

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor
in Los Angeles since 1905*

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SAN PEDRO, CA
2100 S. Western Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90732



SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ)

Lay Collaborators serving Jesus in the Needy Elderly

By: Barbara West, AJJ Coordinator

Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan envisioned hospitality as a humble, charitable service that would unite others into one family. She saw lay collaborators joining with the Little Sisters in serving Jesus Christ in the person of the needy elderly.

Since the Association Jeanne Jugan was approved by the Vatican in 1998, over 2,000 women and men around the world have joined the Association. Each member participates in a yearlong program of formation directed by a Little Sister. Membership is formalized by an annual promise, which AJJ members make together on May 1st, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

We have 16 active AJJ members. Come May we will add 4 more. We assist at all the big occasions in the Home, such as the St. Patrick's Day celebration, St. Joseph's Feast Day, the Living Stations of the Cross, Mother's Day Tea & Fashion Show, and on and on. In addition, we spend time in prayer for the intentions of the Residents and their families.

"We really appreciate all the AJJ members do for us," said Resident Carmela Guerra. One special activity that Residents look forward to is the Italian Dinner that the AJJ provides late each August to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Jeanne Jugan.

We are open to help in anyway we can and find it a privledge to be AJJ members.



Bing Varias, AJJ member, help Pat Deacon & Natalie Duarte dye Easter Eggs.

"In your presence, Lord Jesus...I promise to serve you in the elderly with joy and love, by following the example of humility and confidence left to us by Jeanne Jugan."

Association Promise



Resident Carmela Guerra and Helen Igloi enjoy a walk in the garden with Carol Stutzke and Barbara West who are members of the AJJ.



Sr. Clotile, Facilitator of AJJ, with the 2012 new members: Doreen Pesusich, Josephina Ledesma, Barbara Bloch and Rick Neiger.

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Sr. Caroline, Sr. John Elise, Mother Paul, Dr. Edward Gatz, Jeanne Gatz, Sr. Maureen, Sr. Clotilde and Sr. Gemma pose before St. Joseph after their afternoon visit in our Home.

Prayers Answered, Zeal Continues

We had the pleasure of having Dr. & Mrs. Edward Gatz in our Home this March. Their story, energy and zeal for spreading the message of St. Jeanne Jugan are inspiring.

Dr. Gatz was diagnosed with esophageal cancer on January 9, 1989. His prognosis was poor as the tumor was already the size of his clenched fist. He refused chemotherapy and radia-

tion treatments, certain it would only make his last days more painful. Dr. Gatz was given six months to live. He sold his cars, activated his disability insurance and prepared for death.

On the same day his wife, Jeanne Gatz, spoke with an old friend, Father Richard D. McGloin, S.J., to tell him about her husband's illness and to seek some consolation. Fr. McGloin

encouraged Mrs. Gatz to pray. He gave her the novena prayer to Blessed Jeanne Jugan, whom he knew through the Little Sisters of the Poor, since he had formerly been chaplain at the Home in Milwaukee. What Fr. McGloin didn't know at the time was that the Little Sisters were seeking a miracle for their foundress' canonization.

Mrs. Gatz and Fr. McGloin began to pray to Jeanne Jugan every day. Time passed and Dr. Gatz was still alive. Since Dr. and Mrs. Gatz feared the return of the tumors *it took 12 years* before Mrs. Gatz contacted the Little Sisters. In early 2002 the investigation into Dr. Gatz's cure began.

On December 6, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI signed a decree recognizing the validity of this miracle attributed to Blessed Jeanne Jugan...and approving her for canonization. On October 11, 2009 she was recognized as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

What an opportunity it is to visit with Dr. and Mrs. Gatz. A special thank you for your prayers, humble example and support of our ministry.

To Stonefire Grill We Extend our Gratitude from the Bottom of our Hearts

What a fantastic Valentine's Day celebration we had – thanks to Stonefire Grill. Mary Harrigan, who started the restaurant chain in 2000 not only provided the delicious meal, but she brought a team of employees with her.

They went way beyond just serving the meal. They provided gift boxes of chocolates for the Residents and orchid center pieces which were given away through a raffle drawing. The Residents enjoyed the special attention from the young staff, especially the invitations to dance.

We are very grateful to Stonefire Grill for this amazing day and for their monthly complimentary meal deliv-

ered to our Home. "It's a chance for us to be able to do something good," said Harrigan, who first met the Little Sisters during a parish collection and follows the example of her mother by giving back to the community.





Sr. Charles Patricia gives a tour of the Home and gardens in New Caladonia to Rita Swartz.



From the balcony of the Home you can view the garden and the beautiful crucifix. Beyond is the bay and city of Noumea.

LSP: Hospitality Without Limits

Rita Swartz, Development Director

A fourteen day cruise in the South Pacific visiting exotic islands sounds heavenly....and it was! The weather was terrific, the people were friendly, and the geographic and cultural learning was amazing. With everything we did and saw, the visits we made to two homes of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Oceania stand out as the most memorable parts of our trip.

As I was explaining to Mother Paul about the trip my husband Don and I had coming up, she mentioned our home in New Caledonia and provided me with the address. I stuck the information in my bag and didn't think much about it. The excitement of flying to Sydney, boarding my first cruise ship and being afloat in the wide Pacific was plenty for my mind to hold.

After two days at sea, we docked in the

beautiful city of Noumea, the capital city of the French territory of New Caledonia. It was still early in the day when we finished our shore excursion. Don suggested we catch a cab to visit the Little Sisters.

The French speaking taxi driver looked at the English address I pulled from my bag. "Oui, Petites Soeurs Des Pauvres," he said with a big smile. Then with a pause he added "Jeanne Jugan". I was so amazed and thrilled. Something so much a part of my life was shared by this man from halfway around the world.

In no time, we pulled up to the home that looked so charming with all the wrought iron detailing on the porches. As I approached the front desk so did a Little Sister. She introduced herself. Sr. Charles Patricia was originally from Washington DC. How exciting this was to share news

"By our vow of hospitality we promise God to consecrate ourselves exclusively to the service of the elderly poor. We welcome them into our homes, form one family with them, accompany them from day to day and care for them with love and respect until God calls them home."

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about so many Little Sisters that she knew from San Pedro. During our tour she introduced us to various Residents who were so interested in having *Americans* visiting. It was a short but remarkable visit for Don and me. How happy we were that we made the effort.

It was so random that we ended up visiting the Little Sisters of the Poor in Sydney. Since we had a few hours at the end of the cruise before catching our flight, we hired a taxi driver to show us a few of the scenic spots. A bit into our travels, I asked him if he knew the address of the Little Sisters of the Poor. With the help of his iPhone, he assured us it was an easy stop right on the way to the airport.

We enjoyed the same welcoming experience in Sydney from the Little Sisters and Residents as we had a grand tour of their comfortable home.

For me the highlight was seeing Sister Ana Malia Benedict again. She had been in San Pedro last year, when she was a novice. I surely did not expect to know anyone in Sydney and she likewise was confused at first about who I was. Then the light came on and I got a hug so big I'll never forget it.

Thank you to both homes. Thank you, Little Sisters, for living your vow of Hospitality so faithfully. Thank you for the example of your vocation.

Sr. Ana Malia Benedict welcomes Don and Rita Swartz to the Home in Sydney.

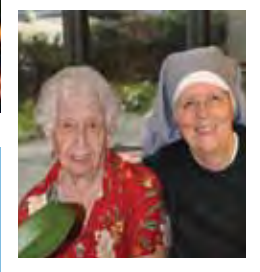


LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorsanpedro.org

A Simple Note

By: Mother Paul



**Resident Ethel Roskam
and Mother Paul**

O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today! Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.

The month of May throughout the world is dedicated to the devotion of Mary. In addition to the joy of May Crowning and a special May altar, we celebrate three important Marian feasts during this month.

The feast of Our Lady of Fatima is celebrated on May 13th and reminds us of the importance of saying the daily rosary. On this day in 1917, the Virgin Mary made her first appearance to three shepherd children at Fatima in Portugal. Through the children Mary urges recitation of the Rosary, prayer for sinners and works of penance.

On May 19th we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles to commemorate the time after the Ascension when Mary and the Apostles gathered in prayer in the Upper Room.

May 31st is the Commemoration of the Visitation when Mary heard that Elizabeth was expecting a child and she hurried to help her.

So as we open our hearts more fully to Mary during this month, we assure you of our petitions for your intentions. *Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Our Needs

Plans are underway to relocate our Residents' library to a new space. The carpet will soon be down and the shelves installed. We have a large collection of books already, many with large print. In addition, we have a selection of DVD and VCR movies. What is needed are library tables and chairs, a wall mounted television, a few comfortable chairs for relaxed reading and viewing.

"I am looking forward to using this library with all the natural light," said Resident Ina Pearl Hilkey who is an avid reader. "This is a vast improvement from the previous small and dark space."

We are very grateful to all those who support the needs of our Home. Thank you for your continued generosity, prayers and friendship.



Resident Inez David reviews the space that will become the AV library and viewing room. David Lukes and Ina Pearl Hilkey anticipate what the book and reading library will be like.

Upcoming Events

Auxiliary Event

Saturday, June 23, 2012

Items for the Live and Silent Auction are still welcome. Vacations & Condos, Weekend Getaway, Air/Water Rides Food, Wine, Restaurants, Entertainment Theater/Movies/Concerts, Sports/Theme Parks Spa Days, Art and Jewelry Memorabilia, and more. If you can help, please call 310-548-0625.

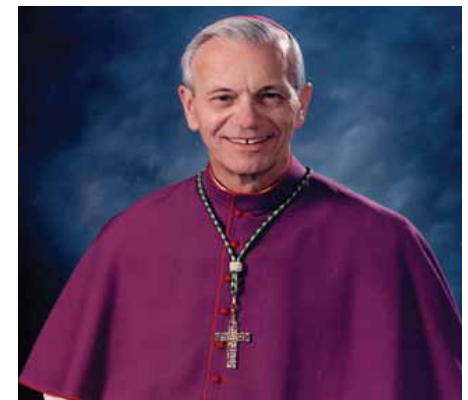


The Auxiliary Event will take place at the Toyota USA Automobile Museum in Torrance, CA. 6/23/12

Sr. Maureen's Silver Jubilee

Monday, August 6, 2012

The Little Sisters of the Poor invite you to the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession of Sr. Maureen Theresa Ann on August 6th. Over the past twenty five years, Sr. Maureen has assisted the elderly in England, Ireland, Scotland and various cities throughout the United States. She arrived in San Pedro in 2006 and is a joy to all she serves. *We look forward to sharing this very special occasion with her!*



As an added part of this year's event, we will pay tribute to Bishop Joe Sartoris for his long time devotion to the Little Sisters of the Poor.