LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor in Pawtucket since 1881.

Summer 2018

JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE
964 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR CELEBRATE 150 YEARS IN AMERICA

"The (American) public appear delighted to see that we are willing to work for the poor; that we ask no endowment; that we desire to trust in Providence and in the generosity of the public."

Founded in France in 1839, the Little Sisters of the Poor have a rich history in the United States.

Well before the existence of Ellis Island, the first Little Sisters journeyed from France by boat and set foot on American soil in Brooklyn, New York on September 13, 1868. After receiving their first Residents they communicated back to the motherhouse, "The (American) public appear delighted to see that we are willing to work for the poor; that we ask no endowment; that we desire to trust in Providence and in the generosity of the public."

With courage, humble charity, and the ability to adapt to their new circumstances these pioneering Little Sisters were embraced by America. During the next four years and with the advice of local bishops and benefactors, a total of 13 Homes were established in the United States including Cincinnati, Baltimore, St. Louis, Philadelphia, and Boston. Our Home in Providence was established in 1881 and is a testament to the faith of our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, "Give us the house — if God fills it, God will not abandon it!"

In March of 1881 the Little Sisters arrived in Providence, RI and lived for two years in the General James Estate. In 1883 the Little Sisters moved to Pawtucket and resided in the Holy Trinity Home, property donated by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Banigan.

September 2018 will mark 150 years since the Little Sisters of the Poor arrived in the United States and opened that first Home in Brooklyn. A rich history indeed!

Stay tuned for 150th anniversary activities here at Jeanne Jugan Residence in the spring of 2019.

A jubilee year will take place between August 30, 2018 and August 30, 2019.

An Initial Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated on Monday, April 9 at St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Jamaica, NY. Organized by our Sisters at Queen of Peace Residence, Queens Village, Sisters, Residents and friends of our Homes from all over the New York province attended the celebration. (http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org/events/little-sisters-commemorate-150th-anniversary/)

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

St. Patrick's Day 10 YEARS AND COUNTING

THANK YOU!

The 10th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner at The Old Grist Mill Tavern was a wonderful and collective effort on the part of so many. With hearts filled with gratitude, we would like to thank:

The Old Grist Mill Tavern

Greg Esmay, proprietor, and his family and staff – managers, hostesses, wait staff, bartenders, cooks and food preparers – who for ten years have generously donated their time to host this all-day affair, providing a graceful choreography of warm welcomes, tireless service, and a hearty meal.

Mother Mercy and the Little Sisters present a plaque to Greg and Sue Esmay

The Guests

More than 850 -- each and every one a good friend to The Little Sisters – who, after digging out from Nor'easter #3, ventured out on a cold winter day to join us and support our mission. For some this was year ten, for others a first but with a promise to join the fun next year and beyond!

Asst. Director of Nursing Ginny Conway and Resident Shirley Mello

Handmade Palm Crosses sold by Sr. Joan, Sr. Julie and enthusiastic volunteers

The Volunteers

A varied and giving group of professionals, students, and advisors who joyfully assisted in the kitchen, the dining room, and at the sales and raffle tables.

The Friends & Donors

Dozens contributed so much, including corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, soup, salad, condiments, pies, ice cream, cookies, coffee, placemats, napkins, aprons, plaques, graphic artistry, printing, mailing, flowers, musicians, raffle prizes, and cash contributions to support our annual fundraiser.

The Residents, Staff, and Volunteers at our Home

For their months-long collection of donated goods, the baking of 2,000 scones, and the production of hand-made, delicately-fresh Palm Crosses, an important reminder of the Holy season.

Sister Jane with Bryant University Campus Ministry Volunteers

May God bless all of you who joined us for this annual tradition in support of our mission. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Summer Service 2018

Reflections by Amanda Bagnato

For the past year or so a verse from the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, when Mary visits her relative Elizabeth, has been ringing true as a kind of personal theme in my life. In Luke 1:45 Elizabeth says to Mary, "Blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

This verse perfectly describes how I felt before traveling from Broomfield, Colorado to serve as a Hospitality Aide at the St. Jeanne Jugan Residence in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. I had felt a strong call to come here and serve for the summer and knew that the Lord had promised me joy and fulfillment during my stay.

Although anxious about the unknowns of this east coast adventure, the moment I arrived at the airport near Providence, I was greeted by Sister Jane and fellow summer service intern, Jessica. Their warm smiles and welcoming embraces were the first example of how the Lord would fulfill all of the promises He had spoken to me.

In the days that followed, I began to get to know the Little Sisters, Residents, and staff with whom I would spend the next two months. I felt welcomed as family and loved as if I had always been here. During the first week, I was incredibly home sick but the joy and love that radiated from each member of this community brought so much consolation to my heart.

The days are filled with the pleasure of serving breakfast and lunch to the Residents, working alongside the Little Sisters on different projects, and helping with a variety of fun activities coordinated for the Residents. All of our tasks have enabled us to spend a lot of time getting to know the Residents and learning from them. Any moment I can spend with a Resident is truly a blessing because of the unique ways I am invited to serve and love each of them.

Planting Summer Annuals - Amanda, Jessica, and Sr. Jeanne

During a unique opportunity to attend a weekend retreat at the Novitiate for the Little Sisters in Queens, NY, Jessica and I were able to meet the postulants and novices who are on their way to becoming Little Sisters. Please pray for them! We also had the pleasure of meeting several other young women who are participating in the Spring into Service program at other Homes in the region.

With almost one month into my time of service here in Pawtucket, it is easy to see the gifts that the Lord has given to me. There is no question that the presence of the Lord in the Home's chapel truly defines this place and everyone in it is fully alive. Being able to attend daily Mass, to pray the Rosary every day with the Sisters and Residents, and to have the chapel just a few steps outside of my door are all things that I am blessed to have such easy access to. In addition, the friendships I have formed with everyone here have helped me feel a sense of family when I am so far away from home.

In all of these things I can see the beautiful ways that the Lord is fulfilling all of His promises to me for this summer. I can't wait to see what the next month brings!

Peace and blessings,

Amanda Bagnato

Amanda and Jessica at Queen of Peace in Queens, NY.

Please also enjoy Jessica's reflections which can be found on our website: http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org/

A Simple Message

What a joy to celebrate our newest centenarian!
Happy 100th Birthday, Louise!

As seen on the cover of this month's newsletter we are highlighting 150 years since the Little Sisters arrived in America. This jubilee year of celebration will be a year of grace and thanksgiving, a year of deep and prayerful reflection on God's providential care in our dedication and service to our elderly family, yesterday and today.

This upcoming sesquicentennial also reminds us that we would not be here today without generations of friends and benefactors like you. Our Mother Foundress Jeanne Jugan knew that in order for her mission to be fruitful she would need the help of others. So we too count on you, and call you as she would our extended family, for we are all called to be one family since we have the same Father in heaven.

As we approach this milestone we celebrate this family spirit bequeathed to us by St. Jeanne Jugan which continues to permeate all of our homes in America. Through God's grace, along with the help of capable and caring staff, countless dedicated volunteers, and your support, we have been able to fulfill our mission, her mission.

The Sisters and I thank you for your ongoing and generous support. Your gifts provide for the sustenance and maintenance of Jeanne Jugan Residence, but it your act of giving that is a most encouraging sign of friendship with the Little Sisters. Your generous support signals a belief in our mission, a confidence in our work, and demonstrates a compassion for those in our care.

We hope you will join us in the Spring of 2019 to celebrate this momentous occasion. Stay tuned….

God bless you. Sr. Mercy Stella Theresa, I.S.P

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PUT OUR UMBRELLAS AWAY!

Thank you to all supported the 2018 Winner-A-Day calendar fundraiser. The Raise the Roof Campaign was a wonderful success. We survived the winter thaw and early spring rain and our work on the roof is complete!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Craft Beer Tasting
October 3, 2018
The Guild, Pawtucket, RI

Turkey Drop
November 1-17, 2018
Jeanne Jugan Residence, Pawtucket, RI

Annual Christmas Bazaar
November 17, 2018
Jeanne Jugan Residence, Pawtucket, RI

For more information:
http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org/

Dear Little Sisters,

Please accept my contribution of $_____ in support of your mission.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

☐ **Please send me information on remembering the Little Sisters in my will or estate**

☐ **Please send me your quarterly Serenity magazine**

☐ **I have submitted a matching gift form through my employer**

Contributions can also be made online at
https://www.littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org/