



Welcome Mother General and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine

After much anticipation and with great joy we welcomed Mother General María and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine to our Home in the Bronx on Thursday, December 16. The COVID-19 pandemic postponed this trip for nearly two years and we were overjoyed that Mother General and Mother Assistant were finally with us!

The morning of their arrival was mild and sunny and we were able to await our guests outdoors. Our joy knew no bounds as we saw the white minivan enter our front driveway. Mother General and Mother Assistant embraced each of us as we expressed our welcome in French or English, or sometimes a mixture of both! The apartment Residents from Jeanne Jugan Terrace had been waiting in the lobby and warmly greeted our guests. Petra Gonzalez, a native of Puerto Rico and aged 98, presented Mother María with a bouquet of pink roses and spoke to her in Spanish. Mother Assistant Joseph Christine received

her bouquet and a word of welcome from Zina Zimmita, 99 years of age. The lobby looked very festive with lighted Christmas trees and amaryllis plants surrounded St. Joseph's statue, reflecting the warmth of our family spirit.

After a tour of the Home it was time for Mass, which was celebrated by our chaplain, Fr. Patrick Universal. Father is fluent in Spanish from his years as a missionary and he spoke to Mother María in her native language at the beginning of the liturgy. The Gospel of the day was read by Fr. Pat in Spanish and the homily was also bilingual. Our closing hymn was "O Come, Divine Messiah, a melody familiar to our guests.

Mother General and Mother Assistant then visited the Residents in their dining rooms and gave each one a gift bag of candy. In the main dining room, apartment Resident Pat McKenna gave a lovely welcome in very good French! Mother General responded in French as Mother

Assistant translated her words into English. The happiness found in the family spirit so dear to St. Jeanne Jugan was evident on every face despite the differences in language.

From there they continued to the second floor dining room, where the Residents and many staff members were waiting. Frederico Torres, originally from Puerto Rico, welcomed and sang to Mother General in Spanish. Mary Wynne presented Mother Joseph Christine with her bouquet. The moment that each Resident had with Mother General and Mother Assistant as they went from table to table created a memory that they and we treasure!

The Little Sisters enjoyed dinner with our guests. It was such a joy to see Mother General and Mother Assistant so at home among us!

At 4 p.m. we bid *au revoir* to our guests in the hope that this brief visit will lead to a longer one in the not too distant future. We felt graced and blessed by their visit to our home and very grateful to God for this day!

A visit from Cardinal Dolan

In his thank you note for our Christmas gift, Cardinal Timothy Dolan added in his own hand: “When can I come?” Since neither the solemnity of St. Joseph nor the feast of St. Joseph the Worker were possible for him, he suggested the solemnity of the Annunciation.

On March 25 Cardinal Dolan and his secretary, Fr. Steven Reese, arrived earlier than anticipated, but the Residents from the apartments were waiting to greet them and the Cardinal took time to speak to each person. The Cardinal then went to greet the Residents in the St. Francis and St. Clare Units and even assisted some of them into the chapel in their wheelchairs. Msgr. Thomas Petrillo, whose recently deceased mother was a Resident in our Home, also joined us at the invitation of Cardinal Dolan

The Cardinal wore a beautiful pectoral cross with an image of Our Lady in enamel. He explained that while in the Western Church, a bishop’s cross is simple, this cross had been a gift from a Ukrainian bishop. After leaving us, the Cardinal returned to St. Patrick’s Cathedral to make the consecration of Ukraine and Russia to Our Lady in union with the act that our Holy Father would be making in Rome. He wore this pectoral cross in honor of this day.

During his homily Cardinal Dolan spoke about Our Lady’s “yes” to the archangel Gabriel’s message and the “scandal” of God becoming man. He also expressed his gratitude for our mission and care of the elderly. The Cardinal brought Holy Communion to each of the Residents seated throughout the chapel. This Eucharist was a joyful and peaceful celebration of the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

After Mass our guests were invited to brunch with the community. The Cardinal, Fr. Reese, Msgr. Petrillo and Fr. Universal seemed very much at home with us and enjoyed the simple meal of scrambled eggs, home fries, bagels and homemade cinnamon rolls.

We accompanied the Cardinal to the front door, where his driver was waiting, and they left a little after 10:30 a.m. We were already looking forward to Cardinal Dolan’s next visit to our Home!



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SURPRISED BY HELP

Welcome National Guards

In January 2022, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced deployment of non-medically trained members of the National Guard to supplement staffing at nursing homes across New York State. Nursing home staffing has been difficult during the time of the pandemic. We have been blessed with very dedicated staff who continue to serve our elderly Residents while going the extra mile. However, it has been difficult to hire additional needed staff.

The National Guard is a unique branch of the U.S. military consisting of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. It routinely responds to domestic emergencies such as natural disasters and also supports military operations overseas. The National Guard was deployed in 2020 to help in the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but the Little Sisters of the Poor never imagined that the National Guard would come to assist us in our mission in several of our Homes.

In February, we were very excited and honored to welcome the Army National Guard to our Home. They arrived ready and eager to assist us in whatever tasks we asked of them, and they continue to help with joyful and generous hearts!

The National Guard has helped with Resident activities, as well as daily tasks in the laundry, housekeeping, and kitchen. They have also painted rooms and prepared the garden for the spring planting. Our Residents, staff and Little Sisters have profited from this unexpected encounter with our young people so generously helping our country.



MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

By the time you receive our newsletter we will be celebrating the joy of Easter, the most important celebration of the liturgical year.

Lent this year was marked by the catastrophic situation in the Ukraine, a reminder of the evil humanity is capable of and our constant need for conversion.

As we continue to personally strive to bring good into the world by our acts of penance, fasting and almsgiving, we take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continued generosity and support.

Although we must continue to adhere to the strict limitations put in place during the pandemic, we are deeply grateful for God's constant solicitude, the outstanding performance of our staff and the overwhelming generosity of our friends and benefactors.

We continue to thank God daily for so many blessings and always include each of you who make what the Little Sisters do for the elderly possible. Blessed Easter!

Sr. Gertrude Mary, Lsp

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

"In old age they will still bear fruit"

The second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on July 24, the Sunday preceding the feast of Sts. Anne and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus. The theme, "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Ps. 91 vs. 15) serves as an "invitation to reconsider and value grandparents and the elderly who are too often kept on the margins of families, civil and ecclesial communities. Their experience of life and faith can contribute, in fact, to building societies that are aware of their roots and capable of dreaming of a future based on greater solidarity."

At world youth day in Brazil back in 2013, Pope Francis emphasized that "children and the elderly build the future of peoples: children because they lead history forward, the elderly because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives."

When young people come regularly to visit or volunteer at the Home, as Little Sisters of the Poor we are blessed to witness firsthand the bonds of friendship between our elderly Residents and young people. A spirit of hope grows in the elderly as they see youth searching for their future and the youth embrace the experience and wisdom of the elderly.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Home has been on a lockdown which is gradually being lifted. During these past two years, interactions between our elderly Residents and youth have been very limited. We miss our visits and activities with the young. We are looking forward to the lockdown being lifted so we can once again welcome the young into our Home. In the meantime, we invite everyone to pray for grandparents and the elderly.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Golf Outing
July 11, 2022
At Quaker Ridge

X20 Dinner by the Bite
October 23, 2022
At X20 Yonkers

A Prayer for Grandparents

Dear God, please bless my grandparents.

Thank you for the life they gave my parents and for the life they give me.

For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks.

For the ways, they love me no matter what, I rejoice.

For the ways, they have paved the road that leads me here, I am grateful.

Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life.

Let them find peace and rest from their work.

Let them be healed of every sickness and pain.

And let them see with their own eyes your glory and the love of their children and grandchildren.

Bless them always until they come to rest in you.

OUR NEEDS

Body Wash
Lotion
Cases of Copy Paper
Plastic spoons, forks, knives (heavy duty)
Individually wrapped snacks & candy
Postage Stamps
Double A & Triple A Batteries
Mouthwash
A & D ointment

WAYS TO HELP

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