richmond, VA	1874	Gallup, NM	1982
Chicago, IL	1876		
Providence, RI	1881		



CELEBRATING A JUBILEE YEAR AROUND THE COUNTRY

Each year on August 30, the Little Sisters of the Poor celebrate the Feast Day of their foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. In 2018, August 30 will also mark the beginning of the jubilee year celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Little Sisters' arrival in the United States.

Celebrations are being planned in the Little Sisters' Homes around the country. For those whose individual sesquicentennial falls between August 2018 and August 2019 — Queens, NY, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Louisville, St. Louis and Philadelphia — the celebrations will be held in a public venue to enable the local Church and as many friends of the Congregation as possible to participate.

For the Homes founded after 1869, local "at home" celebrations with Residents, staff, families, friends and benefactors are being organized. A special invitation will be extended to young people to take advantage of the jubilee year to foster bonds with the elderly.

A focal point of each celebration will be a traveling "pilgrim" tapestry of the Congregation's foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. Three copies of this tapestry — one for each of the U.S. provinces — were created in Belgium

by Slabbinck, an internationally known designer of liturgical vestments. The tapestry portrays Saint Jeanne Jugan on her collecting rounds in the Breton countryside, with the sea in the background, evoking the great wave of charity to which she gave birth.

Before coming to America, the tapestries were taken on pilgrimage to Saint Jeanne Jugan's birthplace, the small apartment where she began the Congregation and Little Sisters' motherhouse, all in Brittany. They then made the journey to the United States, retracing the path of the first Little Sisters who came to America.

The presence of the Jeanne Jugan tapestry at each local celebration will symbolize the living presence of the foundress in each community of Little Sisters: "Ever living among her daughters and one with them in their new tasks," Saint Jeanne Jugan "does not cease to transmit to them, for the fulfillment of their vocation, the life which she draws for them from God" (*Prologue of the Little Sisters of the Poor Constitutions*).

AT A GLANCE: THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR IN AMERICA

1839

In St. Servan, France, Jeanne Jugan offers hospitality to an old, blind and infirm woman, the first step in establishing a new congregation, the Little Sisters of the Poor. Soon, more poor old people are confided to her; several young women join her in this charitable work.

1845

Irish immigration to the United States increases due to the potato famine in Ireland, reaching a peak in 1850.

The Native American Party, commonly known as the Know Nothings, becomes a national political party to fight the influence of immigrants and Catholics in the U.S.

1851

The Little Sisters have founded Homes for the aged across France; they now expand their work to England.

1852

May: Jeanne Jugan is sent into retirement. She will increasingly disappear into obscurity. The Little Sisters who come to America several years later will not know her as the foundress.

May 29: Diocesan approbation of the Congregation by Bishop Brossais Saint-Marc of Rennes, France.

1853

First foundation of the Little Sisters in Belgium.

1854

July 9: Pontifical approbation of the Congregation by Pope Pius IX.

1855

June 2: Ernest LeLièvre, future auxiliary priest of the Little Sisters of the Poor, is ordained. On July 10 he offers himself for the service of the Congregation and Mother General brings him to the motherhouse in Rennes.

1857

Sarah Worthington Peter visits La Tour St. Joseph to request that the Little Sisters come to Cincinnati. The Congregation's superiors respond that they are not yet ready to send Little Sisters across the ocean, since the Congregation is so young and the Sisters require more formation. Not satisfied with this response, Sarah Peter goes to Rome and petitions Pope Pius IX, with whom she is a personal friend, to impose his authority in favor of a foundation of Little Sisters in Cincinnati. The Pope agrees with the Little Sisters' reasons for not committing to a foundation yet.

However, Bishop Purcell and Sarah Peter are assured by the Congregation that when the moment comes to send the Little Sisters to America, Cincinnati will be the first Home.

1858

Requests are made to the motherhouse for foundations in Cleveland, Boston and New York.

July 7: Father Isaac Hecker, an American Redemptorist priest and convert to Catholicism, establishes the Missionary Priests of St. Paul the Apostle, more commonly known as the Paulists, in Manhattan.

1860

1830s-1860s: huge building boom in the railroad industry across the United States. Railroads gradually replace canals as the first-choice mode of transportation infrastructure.

November 6: Abraham Lincoln is elected President of the United States.

1861

April 12: Beginning of the Civil War.

1862

First foundation of the Congregation in Scotland.

Bishop Jean-Marie Odin of New Orleans visits La Tour and asks for a foundation of Little Sisters in his city.

1863

First foundation of the Congregation in Spain.

January 1: President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in states still at war against the United States.

1865

April 9: Confederate General Lee surrenders to end the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated three days later, Good Friday.

December 18: The 13th Amendment is ratified, abolishing slavery and involuntary servitude.

December 24: Founding of the Ku Klux Klan, a terrorist group formed to intimidate Blacks and other ethnic and religious minorities, in Tennessee.

1866

June 21, 1866: The request for a foundation in New Orleans is renewed by Bishop Odin and his vicar.

July 30: Race riots in New Orleans.

1868

May 31: Father Ernest LeLièvre, priest auxiliary of the Congregation and "ambassador of the Little Sisters to the New World," leaves France for the United States to explore the potential for foundations in America, arriving in New York on June 10 and going immediately to New Orleans.

After two weeks in New Orleans he returns to New York, making stops along the way to meet with various bishops, including St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit and Baltimore.



AT A GLANCE: THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR IN AMERICA

June 25: Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina are readmitted to the Union.

July 13: Father LeLièvre meets with the archbishop of New York and the bishop of Brooklyn. Archbishop John McCloskey of New York asks for time to reflect on this request. Bishop John Loughlin of Brooklyn gives his assent immediately.

Sarah Peter learns through Fr. Isaac Hecker that the Congregation is finally ready to begin American foundations and that Fr. LeLièvre is already in the country. She tells the Congregation she is ready to do whatever is necessary to prepare the way for them and makes another request to the superior general.

July 28: Ratification of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution granting citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States," including former slaves.

August 28: The first group of Little Sisters destined for America leaves the motherhouse. They set sail from Brest on the Napoleon III, the evening of August 30th.

September 13: The first Little Sisters arrive in New York and set foot on American soil about 6 p.m.

September 15: The Little Sisters visit Fr. Isaac Hecker, who has published an article on the Little Sisters in the "Catholic World," he gives the Little Sisters their first monetary donation of \$20.00.

September 20: The first Resident is received in the first Home of the Little Sisters in America, an 82-year-old man. Two women are received the next day.

September 28: The Opelousas Massacre in Louisiana. An estimated 200 to 300 Black Americans are killed. There is widespread violence throughout the South.

October 14: The Little Sisters arrive in Cincinnati Wednesday evening (they choose to arrive on Wednesday in honor of St. Joseph) after a 39-hour train ride. They are welcomed by Sarah Peter. Two of the Sisters in the group speak English.

October 19: On Monday the Little Sisters welcome their first Resident in Cincinnati, a man who had been sleeping on the floor for 3 months. They venture out on their first collecting rounds 2 days later.

November 3: Ulysses S. Grant is elected President.

December 19: Delayed by bad weather, the Little Sisters destined for the third foundation finally come ashore in New Orleans. None of them speaks English. They take over a charitable work already begun several years earlier by a committee of charitable women on behalf of the elderly and widows with children.

1869

January 6: With the help of the bishop and his vicar the Little Sisters find other accommodations for the mothers and children being housed with the elderly in New Orleans.

February: Fr. LeLièvre visits St. Louis to find a house for a foundation.

April: Bishop William G. McCloskey, new bishop of Louisville, attends a meeting in Cincinnati, where he meets Fr. LeLièvre and requests a foundation for his diocese. It is approved for September.

April 6: The first group of Little Sisters arrives in Baltimore from New York. None of them speaks English. After 3 weeks the Sisters are caring for 7 elderly Residents.

May 1: The Little Sisters arrive in St. Louis on the first day of Mary's month. One among them speaks English. On their second day in the city they receive their first Resident, a poor old woman recommended by the Jesuits. Several days later they are expecting another Resident when 3 old people arrive.

August 24: The Little Sisters arrive in Philadelphia, taking up Residence in three row houses on the 1600 block of 15th Street. The first Resident, a 75-year-old Irishman, is welcomed on the 28th.

August 28: The Little Sisters destined for Louisville depart from Brest. Upon arriving in America, they pass through Brooklyn, Baltimore and Cincinnati. One of them speaks English.

September 4: The first 3 American postulants leave for France for their formation.

September 22: The Little Sisters arrive in Louisville. They receive their first Resident three days later.

November 5: A young Little Sister in the community in Louisville dies of typhoid fever. She is the first Little Sister to die in America.

1870

March 30: The 15th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, providing universal male suffrage, including blacks.

April 19: The Little Sisters arrive in Boston. Two of the Sisters speak English. The first 3 Residents include an Irish woman of 85 years who barely spoke English, an American and a German.

May 20: The Little Sisters arrive in Cleveland, taking up Residence in a small house comprised of 6 rooms where they will be able to welcome 12 old people. The next day they receive 3 old women.

July 19: Beginning of Franco-Prussian War; some Little Sisters' Homes in France are in war-torn areas. Their safety is a great source of anxiety for Fr. LeLièvre, still in America.

September 27: The Little Sisters arrive in New York City and begin preparing their new Home, located at 443 West 34th Street. They officially begin the foundation two days later, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, patron of their new parish. The next week they welcome several old women who arrive in the most horrible misery imaginable.

1871

January 17: The apparition of Our Lady in Pontmain, France, predicting an end to the Franco-Prussian War. Her message is scrolled across the sky: "But pray, my children. God will hear you in time. My Son allows Himself to be touched. Apparition is approved by Pope Pius IX.



AT A GLANCE: THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR IN AMERICA

January 23: Armistice is signed ending the Franco-Prussian War; the war is lost by France to the German states under the leadership of Prussia. The loss marks the end of French dominance in continental Europe and results in the creation of a unified Germany.

February 2: At the request of Rev. Jacob Walter, pastor of St. Patrick's church in Washington, D.C. the Little Sisters begin a foundation in this city. They are astonished to find their first Home well-prepared with all that is necessary to begin welcoming the elderly. The women of the parish insist on preparing and serving the Sisters their first meal. On Saturday they welcome their first four Residents, all women.

May 25: A group of Little Sisters is sent from La Tour for a foundation in Chicago, but after visiting this city Fr. LeLièvre judges that it is not an opportune moment for a foundation there. Instead he approaches the bishop of Albany, New York, and the archbishop of New York, to propose a foundation in Albany. After 8 days of reflection Bishop John J. Conroy expresses his happiness to welcome the Little Sisters to his diocese.

The Sisters leave New York at 8:00 a.m. and arrive in Albany at 1:00 p.m. They go immediately to the small house arranged for them in St. Joseph's parish. The pastor gives them their first meal, sending so much food that they have enough for three days. The house is placed under the patronage of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows; an image of Our Lady of Sorrows was given to them at the moment of their arrival in Albany.

1872

January 18: The Little Sisters in Albany acquire a house and property on Central Avenue for a permanent Home. They move to this new Home in the spring.

March 1: The Little Sisters in Washington purchase the H Street property where they will build a permanent Home. The cornerstone is laid for the first wing of a new building on May 6; Fr. LeLièvre draws up plans for building. The Sisters are given permission to go begging in buildings of the federal government.

March 28: The Little Sisters in New York acquire a property on 70th Street where they will be able to build a permanent Home large enough to care for a good number of elderly.

April 25: Little Sisters arrive in Pittsburgh to begin a foundation. The Ursuline Sisters bring them their first meal.

May 3: The Sisters in Pittsburgh welcome their first Residents: two women and a man.

June 4: Sr. Berthe Joseph, 27, dies of typhoid fever in Pittsburgh. Not knowing the customs of the country, the Sisters turn to the bishop for help; the vicar general takes care of all the necessary funeral arrangements and many people come to the funeral as a show of support for the newly arrived community.

Another young Little Sister dies of typhoid on June 9. Fearing that the poor conditions in the foundation house are responsible for the Sisters' deaths, the Congregation's superiors send Fr. LeLièvre back to Pittsburgh to search for a better location. A new location is found in nearby Allegheny within several days and the Little Sisters and elderly move there immediately.

June 25: Fr LeLièvre and Mother Assistant Marie de la Conception depart to return to France. They have established 13 Homes in the United States in 4 years. Fr. LeLièvre writes to a friend: "The work of the Little Sisters here has succeeded far beyond what I ever expected. The 13 Homes founded on this continent are all owners of the houses they occupy, or of the land on which they will build when necessary. If I were to say what sums I have paid out during these 3 years, it would surpass all belief. Such a success and all it demands, I admit, is overwhelming..."

...

Although the pace slows down a bit, over the next years many more Homes are established by the Little Sisters to care for the elderly poor of the United States. At its height in the 1950's the Congregation has over 50 Homes in North America.

The Little Sisters currently serve in the following U.S. dioceses and archdioceses (listed in order of founding, indicating the year of the first foundation in that diocese):

Brooklyn, 1868	Providence, 1881
Cincinnati, 1868	Kansas City, MO, 1882
Baltimore, 1869	St Paul, MN, 1883
Louisville, 1869	Toledo, 1885
St. Louis, 1869	Hartford, 1901
Philadelphia, 1869	Mobile, 1901
Boston, 1870	San Francisco, 1901
New York, 1870	Paterson, 1902
Washington, D.C., 1871	Wilmington, 1903
Pittsburgh, 1872	Los Angeles, 1905
Indianapolis, 1873	Scranton, 1908
Richmond, 1874	Denver, 1917
Chicago, 1876	Gallup, 1982



Little Sisters of the Poor



150 years in America

