



Little Sisters of the Poor
Jeanne Jugan Residence
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On July 25, 1976, Enrique de la Vega (right) directed workmen during the installation of the Blessed Jeanne Jugan statue. After reading her biography, he designed the 11 foot tall statue to communicate her love and care for the elderly through her outstretched hand and her begging basket.

Msgr. Donald Montrose lead the blessing ceremony. The statue of Jeanne Jugan is affixed to the building that once was Fermin Lasuen High School. On the right, is the newly constructed residence.

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The 25th Jubilee Celebration of Jeanne Jugan Residence in San Pedro



On Thursday, July 26, 1979, Feast of St. Ann, the Little Sisters of the Poor, their Residents and friends gathered for the blessing of the Jeanne Jugan statue.

The blessing ceremony provided a break in the flurry of activity in progress for the relocation – both for those from St. Ann's in Boyle Heights who were packing belongings and stacking up luggage and for those at the new Home who were unloading, decorating and moving everything in.

On Saturday, June 19, 2004, the Little Sisters of the Poor Auxiliary will host their 7th annual LSPAdventure:

Celebrating the Silver

a gala fund-raising event to recognize the 25th Jubilee of the Little Sisters of the Poor in San Pedro.

Over the past 25 years, the Little Sisters have welcomed nearly 600 needy elderly into their Home and lovingly cared for them as part of their family.

"Faithful to the spirit of our Mother Foundress Blessed Jeanne Jugan, we dedicate this issue of *Time & Life* to our benefactors and friends whose kindness and generosity made this possible," states Mother Marguerite, superior of the Home. "To those who were with us 25 years ago, those who remain with us still and to those who have joined us since, we thank you for being the hands of God reaching out to provide dignity and love to your elderly brothers and sisters. The joy you bring to them when they are so vulnerable is truly a witness to the goodness of God."

*For information on the Auxiliary Event,
Call 310-548-0625.*



Groundbreaking, October 26, 1977

On October 26, 1977, the Little Sisters of the Poor broke ground for their new home for the aged.

Just a year prior, on September 7, 1976, the Little Sisters had announced to the city that St. Ann's, their current home, would have to be closed. After 71 years of sheltering the elderly poor in Los Angeles, the Home at 2700 E. First St. no longer met current fire code requirements. The Little Sisters and their 150 Residents would have to move.

Cardinal Timothy Manning also announced that the Archdiocese of Los Angeles would give the former Fermin Lasuen High School (closed in 1971) in San Pedro to the Little Sisters.

"There was a possibility that the presence of the Sisters among



us might terminate. This would have been a calamity for our city. For its part, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles was most anxious to come to the aid of the Sisters."

"We trust that this action of the Archdiocese will stimulate our citizens to an awareness of this great project and a corresponding financial assistance according to each one's means. May God prosper the work."

Rejoicing with gratitude for the gift of the property, the Little Sisters developed plans to build a new four-story, 120 bed building on the campus. The existing school building would be used for administrative, medical and social services as well as a convent for the Little Sisters.

A fund-raising drive for the \$5 million was organized with leadership from Edmund Schnieders, a former director of Security Pacific Bank. He was assisted by the participation of other local volunteer businessmen. (See page 7)

Mr. Schnieders was the Master of ceremonies for the Groundbreaking event. He reported to the crowd of 200 that the Little Sisters had obtained half of the \$5 million needed for the new Home.

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, in whose district the new Home would be located, told of growing up in Boyle Heights and often seeing St. Ann's Home on East 1st St. He recalled how the Little Sisters came to his family's home seeking alms. He also spoke of his roots in San Pedro.

"When the school [Fermin] closed I had a sad feeling," said Mr. Thomas. "Now that has changed to joy."

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Participating at the Ground-breaking were Bishop John J. Ward, State Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, Los Angeles City councilman John Gibson and Ross Valencia, representing Councilman Arthur Snyder.

Sister Antoinette de L'Epiphanie turned the first shovel of dirt. Sister came to St. Ann's in LA in 1915. She was the "begging Sister" for 45 years and was well known throughout the LA business community.

Residents came by bus for this special event. They got a glimpse of their future home. After the Ground-breaking and Blessing, there was a buffet lunch served for all in attendance.

Topping Off, June 27, 1978

Bishop Ward then blessed the ground with the words "May the work begun today be the beginning of the work which will bring honor to your name, Lord, and may your love, peace and joy permeate all those involved."

In the months following the Groundbreaking, the cruciform shape of the new Residence became visible as the foundations were dug and the steel framework grew up toward the heavens.

On June 27, 1978, a special ceremony was planned for the "topping off" of the new Home. Fifty-five Residents and fifty employees from St. Ann's made the trip by bus with the Little Sisters for the celebration.



A bow was tied to the last steel beam to be put in place. As the beam was lifted skyward, cheers of excitement came from the crowd.

"We felt the presence of St. Joseph smiling on this beautiful day. Again, he had shown himself to be a powerful intercessor on our behalf," said Sister Paul, who remembers the event as a time of great optimism.

*When the Little Sisters learned that St. Ann's must close, they confided to St. Joseph, their protector, the need for a new home. On a trip with the Residents to the beach in San Pedro, they happened to see the **For Sale** sign on the Fermin Lasuen High School. While taking a closer look at the property, the Little Sisters again prayed to St. Joseph and buried a small statue of him on the site.*



Sister Antoinette and Resident Anna Davis (100 yrs old) attached a big bow to the last beam before it was lifted into place.

St. Joseph was Smiling.

The Grotto Blessing, February 11, 1979



One of the most beautiful spots in the garden of St. Ann's was the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Many processions and expressions of faith took place there.

During the digging of the foundation for the new Home, huge boulders were unearthed giving rise to the vision for the new grotto. The construction company relocated the boulders to the back side yard (photo). Little Sisters and their employees began to collect other stones from the canyons nearby.

A grotto was designed and built by four employees of Mexican heritage: (L to R in photo) Michael Rangel-Ramirez, who remains an employee of the Little Sisters today and is the Begging Van driver; his father Juan Ramirez who was the Begging Van driver at the time; Filipe Macedo, who is also an employee today; and Vincent Ibarra.

They worked very hard carrying the stones and placing each one in just the right place. Devotion to Our Lady is central to Mexican culture and piety. Therefore, the four men considered it a great privilege to build this shrine and to transfer the statues of Our Lady and St. Bernadette from St. Ann's to the new Home in San Pedro.

The dedication took place on Sunday, February 11, 1979. It was the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in the year marking the Centenary of St. Bernadette's death, as well as that of Mother Foundress Blessed Jeanne Jugan.

The Residents, employees, their families, and a few volunteers and friends came for the dedication. Two buses were rented for the day. One was a wheelchair bus for the infirm Residents.

Msgr. Donald Montrose, whose parents had lived at St. Ann's, officiated at the ceremony, along with Fr. Maurice Evans, a Resident priest and Fr. Patrick Peyton C.S.C. (Congregation of Holy Cross). Fr. Peyton had a great love for Our Lady and was a friend of the Little Sisters in L.A. He was the founder of the Family Theater and famous for the saying "The family that prays together, stays together."

The ceremony included the Lourdes hymn, the liturgical prayers of blessing, a decade of the Rosary, and words of gratitude to the grotto builders. The successful and speedy completion of the new Home was confided to Our Lady.

Refreshments were served to everyone present. Many of the Residents walked around to see the progress of the construction.

Today, the Grotto remains a focal point of many celebrations of the Home. In recent years, the Knights of Malta have assisted many of the infirm Residents to experience the comfort and healing of the original Lourdes through participation in the annual Lourdes Day.

Msgr. Montrose and Father Peyton stand with the four men who designed and built the grotto.

Sr. Bernadette, who worked with the men on the Grotto and tended the gardens at St. Ann's & Jeanne Jugan Residence, shares a moment with Fr. Patrick Peyton.

Move-In Day, August 7, 1979

Residents waited with walkers and luggage for the trip to the new Home. The Sisters were there to encourage them and give them confidence for the change.

Sr. Raphael checks with Volunteer Grace Byrnes (far R), a Dame of Malta, who coordinated the volunteers before and during the move.

Alistair McMillan, volunteer and regional director of Knights of Malta, welcomed Mamie Mullane to the new Residence. Members of the Malta Auxiliary were instrumental in helping with the move.

Residents Ricardo Sanchez and Esteban Guevara were aided by Sr. Pauline and volunteer Mrs. Elaine O'Hara on arrival in San Pedro.

Maria Aguilar was escorted to the room she selected by Volunteer Mrs. Bettie Bean.



Amid tears and smiles, acceptance and anticipation, the Little Sisters of the Poor moved their 120 aged Residents from St. Ann's Home to the new Residence in San Pedro.

The day began at St. Ann's with a Mass of Thanksgiving for all the blessings and graces received since the opening of the Home in LA.

After breakfast, the Residents began to gather with their few belongings. Their clothing had been moved to San Pedro already and placed in the rooms they had previously picked to be their own.

Residents wore fresh carnations and name tags. They were introduced to volunteer drivers from Pasadena, Hollywood, Santa Monica, Los Angeles, San Marino and the Palos Verdes Peninsula who took them for the ride down the Harbor Freeway.

Employees who were not coming to work in San Pedro, had to say good-bye to the dear Residents they had been caring for and grown to love. They promised to visit.

Reporters and three television stations were on hand. They spoke to the Residents for the evening news cast.

In San Pedro, at the new home, there was controlled confusion. The Little Sisters had been at work for weeks preparing the rooms. Many had flown in from Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Phoenix, and San Francisco to help.

The nearby parishes of St. John Fisher, St. Lawrence Martyr, Holy Trinity, St. Peter, and Mary Star of the Sea provided volunteers to help set up housekeeping.

On Moving Day, Mother Provincial Marguerite and Sr. Antoinette, who was on hand to welcome the first Residents in 1915, were at the door to provide a welcome of hospitality. Each aged person was received with warmth and love; accompanied individually by a volunteer to his or her new room before joining others for a box lunch.

Welcome cards along with a rose in a small white vase were in each of the Resident's rooms. One of the volunteers commented, "This has to be *real love*."

The Little Sisters have great appreciation and fondness for their dedicated employees and volunteers, past and present, who, by their actions, share in the ministry to the elderly.

Dedication Day, December 1, 1979



Cardinal Timothy Manning arrived with his secretary, Msgr. Clement Connolly for the blessing of the Cornerstone at 1:30 P.M..

Msgr. Thomas Kiefer, pastor of Mary Star of the Sea and whose parents the Little Sisters had cared for, welcomed those present. He mentioned that Jeanne Jugan had grown up in a seaport town, similar to San Pedro, and the Residents of the new Home now had the privilege of gazing on the ocean view, just as she must have done during the years she lived in Cancale, France.

After the Blessing of the cornerstone, Cardinal Manning went to bless the new Home while the twelve concelebrants and guests went to the Chapel.

The Liturgy of Thanksgiving began at 2:00 P.M. with Mary Star of the Sea Choir providing the music for the occasion. Cardinal Manning gave the homily during which he said:

"The Spirit of love, devotion and generosity seems more active in the Church than ever before in history. This Home is one example of such love, devotion and generosity. This is a sanctifying and holy work that goes on in this Home, and that we are being asked to participate in today."

After Mass, Cardinal Manning greeted the Residents and guests outside the Chapel before joining them in the auditorium for refreshments. There the Little Sisters were able to approach the Cardinal individually to thank him for his generous support and prayers.

Many guests toured the Home for the first time. Returning to the auditorium, they delighted in the songfest performed by Residents who declared *thank you* for their new Home.

The day ended in a joyful thankful spirit of peace as the benefactors and guests left. They had helped the Little Sisters see the reality of this new Home!

For the next three Sundays Jeanne Jugan Residence was open for tours. Over 2,000 people from the area and Los Angeles visited the new home and generously expressed their support for the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor.



25 Years of Volunteering

Sister Paul (L) and
Mother Marguerite
(R) with the
volunteers (L-R)
Mary Mosqueda
Don DeKay
Barbara Vegher
Ruth Hubbard
Lucille Graff
Sease Tymczyszyn
(Not Pictured)
Rita Miller
Jennie Trani
Jo Woodley



Nine volunteers were recognized for 25 years of service. Other volunteers were recognized for three years (9), ten years (3), fifteen years (5), and twenty years (2). In addition, eight volunteers received a Knight of Malta pin for 3,000 hours of service.

The Little Sisters and the Residents are grateful for all the joy and service the volunteers bring to the Home. New volunteers are always welcome. Please call or visit the Home to learn more about the opportunities.

Volunteer Appreciation Day was held on April 22, 2004. This is an annual luncheon event to which the Little Sisters invite their many volunteers. In the past year, the Home has had 137 volunteers who together contributed 26,253 hours of service.

With Gratitude to our Board of Advisors for their leadership and unfailing support.

Back (L-R)

George Gibbs
Kenneth Olsen
Lawrence McNeil
Edward Illig
Leo Poxon, D.D.S.
George Leal
John Watkins

Front (L-R)

Carole LaCaze
Libby Cigliano
Kathleen Regan
Bitsy Hotaling
Mother Marguerite
Joseph Nally
Chairman
Jan Werneid
Regina Leimbach

Other Members
Martin Burke
Mary Centofante
Tom Connaghan
Josephine Nizetich



On this Jubilee Celebration, we especially remember those, living & deceased, who gave so generously to support the relocation of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

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A Commitment to Divine Providence

We affirm our absolute trust in Divine Providence, source and substance of our Mission and Institute as Little Sisters of the Poor. By the ongoing practice of the "collecting" we express our reliance on Providence.

Countless lay collaborators, intermediaries of this Providence, support our work through material assistance and voluntary service. We believe that through their selfless charity, a channel of grace is opened in the souls of our benefactors.

Thank You for the Inspiration



Thank you to Sr. Winefred, who was in Los Angeles from 1964 to 1987. Her memories of individuals and events covered in this issue were the inspirations for its composition. Sister is now in our Home in Denver.

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that we recall the love of so many who supported our move to San Pedro. Your tradition of giving continues today in the many volunteers and benefactors who join in our work.

Together, we are engaged in a holy mission: to care for the elderly poor in their most vulnerable point in life.

We hope that you feel a great sense of satisfaction knowing that you are helping your aged brothers and sisters to find dignity and happiness. May you also feel hope in the future that your example is a beacon to others spotlighting the value of every life in our society.

It would be impossible for us to continue without your participation and your generosity.

We welcome with open arms new supporters. Please visit our Home and see what a difference you can make.

With gratitude,

Mother Marguerite

Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit

Sister Mary Augustine

Sister Genevieve

Sister Paul

Sister Ann

Sister Catherine

Sister Vincent

Sister Andrea

Sister Emma

Remember the aged poor in your will through a bequest to the "Little Sisters of the Poor of Los Angeles".



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