

Women of Faith in Our Family

Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value. (Proverbs 31:10)

Pope Francis has said, “The Church acknowledges the indispensable contribution which women make to society through the sensitivity, intuition and other distinctive skill sets which they, more than men, tend to possess. I think, for example, of the special concern which women show to others, which finds a particular, even if not exclusive, expression in motherhood.” (The Joy of the Gospel, 103) In this newsletter we will highlight the role of women in our family of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

A Feminine Ideal

Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, showed this womanly concern to others in an exemplary way. The extraordinary charity which

impelled her to give her very own bed to a destitute elderly widow continues to inspire us today. On August 30 the Church celebrates her feast day. As we prepare for this day, we invite you to send us intentions for prayer, which we will remember during our Novena to St. Jeanne Jugan.

Each Little Sister of the Poor strives to continue the wave of charity which flows from the founding gesture of St. Jeanne Jugan. Our name, Little Sister of the Poor, expresses the spirit which animated her. She was truly little, humble before God and everyone she encountered. She was a sister in the deepest sense of the word, creating family wherever she went.

She lived for the poor and for Jesus, dwelling in each of them. She transmits this spirit to us and to all those who share in our mission.

Women of the Church

On July 9, 2023 ten young women made their perpetual profession as Little Sisters of the Poor at our motherhouse in France, among them an American Little Sister who has been assigned to our Home in Chicago. This definitive act commits them forever to God in the service of the elderly poor, as daughters of St. Jeanne Jugan. We rejoice with them as they make this radical offering of their lives and pray that they will live their commitment faithfully.

100 Years of Valiant Womanhood

An amazing milestone was reached by one of the remarkable women of our family. On June 30, 2023 Vincenza “Zina” Zimitti celebrated her 100th birthday. Her nephew, Michael Herron, and his wife, as well as some friends, joined us for Mass and dinner that day. In the afternoon we gathered for a party in the auditorium with lively entertainment by Gerard Corbett. Zina danced the afternoon away with her fellow Residents, family members, and guests!

A daughter of Sicilian immigrants, Zina took care of her mother and never married. She worked as a seamstress, then as a tailor at Saks Fifth Avenue. She excelled in her trade and was often called upon for special work. She even made a dress for First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy! Years later, when Zina and her sister were visiting a clothing exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, she had the delightful surprise of seeing that dress once again.

After her retirement Zina continued to share her gifts as a caregiver, volunteering at Calvary Hospital, a hospice for adults with advanced cancer, for 11 years. Zina has lived at Jeanne Jugan Residence since 2009. We thank God for her long, beautiful life and for her presence in our Home.



A Legacy of Feminine Virtue

At 99 years of age, Carmen “Petra” Gonzalez continues to share her womanly gifts freely and joyfully with everyone at Jeanne Jugan Residence.

She often helps with peeling fruits and vegetables for our meals, preparing literature for distribution at church collections, and watering the plants.

She is a joy and an inspiration to everyone at Jeanne Jugan Residence.



Two Amazing Women

A dynamic hospitality intern helps a cheerful refugee learn English

This summer, Grace Hewitt joined us as a summer intern to help us during the months of June and July. She brought her feminine gifts of sensitivity and tenderness to her interactions with the Residents and Little Sisters.

During this same time, the Lord also sent us Inna Volkova, a Ukrainian refugee who was displaced from her home in Chernihiv as a result of the war. Gracious, positive, and cheerful, Inna has shown us an example of courageous womanhood.

Although now retired, she had been a school teacher when she was younger.

Grace, through God's Providence, had been helping to homeschool her younger sibling, amazingly spending much time and effort teaching her sister to read. Now, Grace is using these same skills to help Inna to learn English.

With the Ukrainian alphabet being so different from ours, the challenge is great, but not too great for the assiduous duo. The two amazing women — a kind young adult and a motivated and upbeat young older adult — assemble each afternoon to carefully review the lesson that Grace has thoughtfully prepared in advance. Lessons have

included: the alphabet, vowels, essential vocabulary, numbers, common verbs and verb tenses, currency, reading, and sentence composition. After their lesson,

Inna spends another hour reviewing her notes and the material they have covered.

In preparing to welcome Inna, Grace also helped Residents, staff and Little Sisters to install Google Translate on their smartphones and tablets. She gave us a demonstration so that all of us could help Inna to feel at home. Our chaplain, Fr. Pat Universal, a Resident and staff member, has also contributed to Inna's settling in by offering to have conversational encounters with her each week.

On the Fourth of July, Inna proudly read us in English a patriotic poem that she had prepared, to the delight of all. She edifies us by her willingness to help in any way that she can and by her joyful attitude, despite the adversity she has known. Thank you,

Lord, for sending us Grace and Inna!

(Grace came to our Home as a hospitality intern through our Spring Into Service program. Please visit our National website www.littlesistersofthepoor.org for more details about this opportunity for young women.)



MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

On August 30 Little Sisters all over the world will be united in celebrating the feast of St. Jeanne Jugan. Her greatness is not so much in the fact that she founded an international Congregation which serves the elderly in 31 countries on five continents, but especially in her willingness to accept the injustice experienced at the hands of someone from her inner circle. Ousted from her position as foundress, this saintly woman graciously accepted the situation and became the simple beggar of the Congregation. She allowed herself to be relegated to the motherhouse and stripped of all authority in the governing of the Congregation she founded. She died unknown, considered the fourth Little Sister instead of the first.

This heroic virtue, lived in silence and obscurity for twenty-seven years, became the source of the fruitful expansion and rapid growth of the Congregation. "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains but a grain of wheat." The charism of caring for the elderly poor, humbly serving them and "making them happy," was the gift she received from the Holy Spirit and which she passed on to the generations of Little Sisters who have followed her.

As we prepare to celebrate her feast we remember each of you in a very special way, asking her to bless you for your generosity and continued support. Jeanne Jugan realized from the beginning that without generous supporters like you, the Little Sisters would not be able to continue her work in caring for the elderly poor. God bless you!

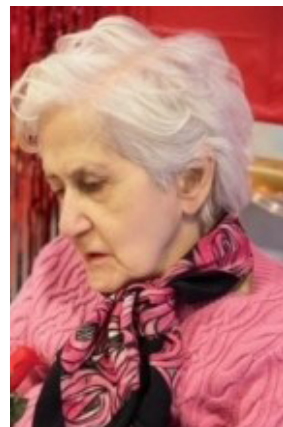
Sr. Gertrude Mary, Lsp

A Legacy of Feminine Virtue

Josephine Bastone Petrillo was a Resident at Jeanne Jugan until the Lord called her home to Himself last year. A gracious, faithful wife, mother, and grandmother, she exemplified the feminine virtues of her vocation. Josephine was the consummate caregiver. Always nurturing, her love knew no bounds.

Throughout her life she selflessly shared her wisdom, her deep love for the Lord, and her unfailing trust in Him.

Josephine's son, Msgr. Thomas Petrillo, came to our Home in June to bless a statue of St. Joseph given in his mother's honor, as well as a tree planted in our garden in her memory.



SAVE THE DATE

X20 Dinner by the Bite
Sunday, October 22
At X20 Yonkers

OUR NEEDS

Juices (apple, cranberry, etc.)
Ginger ale
Small containers of liquid laundry detergent
Bathroom tissue
Poise pads
Copy machine paper, 8/15 x 11"
Donations for Resident outings

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

- Checks or credit card donations
- WeShare online donations (visit our website: www.littlesistersofthepoorbronx.org)
- Matching gifts — double your donation
- Planned gifts — remember us in your will or leave a legacy gift
- Donor advised gifts
- Memorial donations
- Pray for vocations
- Pray for our Residents' needs