



Celebrating a Month with St. Jeanne Jugan

The month of August was dedicated to acquainting our Residents and employees with the life, work and legacy of St. Jeanne Jugan, or refreshing their memories of her. Each day, Sr. Mary Alphonsus shared local and world news in her morning report over the public address system, followed by a three to four-minute presentation on the life of our Mother Foundress. Sister would read a short passage about her life and then give an explanation of the facts of Jeanne's humble beginnings in Cancale, the loss of her father at a young age, her determination, the guidance and example she received from those around her, and then the choices she made that led her to dedicate her life to the elderly poor.

Once a week, Sr. Mary Alphonsus was joined by Sr. Joseph for a gathering in the foyer with the Residents, for a short video and discussion, followed by a tempting treat. They spoke of who Anne Chauvin was, and how she was connected to the life of St. Jeanne Jugan. The gatherings further explored how Jeanne treated those in her care, and how her work and mission spread. They spoke of how the Congregation expanded to other countries as more young women chose to follow in the footsteps of Jeanne Jugan.

Unfortunately, due to a COVID outbreak in the house, some of the weekly meetings had to be cancelled. Fortunately, during the last week of August, the Sisters and Residents were able to meet again and two special guests were invited for this occasion. History came to life as Jeanne Jugan wheeled Anne Chauvin into the foyer to meet and greet the Residents. They gave a recap of how they met, how their lives were intertwined, and what life was like in the early days of the Congregation. To celebrate this momentous and historic meeting, our Association Jeanne Jugan members

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served root beer floats, which were enjoyed by all.

The feast of St. Jeanne Jugan took place on August 30. We began the day with a special Mass with Fr. Joseph Johnson, a dear friend of the Congregation, as the main celebrant. The organist at the Cathedral, Lawrence Lawyer, as well as one of the Cathedral cantors, added musical and vocal talents to this beautiful Mass. Father Johnson's homily spoke of Jeanne's virtue of humility and of the good she brought to the world with her life's work.

The day continued with a fabulous meal. It was carefully prepared for everyone in the Home by our kitchen staff, and was enjoyed by all. A short afternoon rest was followed by a well-attended “Big Bucks BINGO” that brought lots of smiles, and made for many happy winners!

The Sisters joined in the fun and helped the Residents in playing the special dollar game BINGO. A variety of games including some \$2 games held the attention and the appreciation of the Residents who normally play 10 cent BINGO each week. When a Sister won a game, the prize was for a Resident. The winning continued the following Sunday, when the Mission collection box was overflowing with single dollar bills! The afternoon gathering concluded with a tasty

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A Journey with St. Joseph

Charlie Bulger, a novice in formation from the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus in St. Paul, Minnesota, set out on a month-long pilgrimage experience. The purpose of this experiment is to teach novices to trust in God and his Providence to provide for their needs. Each novice is given a backpack, a one-way bus ticket, and \$35 as he begins his journey. Charlie's pilgrimage led him to our Home on Exchange Street.

The destination Charlie had chosen for his pilgrimage was the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in order to see the staircase that is said to have been built by St. Joseph. His goal was to see the staircase on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, May 1. He left St. Paul and traveled through Kansas City, Missouri, then to Oklahoma City and on to Albuquerque. He succeeded in his goal, stepping through the doors of the Loretto Chapel on May 1. Charlie reflected, "It was a very moving experience as I sat in the chapel and replayed the two weeks that had led me to that spot. God and the prayers of St. Joseph had delivered me to that spot."

His return trip brought him to Lawrence, Kansas, through West Des Moines, and on to St. Cloud, Minnesota. While pondering his final days of pilgrimage, he wondered if the Little Sisters of the Poor had a Home in St. Paul. He was surprised to find out that it was located just down the street from his novitiate!

Charlie explained his pilgrimage to Mother Theresa and asked if she could help him. Mother welcomed him to Holy Family Residence and invited him to rest a day after his travels. The second day she sent him to work with Sr. Joseph Marie. Charlie shared, "I found myself laughing to God. Here I was in the final days of my Joseph pilgrimage, working with Sr. Joseph Marie in the Holy Family Residence. As we worked, we talked about discernment, vocation, my pilgrimage, St. Joseph, and the Little Sisters. It was an amazing experience."

Charlie and Sister Joseph Marie spent the entire day cleaning the auditorium stage, which was covered with decorations from every holiday of the year. Despite Charlie's believing it would be impossible to finish, the hours passed quickly with conversation, and eventually, everything was cleared off the stage and put in the proper place.

Sr. Joseph Marie and Charlie then went outside and took a picture standing before the statue of the Holy Family in front of the Home. Charlie declared, "What a fitting end to my St. Joseph Pilgrimage!" Sr. Joseph Marie inquired, "Do you have a devotion to Joseph?" When he told her that he did, she took him back inside the Home and soon after, she handed him a one-inch-tall statue of St. Joseph, explaining, "Every Little Sister of the Poor receives this



statue at her profession, and she carries it with her every day for the rest of her life. Keep him with you and pray to Joseph." Charlie revealed, "In that moment, I felt as if the Lord had just tied the bow on my pilgrimage. That was why he brought me there."

Though only at the Home a few days, Charlie was struck by the care shown to the Residents. He observed the obvious affection shared between the Residents and the Sisters. In speaking with Sr. Joseph Marie, Charlie said, "I could hear the deep love she had for the sick and dying. Clearly, she was dedicated to the mission of the Little Sisters. I pray that more women will respond to the call to serve Jesus in this way. Truly, the Little Sisters are a beautiful witness to the value of every human life and God's closeness to the sick and the aged."

We are delighted to know that Charlie has returned to Holy Family Residence for the fall semester as part of his continuing studies. He will spend two days each week at the Home assisting with maintenance projects, reading at Mass, teaching classes on the Eucharistic Revival, as well as devoting special one-to-one time with our Residents. We pray that St. Joseph will inspire Charlie and continue to guide his path!

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treat of a choice of delicious apple, lemon or strawberry-rhubarb pie served a-la-mode. This joyous and beloved feast day concluded in the true ‘family spirit’ as Residents and Sisters gathered together in the chapel to offer a special rosary and Evening Prayer honoring St. Jeanne Jugan and thanking her again for the spirit she left to us.

The month dedicated to Jeanne Jugan ended on a high note on August 31, with the dining room teeming with Residents for a short presentation on the culture and geography of France, beginning in Cancale, the birthplace of Jeanne Jugan. It also included the cities and towns where Homes of the Little Sisters of the Poor were established by our Foundress. Classical music added to the ambience as the Residents enjoyed a taste of

authentic French cuisine originating in Brittany in the 12th century. Two Little Sisters made French crepes “à la Bretagne” which were served hot from the griddle, accompanied by cold apple cider. The room was abuzz with enjoyment as the crepes were devoured with delight!

It was a fabulous conclusion to a month that focused on the saintly woman who dedicated her life to the care of the elderly. Jeanne Jugan selflessly cared for the needs of the poor and inspired a multitude of other women throughout the years to follow in her footsteps. The Residents and employees came away with a better understanding of her life, her work, the Congregation, and the family spirit permeating each Home. May the spirit of Jeanne Jugan continue to fill our hearts and our Home each day!



IT'S BACK! SMALLER, BUT JUST AS GOOD!

Have you made your list? Have you checked it twice?
Our holiday helpers are all set to assist you with your shopping list and more!
After a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19, we are happy to announce
the Christmas Boutique is coming back!

It will be a little smaller in scale, but the same in holiday spirit.
Our Boutique volunteers have been busily preparing for this event,
and are excited to welcome you.

Please join us on the weekend of
November 18, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and
November 19, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Christmas Boutique began over forty years ago with a one-day craft sale, along with a bake sale. Over the years, our gifted crafters, including Residents, Sisters, and volunteers, have shared their talents and areas of expertise, creating exquisite gifts to capture the attention and delight of recipients of all ages. Our Christmas Shoppe will be filled with items for everyone on your list!

There will be raffles and a silent auction, along with festive gift baskets, crocheted items, the Winery, and handmade jewelry for sale.

The bake sale will feature delightful temptations for the taste buds and be sure to plan to partake in our famous Ham Dinner!

Mark your calendars, put on your favorite Christmas sweater, and come and join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and festivities.

Santa's planning to be there — will you?



MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for the many blessings we receive from family members, volunteers, and benefactors, both near and far, who share their resources with our elderly here at Holy Family Residence. We look forward to seeing many of you in person at our upcoming Christmas Boutique!



Health care staffing, which is difficult throughout the country, continues to challenge us. Like all health care facilities, we continue searching for additions to our dedicated nursing staff who are so vital to our Home.

We are planning to update the wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) throughout the building in the coming months. This project will improve the internet access for all in the Home. The proceeds from this newsletter will help us to achieve this goal.

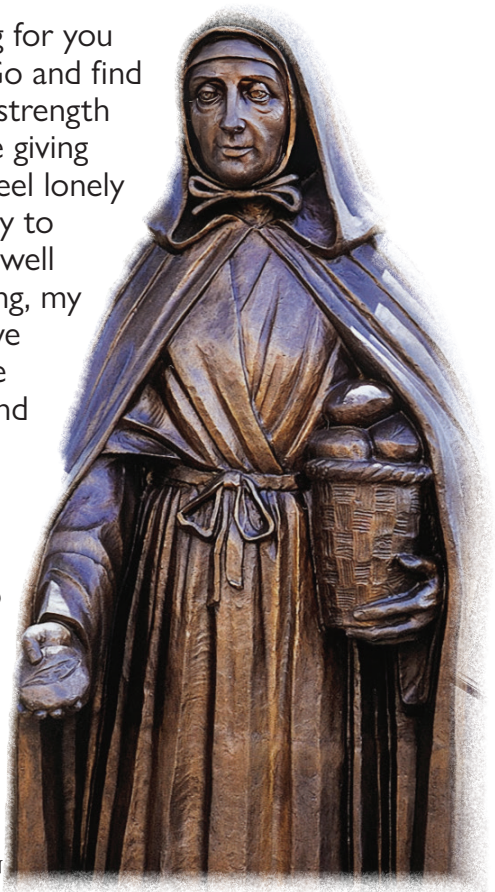
The Synod on Synodality held in Rome presents an opportunity for the Catholic Church to "...learn through her experience which processes can help her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open herself to mission," according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the work of all who are involved in this three-year process.

The holiday season is just around the corner. As you gather with your family for a Thanksgiving celebration, be assured of our gratitude for all that you do for our Residents. We send you best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and ensure you that you are remembered in the daily prayers of the Sisters and Residents of our Home!

May God bless you,
Mother Theresa

“Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Go and find him when your strength and patience are giving out, when you feel lonely and helpless. Say to him: ‘You know well what is happening, my dear Jesus. I have only you. Come to my aid...’ And then go your way. And don’t worry about knowing how you are going to manage. It is enough to have told our good Lord. He has an excellent memory.”

ST. JEANNE JUGAN



WISH LIST

- Coffee (Regular Cans, unflavored, Folgers, Maxwell House, Hills Bros. etc.)
- Kleenex
- Double A Batteries
- Mouthwash
- Toothpaste
- Bodywash

WAYS TO GIVE

General Gifts:

Either one time or sign up online for a recurring gift of any amount at the frequency you choose.

Tribute Gift:

In honor of someone for a Birthday, Anniversary or other special occasion.

Memorial Gift:

In memory of a loved one or friend.

Planned Giving:

Consider making a legacy gift through a Living Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust, Life Insurance Beneficiary, Retirement Plan Beneficiary or a provision in your Will.

Visit our website www.littlesistersofthepoorstpaul.org