



# A New Arrival for the Residence

After many years, Jeanne Jugan Residence has finally received a long-awaited blessing.

In late September, the Sisters celebrated the arrival and installation of the new generator. The new generator replaces the original unit that had been in use for more than forty years since the Home's construction in 1979.

The search for a new generator began in 2018, when staff members identified it as a priority in a list of needs for the Home. The following year, the New England weather revealed just how necessary that upgrade was: during a winter storm, the electricity went out and the generator temporarily failed before kicking back on.

Thankfully, no one had to be evacuated during the brief period, but Sister Patricia Mary says that was when the Home started looking urgently for a solution. "It was as if our prayers were answered immediately" she remembers. "We received a call from a dear friend and benefactor who offered to help with a significant contribution." Divine Providence.

Then, in August of 2020, an even bigger crisis occurred. On August 5, Tropical Storm Isaias tore through the area, knocking out power to the Home along with much of Pawtucket. The generator initially kicked in, but within a few hours was spewing smoke and had drawn the attention of the local fire department.

That evening, as night descended on the neighborhood, the generator went dark. Sisters and staff members, many who returned even after their shift had ended, immediately launched into an emergency plan they'd practiced many times, relocating Residents to the first floor and getting those with the greatest medical needs ready for evacuation. Fire and rescue teams from ten local communities responded to assist, their emergency vehicles lining Sayles Avenue. First responders carried Residents down the stairs because the elevators were out of service.

Within a few days, all had returned safely to the Home and the excitement had died down, but the forty-year-old generator would not be revived. The Home borrowed a generator from the Pawtucket Emergency Management Agency for a short time before renting a temporary one that was fortunately covered by insurance.

Though staff members were already working with vendors at that point to understand the Home's electricity needs, the ongoing pandemic complicated the situation. Restrictions limited access to the home, and supply shortages meant once easy-to-access materials could now take weeks or months to arrive. According to former maintenance director John Medeiros, who oversaw the project through much of its completion prior to



his retirement last year, what should have taken several months quickly turned into a multi-year project.

"It was supposed to be a six or seven month project, and then things just kind of escalated from there because of the pandemic," he says.

According to current maintenance director Dan Aronhalt, who took over the project from Medeiros, the new generator is a significant upgrade over the old one. On the old system, many of the home's features that were not considered essential and were not attached to the generator. "What's nice about this new one," Dan explained, "is it incorporates 100 percent of the building as far as electrical. Everything is on the generator."

On the new system, not only is the entire Home hooked up to the generator, but the setup offers more power than the old system. Rhode Island and federal health requirements mandate nursing homes keep enough fuel on hand to run an emergency generator for three days. On the new system, Aronhalt says, the Home's capacity far exceeds that. "With this one, they could get away with ten days if they had to," he says.

Even after the contract was signed, the project was further delayed by supply shortages. At one point, Sister Patricia Mary says, the Home had to provide extra funds on top of the already anticipated cost due to the increase in material prices. In total, she says, the new generator and its installation will cost the Home close to \$1 million. The project was made possible because of a significant gift from a generous benefactor, a grant from a local foundation, and support from dedicated friends of the Little Sisters.

*continued on page 2*

continued from page 1

In August of this year, the long-awaited generator finally arrived. The home contracted with Advance Electrical of Smithfield and their crew had a taste of the Little Sisters' generosity when they were treated to tea and cookies as they were assembling the new system. After many tests and coordination with Rhode Island Energy, the generator was installed in September, to everyone's relief. Aronhalt says it was an exciting moment for the home.

"I'm very excited to be bringing in a brand new system that's going to be under my wing,"

he says. "This is very timely with the way the state and federal rules are changing. They want to see facilities have more and more coverage. New facilities that are replacing generators now, they're not getting the same size generator. These are things that the state is requiring."

With the winter weather arriving soon, the Sisters are glad to be able to assure residents' safety. With God's Providence, the new generator will continue to serve the home for many years.

– Lauren Clem, Advisory Council



## Give me a heart for the elderly



The opening paragraph of our Mission Statement contains the following, "Together with a diverse network of collaborators, we serve the elderly poor in over 30 countries around the world." The operative phrase: **Network of Collaborators**. We thank God every day for their selfless, helpful, and cheerful ways!

In the Spring of 2020 we described for our readers the extraordinary dedication of our employees in the face of the very uncertain and worrisome pandemic. Their devotion, commitment, and love for our Residents knew no bounds. Now more than two and a half years later, the constancy of their care and concern continues to make all the difference in the lives of our elderly family.

Our volunteers have also been steadfast in their dedication. With the recent easing of COVID restrictions we were able to welcome them back to our Home. Whether helping to feed Residents, providing musical entertainment, calling bingo, or simply keeping company, we have been blessed by their faithful service to us and our Jeanne Jugan Family.



*Lord Jesus, you taught that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for you. Your servant Jeanne Jugan took these words seriously. Moved by the Holy Spirit she opened her heart and her home to the elderly poor. Inspired by her example I, too, want to be a friend to the elderly.*

*Teach me to reverence older persons, to walk at their pace, to listen attentively to their stories, to learn from their wisdom, and*

*to generously offer to help in time of need. Help us, together, to envision a world full of hope.*

*Through the intercession of St. Jeanne Jugan, **give me a heart for the elderly**, a heart that will love them with your own merciful heart.*

©LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR





## Au revoir

Sister Anastasia Grace and her two novitiate companions have departed the United States for Paris, France to continue their formation. Joining several other young Little Sisters from around the world, they will immerse themselves in French language and culture, serving the elderly poor in one of our many Homes in France and Belgium during the next two years.

They will remain in France for their final year of formation at our motherhouse, La Tour Saint Joseph, culminating in their perpetual profession, after which each Little Sister will be assigned to serve in any one of twenty provinces around the world.

Sister Anastasia Grace made her first profession in October 2020 at St. Ann's Novitiate in Queens, NY. Since arriving at Jeanne Jugan Residence in 2021, she has been generously and lovingly serving our Residents.

Please pray with us that God guide them and keep them steadfast in their commitment to serve!

Au revoir et que Dieu vous bénisse ~ Until we meet again, may God bless you!

## Why I Give

The Tracey family grew up hearing about the Little Sisters of the Poor since childhood. Our father, Leo Tracey, started donating to the Little Sisters back in the 1960's. Our brother, Stephen did his community service at the Holy Trinity House when he was a student at St. Raphael Academy.

The family business, Tracey Gear & Precision Shaft, has continued giving to the Little Sisters ever since. Not only monetarily, but donating our time to pick up other donations and deliver them to the Jeanne Jugan Residence. During these deliveries we have seen first hand the loving care the Residents receive. There are many great charities, few of them have such a beautiful and straightforward mission — to love and care for the elderly.

So, Why do we give? Because the work the Little Sisters do in giving love, respect and dignity to the poor and elderly is selfless and inspiring. The Little Sisters are “spiritual rock stars,” heroes who do the work of God tirelessly and always with joy.

We have known the Little Sisters of the Poor for over 60 years. It is our hope that the Little Sisters, with the help of all benefactors, old and new, will thrive and continue their blessed work for years to come.

### *The Tracey Family*



Photo from the Tracey Family archives



*Jeanne Jugan always thanked her benefactors by praying for them – and she thanked God at the same time. “God has blessed me,” she said, “because I always thanked his Providence... What gratitude we owe our benefactors ... What could we do for the elderly without them?” Like Saint Jeanne Jugan, we recognize that our benefactors are indispensable partners in our mission. And like her, we pray for them everyday!*

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE

We very much enjoy reading the thoughtful notes our benefactors include with their donations. Sometimes the gift is accompanied by an expression of gratitude for a prayer answered or reassuring words such as, "good luck with the fundraiser" or "thank you for all you do." Sometimes we receive a request for prayers for a special intention. Recently, we were inspired by these words shared by a thoughtful donor,



*"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up."*  
 —Thessalonians 5:11

Encourage one another. That is exactly what you do for us! Your thoughtful generosity helps us with the many projects at our Home, and equally important, you encourage us in our ministry.

As you read in the preceding pages, the generator is up and running. It was a very extensive project (more than two years in the making.) We are grateful for your support of this project and other significant projects at our Home. In the midst of the pandemic you helped us to purchase a new nurse call system, new commercial washer and dryers, and large conveyer dishwasher, the refrigerated begging van, and a new commercial air conditioning unit. Your contributions also helped us with new fire doors, a new elevator door operating system, the

list goes on. Extraordinary! THANK YOU! We are so very grateful!

Moreover, your gifts have helped us during a challenging period for our Congregation. The Little

Sisters have found it necessary to depart from a number of Homes throughout the country. The decisions are driven by a combination of aging buildings that are too costly to restore and a decline in vocations. As Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica has stated, "As part of a strategic plan aimed at strengthening our ministry and bolstering the quality of our religious and community life, we Little Sisters of the Poor have recognized the need to withdraw from a certain number of homes in the United States, while at the same time dedicating our resources to much needed upgrades and reconstruction projects in several others."

So, for all of us here in Pawtucket, your prayers and contributions are a source of great encouragement! You help us repair and restore our aging home and at the same time help us to care for our elderly family. With the assurance of our prayers for you, I offer my deepest and heartfelt gratitude for your thoughtful generosity. Please pray for vocations!

May God bless you,  
*Sr. Patricia Mary*

### Little Sisters of the Poor



**2023 Winner A Day Calendar Coming Soon**

### Our Wish List

The Little Sisters of the Poor would be grateful for your donation of Kleenex, Hand Sanitizer, Mouthwash, Bodywash, Body Lotion



## ANNUAL TURKEY DROP

**Sunday, November 13 –  
 Saturday, November 19  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

For more information or to make special arrangements call 401-723-4314.

## VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



**Details Enclosed**



*Au revoir! I will keep you in my prayers. Please pray for me!*

Dear 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](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpawtucket.org)*