



A Journey Begun

In our country and in our world, these past few years have brought with them no shortage of hardships and disappointments: sickness, death, loneliness, fatigue, uncertainty. Who hasn't, even if just for a moment, asked God to push the "fast-forward" button so that we could move through the heaviness of the current time and on to brighter days? Who hasn't, even if just for a moment, begged Him to hit "rewind" so that we could return to the normalcy we feel has so unjustly, so suddenly, been stolen from us? As a young sister just beginning her religious life, I can't help but feel a bit embarrassed to admit that for me, these past two years, while difficult, have not been only a time of grief and pain. In a mysterious way, these years have been the fruit and fulfillment of God's promises to me, of a journey begun in 2017 and one that is still in progress.

While 2020 will go down in history as the "Year of the Pandemic," when phrases like "social-distance" and "self-quarantine" became commonplace, I will remember 2020 as the year I promised God, in the presence of His faithful people, to be chaste, poor, obedient, and hospitable, to be a Little Sister of the Poor, out of love for Him and His elderly poor. While 2021 will be remembered for its political turmoil, economic woes, and vaccination controversies, I will look back on it fondly as the year of my first assignments, beginning in Totowa, NJ, and now here in Pawtucket, RI. So often and too easily we overlook God's goodness to us. How grateful I am for the opportunity to reflect on the love He has manifested for me through this move to Jeanne Jugan Residence!



As a born and bred Southerner (I'm from Louisiana), I never dreamed I'd end up over 1,000 miles from home, living in the smallest state in the country. But God's ways are not our ways, and how I thank Him for that! Yes, while the climate, the food, the accent, the interactions are all very different here compared to life in Southern Louisiana, the spirit and the heart of people, their innate goodness, remains. How thankful I am for the warm welcome given to me by the Sisters, Residents, Employees, and so many others associated with Jeanne Jugan Residence! Countless thoughtful attentions, gentle reminders of names and titles, and kind attempts to make me feel included have been for me so many renewals in the benevolence of God and His people.

"Home" is a place where a person can believe himself to be accepted, loved, appreciated. As Little Sisters, we vow ourselves to make this a reality for our elderly Residents, but they, in their simplicity, have no need for a vow — here and in every other Home I've lived in, they show themselves to be experts in this already!

I arrived in Totowa, NJ, in 2020 not knowing how long our Lord would ask me to remain there, and I've arrived in Pawtucket in 2021 in much the same way. Whether it be one day, one month, or one year — God has led me this far, and I would be a fool to doubt His loving Providence now. As I continue to follow God's call to serve Him in the elderly poor, and as I prepare to meet His will for me in 2022, I invite all reading this little reflection to join me in a special preparation. Let us not ask God to "fast-forward", and let us not ask Him to "rewind" either. Let us ask for the grace to live in the present moment, day-by-day, wherever, whatever, however God asks us to be! For me, that's living at Jeanne Jugan Residence. May the Lord reveal Himself and His plans to you too, that you may follow Him wherever He leads!

Know of my prayers for you, Dear Family of our Home, and of my gratitude for all you've done to welcome me. May God bless y'all!

Sr. Anastasia Grace



Eva and Shirley welcome Sr. Anastasia Grace to our Home.

Pet therapy enhances Residents' lives



October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Adjacent to the entrance of our Home, a statue of St. Francis greets everyone who visits our Home. We like to believe he is especially welcoming to Ollie, Una, Francis, Lily — the therapy pets of Jeanne Jugan Residence.

Upon their first encounter with either a cockatoo, dog,

cat, or bunny, some of our Residents are timid. But with a little coaxing these friendly and sometimes funny visitors melt the hearts of our elderly family. Mostly, they are very intuitive. For instance, Francis the cat follows Sister Laurelliya everywhere! And, after some very busy days and nights when Sister takes a rest, Francis does too!

Honor the Elderly

In establishing the annual World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Pope Francis encouraged young people to honor the elderly, to learn from them, reach out to them, make them feel loved, wanted, and not forgotten. We have been blessed by students from the greater Providence area who have volunteered at our Home.



As part of their priestly formation, Michael Stabile and Caleb Goff have begun their ministry at Jeanne Jugan Residence. We look forward to their weekly visits and offer prayers for their discernment journey at the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence.



Because their weekly visits have been postponed due to the pandemic, the senior class at La Salle Academy sent "love and sunshine from afar" in the form of three cheerful bouquets delivered by the office of Campus Ministry. We hope to see them soon!



For his Troop 158 Eagle Scout project, Ben Stamp constructed three raised garden beds, complete with annuals and perennials. Flanking both sides of the trellis that leads to the garden path, they mark the beginning and end of the outdoor Stations of the Cross, an Eagle Scout project designed and constructed by his brother David back in 2017. Carrying on a family legacy of volunteerism at our Home, these fine young men have created a beautiful space for serene and contemplative walks.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Celebrating Christmas in July

St. Jeanne Jugan often said "Making the elderly happy, that is what counts," and the elegant couple from the North Pole did just that! Clad in fur-lined and embroidered velvet, Mr. and Mrs. Claus brought child-like joy to our Home. Reciting Samuel Clements' Twas the Night Before Christmas, Santa ended the classic tale with the most authentic 'Ho Ho Ho!' you have ever heard! May God bless you, John and Maria, for making our inaugural Christmas in July very special!



Christmas is a Time of Giving

Christmas is a busy time of year. We hope that as you check off your Christmas lists, you might help us fill 100 Christmas gift bags for our elderly Residents. Some ideas:

- Christmas Cookies and Candy
- Personal Care items – tissues, body wash, body and hand lotion, toothpaste, mouthwash, denture care.
- Also, might you help us with holiday baking! We would be grateful for cake, cookie and muffin mixes.



An Early Christmas Gift Thank You!

Thank You! With deep gratitude to all who participated in the Little Sisters Big Bucks Raffle, we have purchased the new Nurse Call System and we expect to be up and running before Christmas!



VERY MERRY Christmas Raffle

Our Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair is postponed again until next year. We regret that we will not see our many friends who include Jeanne Jugan Residence on their annual holiday festival circuit. Our VERY MERRY Christmas Raffle is a replacement of sorts. Enter for a chance to win a Samsung© 55" Smart TV, an Apple© Watch, or cash prizes! The raffle form is enclosed and your support is greatly appreciated. Good Luck!



MISSION STATEMENT

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our MISSION is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family, and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.



Little Sisters of the Poor Annual Turkey Drop Thank You!



Your generous donation will be used for Thanksgiving Dinner and meals for our elderly family throughout the year!

Thank you for your support of our mission and for helping us care for our Jeanne Jugan Family

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

"Each morning Lord, you fill us with your kindness."

The Divine Office, which we pray daily, is filled with hymns of praise and supplication. The prayer above was included in a recent morning recitation and during this season of Thanksgiving it calls to mind the Lord's infinite kindness – His kindness manifested in our Residents, benefactors, staff, and so many others we encounter along our daily journey to Him.

Through your many kindnesses, your concern, prayers, and generosity, we know God is working in you and we are so very thankful for the blessing of you. The Lord's kindness is also revealed in our working family in their dedication to our Residents. Together, you sustain us and help us in our care of our elderly family.

I hope you've enjoyed reading



What fun we had during the 2022 Winner-A-Day calendar photo session! A special thanks to Lauren Clem and Sue Taylor, members of our Advisory Council, who provide valuable assistance with this annual fundraiser.

the preceding pages and tasted the happiness of our Residents and some of the activities that truly keep them young at heart. They are appreciative of the family spirit of our Home and those who touch their lives and hearts, including you! The cover article written by Sister Anastasia Grace expresses

well the joy of each Little Sister of the Poor. We too are blessed with the Lord's kindness in our vocation. It is a great grace! It is our joy! Please pray for vocations to follow St. Jeanne Jugan.

Our gratitude, above all, goes to the Lord, for his gifts of love are countless and his goodness infinite. May we continue to recognize God's presence in our midst and give Him thanks and praise Him on Thanksgiving and always.

Let us also pray for our country, our world, and for an increase in respect and love for our neighbor. We have been created in the image and likeness of God. He lives in us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Thanksgiving blessings and peace to you and all those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sr. Patricia Mary

A MESSAGE FROM SR. MARY VINCENT



We recently received notice that due to a change the organization's direction, we will no longer be a member agency of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. We are grateful for their many decades of support and appreciate the good work they do for the greater community, including support of food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. This change, beginning January 1, leaves a void in our collecting rounds, which included 250 lbs of produce each week! We would be grateful for your help in filling the gap as we work to find additional resources.



Dear Little Sisters:
Please accept my contribution of
\$ _____
in support of your mission.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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