



## Gene Connelly Receives World War II Victory Medal

Gene Connelly, a St. Francis Unit Resident, served as a Marine during the latter part of World War II. Due to the rapid demobilization at the end of the war, he never received the WWII Victory Medal. It was arranged by the local members of the Marines, the Silver Beach Community and Gene's family for Gene to receive the Medal on Sunday, November 8. Due to the COVID restrictions, the ceremony was held outdoors on the patio for those from the Home while Gene's family, friends, Marines and Veterans of Foreign Wars gathered on the sidewalk outside the fence. We were grateful for the sunny almost 70 degree day for the ceremony. Music was provided by Marine bagpipers and drums.

Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Watson Jr. made the presentation of the medal and beautiful framed plaque to Mother Gertrude who then placed the medal around Gene's neck and presented him the plaque. Gene was filled with emotion and gave a Marine salute upon receiving the Medal. Lieutenant Colonel Watson gave a brief talk relating Gene's accomplishments and spoke of his dedicated service during the war. Following the inspirational

ceremony, Gene's family provided a pizza dinner for the whole house. The dessert was a delicious cake decorated with the Marine emblem.

Following the war, Gene served as a PFC in Camp Pendleton on the West Coast, then in Texas before his honorable discharge at the Great Lakes in August 1946. Gene served in the New York City Police Department as a patrolman, then a Detective in the 43rd precinct and Homicide squad. He was a Sargent in the Firearms Unit and later a Lieutenant in the 7th Division Plain Clothes. He was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



### SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, May 9**  
Spring Raffle Drawing  
Mary Phelan Hall

**Monday, July 12**  
Annual Golf Outing  
Quaker Ridge Golf Club

### WAYS TO HELP

- Regular donations (mail or on line)
- Matching Gifts
- Memorials
- Planned Gifts-Establish a will-leave a gift
- Pray for our Residents and vocations

## "Made with Love" Hand made Gift for each Resident

When planning a community service project, Julianna thought of her aunt, who is a Little Sister of the Poor, and the elderly Residents for whom the Sisters care. She decided to make a scarf for each Resident, draw a card and deliver the gift personally to each person. She wrote the following note and began her project.

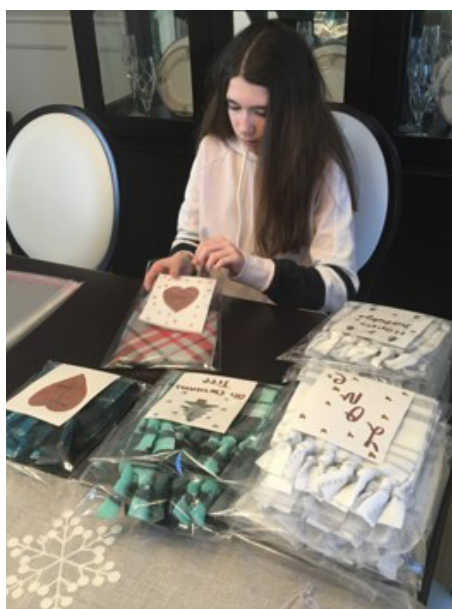
"Hi. My name is Julianna Riviello and I am 14 years old. I am the niece of Sr. Mary James (a Little Sister of the Poor). I am in the 8th grade and attend Pelham Middle School in Pelham, NY. I attend religious

education at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Pelham, NY. I have been fully remote learning at home for both my regular school and my religious education since September due to the pandemic.

For my community service, I have decided to make scarves for all of you at Jeanne Jugan Residence. I love to create art and wanted to incorporate that into my community service. Inside the bag with your scarf, you will also find a card that I have made for you to decorate your rooms for the upcoming holiday

season. I hope these scarves warm up your holidays and the art lightens your spirits."

Unable to give the scarf personally to each Resident due to the pandemic, Julianna delivered to the Home a gift box that included the scarf, a hand made card and a letter explaining her special project. Sr. Mary James and Sr. Emmanuel were happy to receive the gifts and deliver one to each Resident. The Residents were thrilled and very grateful to Julianna for her generosity and thoughtfulness!



# Melanie Sowa - beacon of faithful service



When the Greater New York Health Care Facilities Association asked facilities to send information regarding the celebration of a staff member who went above and beyond during the COVID crisis, the decision was difficult. We continue to be edified by the generous, devoted service of so many staff members supporting our mission of caring for the elderly during the long COVID crisis. After much thought, Sr. Raymond sent the following response:

“When asked, we can all say that we know special people we work with or live near who somehow stand out. Why? Not because they are rich or powerful. They are ordinary people who in an extraordinary way live their day to day lives. In a crisis, these special people emerge as “beacons of hope” and shining stars. They are in the forefront in their acts of kindness, compassion self-sacrifice, devotedness and self-giving. They put themselves and their needs in the background and focus on the needs of others. They inspire those they work with by

the example. We have several staff members like that, but would like to especially like to mention Activity Director, Melanie Sowa. Her devotedness, kind gentle ways, her availability and self-giving made her one of those “beacons” who could always be counted on and there when most needed. We would like to honor Melanie and so many others that have not been mentioned for helping us through these very difficult times.”

Melanie and her activities co-worker, Mylyn Llanos, are very gifted in assessing and responding to the needs of the elderly. The COVID pandemic has contributed to social isolation of our Residents and increased their need for socialization. Melanie and Mylyn have been ingenious in planning activities that provide opportunities for socialization of our Residents while maintaining needed safety measure to prevent the spread of COVID. They continue to make a significant contribution to the welfare of our Residents by engaging them in meaningful enjoyable activities.



## MOTHER'S MESSAGE

As 2021 opens the door to a very different Lent, one that hasn't been introduced by the distribution of ashes in many places, the Holy Father places before us the best way to embrace these challenging days with these words, "to experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord's word to his Servant, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you" (Is 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters.

"Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society" (Fratelli Tutti, 187).

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

Thank you for being among those individuals ready to help and care for others by your continual support. May this Lenten season be a time of renewed hope confident in God's love as we do our little part in helping others.

*Sr. Gertrude Mary, lsp*



# Year of St. Joseph St. Joseph an extraordinary ordinary man

It was with great joy that we learned Pope Francis had proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. St. Jeanne Jugan turned to St. Joseph to intercede for the needs of the congregation, seeing in him the likeness of our heavenly Father, "whose Providence watches over the little ones."

In his apostolic letter introducing this Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis wrote: "I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt 12:34). My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all." Each of us can discover in



Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all."  
*Patris Corde*

During the time of pandemic, the Little Sisters have been graced to

witness so many hidden ordinary people rendering discreet hidden services caring for our Residents, making daily sacrifices to keep everyone safe and well. We wish to express our gratitude and sincere thanks to our staff, co-workers sharing in our mission, for their dedicated service to our Residents during this difficult time. Their example of hidden service is an inspiration for us. Our thank you is our prayers. We pray daily for the intentions of all who help us in our mission and each month a Mass is celebrated in each of our Homes throughout the world for their intentions. As Saint Jeanne Jugan often said "Thank you my God. Blessed be God. Glory be to God."

## Our Needs

- Body Wash
- Dove Soap
- Tissues/Kleenex
- Cases of Copy Paper
- Individually wrapped snacks & candy
- Paper goods (cups, plates, napkins)
- Plastic spoons, forks, knives (heavy duty)
- Gift Cards for Resident Birthday Gifts

The Jeanne Jugan Residence is a 501 C 3 tax exempt organization with Tax ID #13-1884785. Our mailing list is strictly private and confidential and we do not share or sell our donor information. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 347-329-1800.