



Keep Calm and Carry Out!



Carry Out Collage features Grist Mill owners Greg and Sue Esmay, the Little Sisters, volunteers, OGM staff, and dinner guests. Top Center: long time OGM staffer Ryan and the late Sister Gertrude who, with Greg, began the St. Patrick's Day Dinner tradition more than a decade ago.

Last summer in the midst of the pandemic, Mother Patricia Mary received a beautiful letter of encouragement. The cover of the notecard read “Keep Calm and Carry On.” The Sisters later learned that this ubiquitous catchphrase could be found on tote bags, t-shirts, and even facemasks, altered also to a number of activities such as keep calm and run on, garden on, bake on, etc.

For our annual St. Patrick's Day fundraiser at The Old Grist Mill Tavern, perhaps we could have altered that phrase to “Keep Calm and Carry Out!” because on March 17th we

did just that! The 2021 Corned Beef & Cabbage Carry Out resulted in packaging more than 800 dinners, baking 1800 raisin scones, and selling hundreds of Pot of Gold tickets.

The carry-out format was brand new to us and we weren't sure how it would go. First, would the Grist Mill be able to host the event considering the challenges they have faced during the pandemic? Could vendors donate goods as they had in the past? Would volunteers be willing and able to help? Would the fear surrounding the coronavirus negatively affect ticket sales?

To our delight everyone was as supportive as ever! We remain grateful to Greg and Sue Esmay at The Old Grist Mill Tavern and their loyal staff, along with generous vendors, dedicated volunteers, each contributing to the success of the event. Finally, we offer our deepest gratitude to all of our friends and benefactors who supported this year's dinner, albeit in a different manner, and who always help us in our mission.

Perhaps the best alternative to that ‘Keep Calm’ catch phrase is “Keep Calm and Trust God.”



Presence, Service, Dedication

“Be kind, especially with the infirm. Love them well ... Oh yes! Be kind. It is a great grace God is giving you. In serving the aged, it is he himself whom you are serving.”

SAINT JEANNE JUGAN

These words of our foundress are lived out each day and are manifested in the compassionate care of our working family. For Maria, Ruth, Dilma, and Elizabeth, representing 110 years of combined service to our Home, kindness, love, and compassion have been paramount in their daily work. Especially during the pandemic, each of these



dedicated employees ensured that the days of isolation were never lonely for our Residents. They were always near to offer a kind word, a gesture, a smile.

Each May the entire country marks National Nurses Week. We prefer to rejoice in every staff

member at our Home for their faithful **PRESENCE** to our Residents, and their steadfast **SERVICE** and **DEDICATION** to our mission. Earlier this year it was our privilege to recognize these four special members of our Jeanne Jugan Family in celebration

of their retirement. It is our hope that they will reflect on their experiences at Jeanne Jugan Residence with fondness and fulfillment and know of our deep gratitude and prayers. Residents Marie, Eva, Ernie, Father Caul, Annette, Betty, and Ray said it best:

“You know we’re going to miss you terribly.”

“Thank you for all your kindness to me.”

“Good luck! We love you! We always will.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

Maria Pimentel – 44 years
Elizabeth DePina – 29 years
Dilma DeFaria – 20 years
Ruth Goncalves – 17 years

At 102 – Lending a Helping Hand

One of two Resident centenarians, Deolinda was born during the first pandemic of 1919. Now 102 years young, she is helping during the current coronavirus pandemic.

One day during weekly testing surveillance, Chuck, a Covid-19 response team member, mentioned how his facemask tugged too tightly. Deolinda came to the rescue and knit a navy blue “ear saver” band to help keep Chuck’s facemask comfortably in place. It was a special gift of appreciation for his kind and gentle ways.

Many of our Residents enjoy knitting and crocheting, crafts that have been “good company” during these quiet days of isolation. When the pandemic ends, we hope that Chuck will save his ear-saver band as a souvenir of sorts, a special reminder of Deolinda’s thoughtful gesture.



Principle #1 - Charity

For more than 135 years, the Knights of Columbus have responded to the needs of others. Charity is at the heart of their work and for decades the Little Sisters of the Poor have been grateful recipients of that charity.

During the pandemic, the Knights have provided assistance to many of our Homes throughout the country. For example, to St. Martin's Home in Baltimore, MD, members delivered one thousand masks, food and cleaning supplies. Near Chicago, they held a water drive and delivered six thousand bottles of water and collected \$13,500 in donations for our home in Palatine, IL. Twenty gallons of sanitizer and truckloads of paper products and masks were delivered to St. Joseph's Home in Louisville, KY. For our Home in Pawtucket, Rhode Island state and local councils made extraordinary and generous donations providing PPE and supplies for the day-to-day needs of our Home.

Forever witnesses to Christian charity and fraternal assistance, the Knights of Columbus have been steadfast in their support. Whether leading processions for liturgical celebrations or through their generous response to our annual Easter ham drop appeal, we are most grateful for their genuine concern for us. The Knights are like our big brothers, our guardian angels. To our dear and faithful Knights: Be assured of our prayers for you and for your founder, Blessed Michael McGivney.



Today, God Provided You!

Since our founding, "begging" for contributions has been at the heart of our mission. We rely on the charity of our community, and our friends and benefactors are the instruments through which God sustains our work. Like our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, we believe that if we are faithful to our mission of caring for the poor, God will provide. Today, God provided you!

Because of your overwhelming and generous response to the 2021 Winner-A-Day calendar mailing, we raised enough funds to purchase the refrigerated begging van, and it has arrived! With increased cargo capacity and refrigeration plus remote temperature control, this lessens our worries about perishable goods and enables us to accept the entirety of donations offered for our Home. We cannot wait to get on the road!

With the promise of our prayers for you each day during our collecting rounds, we thank you for your generosity!



A blessing by Rev. James F. Quigley, O.P.

"Oh God, you are never far off from those who serve you. With fatherly protection you always guard those who trust in you. By your grace, be the guide going before those who use this van, and be the companion to sustain them on their way. By your favor, protect them from adversity so that they may arrive safely at their destination always, and accomplish what they set out to do."

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

You may or may not be aware that Pope Francis proclaimed this year a special "Year of St. Joseph." In his accompanying apostolic letter "With a Father's Heart," the Pope stated that God's plan was at work through Joseph. He is a model of faith and teaches us that God works through us despite our fears and weakness. God has a plan for each of us. Ask St. Joseph to protect you and to lead you to walk in his way of holiness, close to the heart of Jesus and Mary.



Joseph led a hidden life, ordinary like most. No wonder St. Jeanne Jugan in contemplating St. Joseph, head and provider of the Holy Family, turned to him with unshakeable confidence and chose him as Protector of the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Many are the stories in the history of our homes of his care for the material and spiritual needs of Residents, staff, sisters and benefactors – needs for butter, beer, and ice cream... or the graces of a peaceful death and reconciliation with family. Thank you St. Joseph! He will help you too!

Thank you friends for your care, concern, support, and prayers. You are so appreciated. This past year has been difficult for many – our trust and faith continues to be strong. We truly need one another. God does indeed have a plan for each of us.

We ask, quoting a beautiful prayer in part, from a Carmelite Monastery: "Enfold us and those we love in your prayer, father Joseph. Obtain for us the daily bread of grace we need for this life, so that we may come at last in your company to the eternal joy of Heaven."

May God bless you!

Gratefully,

Sr. Patricia Mary

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEADFAST SUPPORT



Each year we send to you many communications – newsletters, invitations, with some raffles in between, and we are eternally grateful for your support. Especially this past year, as our collecting rounds have been curtailed and some of our events have been canceled, you continued to respond.

Amidst quarantine, financial instability, and general uneasiness, you put aside your personal worries and reached out to assist us with the many needs of our Home. Your every reply lifted our spirits and encouraged us in our mission.

**We hope you might help us again.
Please prayerfully consider purchasing a ticket(s) for the new:**

Little Sisters – Big Bucks Raffle for a chance to win \$5,000!

*Proceeds will support a new
Nurse Call System*

- The current Nurse Call System is antiquated and repair parts are no longer available.
- With a cost estimate of \$100,000, raffle proceeds will cover about one third of the total.
- Tickets are \$100 each but the chance of winning the \$5,000 grand prize is just 1 in 400!

Act soon! Ticket sales will end when the 400 tickets are sold.
(raffle ticket application enclosed)



Dear Little Sisters:
Please accept my contribution of \$ _____
in support of the Nurse Call System. I do not wish to participate in the raffle but would like to help you with this project.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Contributions can also be made online at www.littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org