



# In Thanksgiving



What a blessed year it has been! A commemorative year filled with celebration, praise and thanksgiving. The joy of this jubilee year was palpable in every one of our Homes across the country as each celebrated the 150th Anniversary of our congregation's arrival in the United States.

The first Little Sisters of the Poor arrived from France on American shores in September 1868 and within four years thirteen homes had been established in this country. Our mission began in Rhode Island in 1881. Jeanne Jugan Residence is a bit shy in years, but not so shy in our celebration! On May 4, Bishop Thomas J. Tobin and priests from the Diocese of Providence joined Little Sisters, Residents, staff, families, volunteers, and benefactors for a Mass of Thanksgiving.

The excitement began early that morning when Sisters, Residents, and families boarded a bus en route to the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence. Breathtaking and beautifully adorned with Easter lilies, azaleas, and deep blue hydrangeas, God's house was filled with a festive air and welcomed

a congregation of more than 300 who shared in this momentous occasion.

The celebration began with a procession led by the "Pilgrim Tapestry" which had made its own "pilgrimage" from our Mother House in France, travelling to locations of the beginnings of the congregation before departing for America and our present day Homes. Central to each of our Homes commemorative celebrations, the Belgian, hand-made tapestry represents the living presence of Saint Jeanne Jugan in the heart of each community and depicts the experience of our pioneering Little Sisters.

At the beginning of Mass Mother Provincial Alice Mary Monica recounted the arrival of the Little Sisters so many years ago and gave a brief, moving account of our history. At the conclusion of our Eucharistic celebration, guests enjoyed a

reception in the Cathedral Hall sharing in the joys of the day with deep gratitude and reverence for our Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan.

After Mass Bishop Tobin told the *Rhode Island Catholic*, "Just as the first disciples, the apostles, changed the world I think we can truly say the Little Sisters of the Poor around the world and in our country and in our own diocese here have really changed the world for the better in their own spirituality, their holiness and their generosity in serving the poor and the elderly."

In the words of Jeanne Jugan, "*Love God very much, so that you can look after the aged well, for it is Jesus whom you care for in them.*"

For more on the 150th Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence, including a photo gallery: <http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org/news-events/>



# Reflections on Spring into Service

by Mary Grace Stirton

This is my second summer working with the Little Sisters of the Poor and I expected the experience to be familiar and routine. Last summer, at St. Joseph Home in Enfield, Connecticut, I learned what it was like to work with the elderly and to enter into the loving family the Sisters create in their Homes. So upon my arrival at Jeanne Jugan Residence in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, I figured I had already “learned the ropes” of Spring into Service and knew what to expect and what was expected of me.

But God likes to surprise us! Last summer God helped me to become a stronger and happier person through the simple joys of interacting with the Residents and the Sisters. Last summer I became more open and outgoing versus the introverted individual I was before.

This summer, God built on that. The Homes of the Little Sisters of the Poor radiate love and peace and they stand out as a safe harbor of joy amidst the worldly distractions and stresses of our lives. This summer, in the steady schedule of Mass and prayer, in the quiet of this Home and in the Chapel, my faith and relationship with God has been strengthened. This summer, He came to reveal Himself to me in everything. This summer hasn't been about me learning new social skills. It has been about Him and a constant

awareness that everything contains His grace and blessing, that every interaction is simply a chance to interact with Him.

Father Caul, the retired priest with whom I am blessed to share a meal each morning captured the essence of this in a recent homily. During Mass around Trinity Sunday Father offered, “let the Holy Trinity wrap you so tightly in love that you feel it from the tips of your toes to the top of your head.” This focus on God results in a beauty that shines forth from your being. Every act and every moment is informed by this and everything you do will reveal God to those around you because of the focus on Him above all else.



Father Caul and Mary Grace

This has defined my summer and what I have pursued and what I have tried to become. What better place to undertake such a pursuit? The Sisters are perfect role models of the goal I hope to achieve! They have given their lives over in such pure love to Jesus. It shines through their actions and interaction.

One might often wonder how the Sisters radiate so much joy and affection every time they interact with a Resident. The answer: it is because in every face they see, every hand they touch, they are loving Him.

Please enjoy Laura's reflections at: <http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org/blog/>

## Resident Milestones

We are often blessed to witness and celebrate God's gifts of life and love among our Resident Family and it was our privilege to celebrate three milestone moments this year.

In May we celebrated the 100th birthday of our newest centenarian, Deolinda! We all rejoiced in this momentous occasion along with members of Deolinda's family and many friends from Jeanne Jugan Residence. Among all that Deolinda proudly shared about her long life we were impressed to learn that after returning to school in her forties she received top honors in accounting at Kenyon Business School. That her birthday falls on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima makes this a special day indeed.

On July 4th we marked two additional milestones when Resident



Ray and Dolores (left) and Mary and Oscar (center) celebrate 60 years of marriage. Deolinda (right) celebrates her 100th birthday.

couples Mary and Oscar and Raymond and Dolores celebrated their 60th wedding anniversaries. With joy and gratitude both couples reminisced about meeting for the first time and there were many coincidences! Each of the couples' first dates was at a popular spot, Jack Whitschi's Sports Arena in nearby Massachusetts. Both couples dated for about eight months and were married on the same day in two different

Churches in Pawtucket. The couples were introduced by a mutual friend and years later they worked for the Little Sisters of the Poor, “The Old Home,” as they called it. And now they live at Jeanne Jugan Apartments and of course remain very good friends!

Happy 100th Birthday, Deolinda! Happy 60th Anniversary Ray and Dolores, Mary and Oscar! Praise be to God!

## More than a decade of friendship

For the past fourteen years it has been our privilege to be invited to neighboring McCoy Stadium to share America's pastime with Boston's Triple-A affiliate, the Pawtucket Red Sox.

This annual summertime tradition was sparked by the friendship and generosity of longtime team owner, the late Ben Mondor, a tradition that continues today due to the kindness and partnership of the current PawSox organization.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who have supported the event over the years and look forward to enjoying the 2020 season at McCoy with our great friends at the PawSox!



Photo Credits: Lauren Clem, The Valley Breeze and the PawSox

## Honored and profoundly humbled

On May 15 the Little Sisters of the Poor received a Lumen Gentium Catholic Service Award from the Diocese of Providence.

The Lumen Gentium awards recognize individuals and groups for their contributions to the life of the Church and service to those most in need in the Diocese. The Little Sisters were the recipients of the award in the category of "Community Service and Charitable Outreach" in recognition of the more than 100 years of service in the Diocese ministering to the elderly at Jeanne Jugan Residence in Pawtucket.

Honored to be counted among many dedicated individuals and organizations who have contributed to the life of the Diocese, we were at the same time profoundly humbled. In an interview with the Rhode Island Catholic, Mother Mercy explained, "We don't like to be in the spotlight, but this is for the glory of God. The elderly are precious to society, they are the core of our society. Taking care of them is our mission as sisters. It is a gift from God."



Photo Credit: Laura Kilgus, RI Catholic

For more on the 2019 Lumen Gentium Awards - articles, profiles, and photos, go to: <http://www.littlesister-softhepoorpawtucket.org/news-events/>

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It is a blessing to return to Rhode Island. I served here more than thirty years ago and my arrival at Jeanne Jugan Residence was filled with the warmth and beauty of a place I remember from long ago. The Ocean State may be small in size but its inhabitants, particularly the Residents, staff members, and volunteers of this Home are mighty and strong in beauty, values, and faith.

My previous mission was at the Mullen Home in Denver, situated near the majestic Rocky Mountains. Here in Pawtucket I find myself once again amidst the grandeur of God's beautiful creation, near the splendor of the Atlantic Ocean. How fitting during this jubilee year! In 1868 seven courageous Little Sisters journeyed from France across that vast ocean to the American shoreline to establish their first Home in Brooklyn. More than 100 years later, the Congregation welcomed their first Residents in Rhode Island.

All year, the Little Sisters have celebrated this "great wave of charity,"



A warm oceanside welcome by members of Association Jeanne Jugan and our Spring into Service participants.

born in the humble heart of Saint Jeanne Jugan. We have been privileged to share with you, stories, documents, diaries, and histories from each of our Homes which have graced the pages of our publications — in print and online. We hope you have enjoyed the journey. Of course, every detail, every photo, and every reflection of every Home is centered on our Jeanne Jugan family — our Residents to whom our lives are dedicated. The moments of each one's history are a blessing, a gift from God. Let us be grateful!

Mother Mercy Stella Theresa, my predecessor, replaced me in Denver.

Mother Mercy remains grateful to you for your friendship and support during her six years serving at Jeanne Jugan Residence. With heartfelt gratitude she will remember each of you in prayer. Please pray for her too as she embarks on the next phase of her journey in her new Home, ministering to a new family.

On behalf of the Little Sisters and Residents here at our Home in Pawtucket, I extend my sincere gratitude for your support and care over the years as you have helped to provide for the many needs of this Home. I look forward to meeting many of you during my own journey at Jeanne Jugan Residence. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your many intentions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Sr. Patricia Mary*

### SAVE THE DATE

**August 21-29**  
Novena of Prayer to St. Jeanne Jugan

**August 30:**  
Feast Day of St. Jeanne Jugan

**September 14**  
Resident & Family Picnic

**October 7**  
Rosary Procession in the Garden

**November 16**  
Christmas Bazaar

**November 17-23**  
Turkey Drop

**December 2019**  
2020 Winner-A-Day Calendar

### Novena of Prayer Your special intentions

August 30 marks the Feast Day of St. Jeanne Jugan, Mother Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Our first Little Sisters and those who are alive today received a legacy from her – "to care for the elderly poor." Today there are many who collaborate in this mission with us. Thank you for helping us in our mission.

Each year as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of St. Jeanne Jugan, Residents and Sisters pray a nine day novena for all our benefactors. We invite you to send your prayer petitions to us.

