

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor
in Kansas City since 1882.*

Fall, 2016

JEANNE JUGAN CENTER

8745 James A. Reed Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64138
816-761-4744



JEANNE JUGAN CENTER



SAVE THE DATE

Spaghetti Dinner

October 16

**Celebrating 135 years
of service in Kansas
City, 1882-2017**

Details to come.

Home is Where the Heart is

When you walk in the front door of the Jeanne Jugan Center, the pictures on the walls, the coffee cups on the tables of the Coffee Shop, and the comfortable rocker in the library all emphasize that this is someone's home. While our Residents receive needed medical care, we believe, like our foundress Saint Jeanne Jugan did, that first and foremost our elders need a safe and comfortable *home* where they are valued to live out their final years.

St. Jeanne believed that in the aged poor we find God's greatest example of love. She believed that the older generation is one of

God's treasures and a blessing for the world. Unlike the attitude of many that the elderly are devalued and marginalized, Jeanne Jugan had a deep, peaceful joy for the elderly that radiated in all that she did for those individuals for whom she cared. The fourth vow of the Little Sisters of the Poor is that of hospitality to care for the elderly poor, regardless of race or religion, receiving them as Christ, offering them a home, caring for them as family and accompanying them with dignity until God calls them to himself. When we truly understand this vow, we see how she became attracted to the elderly and devoted her entire life to meeting their every need.

At the Jeanne Jugan Center, our

Residents are encouraged to live life to the fullest. They are treated with great respect, and encouraged to participate in activities that allow them to impact the quality of their unique lives. This deep expression of dignity for aging and independence is not an exception but rather an understood norm of all who enter our Home.

We are truly grateful for our friends and benefactors who support our Home and St. Jeanne's vision, through gifts of their time, prayers, and financial assistance. With the US Census Bureau predicting the elderly population to double by 2040, Homes that see the true value of our elderly, and those who support them will be more needed than ever.



Sr. Emmanuel and Resident Rita Hutman assist with the laundry weekly.

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Mother Marguerite with Resident June Smith

A Moment with Mother

How happy I am to rejoin our family of Little Sisters, Residents, staff and volunteers here in Kansas City! It has been ten years since I left my first assignment here and how blessed I am to return and have the opportunity to renew friendships with so many.

I arrived in May, which has always been my favorite month of the year. Dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary, the month of May is a refreshing reminder of God's handiwork through the wonders of nature. May ushered in the lovely flowers and blossoming trees which provide so much beauty to the landscape encircling our Home. Our baby ducks display a quickened step to their waddle as they follow their mother into the refreshing water spray that greets the sun and flows into our garden pond. This joyful experience has surely been enhanced by the warm and loving welcome I have received by all. I thank you for this encouraging reception and assure you of my desire to serve you with joy and with praise to God for the gift of my vocation as a Little Sister of the Poor.

In this Year of Mercy designated by Pope Francis, we have focused on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. This spring we welcomed a group of women into our Home who joined us to learn about our fight for religious freedom. While here they spent

time with our elderly Residents and prayed with us. Their presence spoke volumes to each of us about the importance of our mission, and the hope for the Little Sisters to be here for years to come. The acts of mercy represented those which our Holy Father has asked us to focus on, as he recalled the words of the beatitudes, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

This spring marks the beginning of the 135th year that the Little Sisters of the Poor have been privileged to serve in Kansas City, caring for the elderly. For the past nearly thirty of these years, we have been in our current Jeanne Jugan Center on James A. Reed Road. None of this would be possible without your generosity. Our donors, volunteers, neighbors and advisors have shared in our mission of loving service to the elderly. We hold you in our daily prayers, grateful for your generous hearts.

Please join us in prayers of gratitude for having had the opportunity to appear before the Supreme Court on March 23 where our expert legal team at The Becket Fund argued our case in defense of life and religious freedom. I invite you to visit our Home and to meet our Residents, all of whom we consider our "treasures."

God Bless You!

S. Marguerite

A Symbol of Courage

On May 16, 2016 the Becket Fund reported that "the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously protected the Little Sisters of the Poor from draconian government fines and recognized that the government does not need the Little Sisters to provide [contraceptive] services. The Court also noted the government finally admitted it could indeed meet its goals without involving the Little Sisters."

We praise God for this wonderful news!

For more information about the case, visit www.thelittlesistersofthepoor.com.

Below: Little Sisters and Becket Fund attorneys outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Photo Courtesy of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.



50 Years of Joy

Most fourth graders today dream of owning the latest iPad or their own mobile phone. At the age of nine, this was not the goal of Sr. Anastasia. When her teacher asked the students what they wanted to be when they grew up, she replied that she wanted to become a nurse or a religious sister. Thankfully, the teacher replied that she could do both. And she did! Fifty years ago Sr. Anastasia made her first vows as a Little Sister of the Poor.

Sister was the second child in her family to dedicate her life to St. Jeanne Jugan's mission. Imagine her parents' commitment to God to support two of their nine children on their paths to becoming Little Sisters of the Poor.

During the past fifty years, Sr. Anastasia has cared for the elderly in all three U.S. provinces of the Little Sisters of the Poor Homes as well as in Canada — from Albany to Denver, from Montreal to Kansas City. Her nursing education, coupled with her love of the elderly, has allowed her the privilege of caring

Her nursing education, coupled with her love of the elderly, has allowed her the privilege of caring for many, many Residents in many different Homes.



Sr. Maria Goretti, Lsp and Theresa Tessarzik, sisters of Sister Anastasia, joined in Sister's golden celebration.

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Sister Anastasia's jubilee was celebrated with her family, including her sister, Sr. Maria Goretti, Jeanne Jugan Residents and friends. The jubilee celebration began with a welcome reception, followed the next day by Mass, during which Sister renewed her vows. After communion, she and one of our Residents sang the hymn Panis Angelicus in honor of her parents. Following a special lunch, the staff,

Residents and several members of her family honored her with a program filled with song, dance, readings and skits.

When asked "what one experience do you reflect on when you look back over the past fifty years," Sr. Anastasia said that there are too many special memories to count. Through the experience of caring for the elderly she has witnessed countless acts of selflessness, humility and kindness of Residents in their care for each other.



Sister Bernadette Rose with Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila of Denver, principal celebrant in the profession ceremony.

Sr. Bernadette Rose makes her first profession of vows

Our Sisters and Residents celebrated with Sr. Bernadette Rose as she made her profession, recalling her time in Kansas City in their Home. It gave everyone great joy knowing that in some small way, they made an imprint on her vocation.

For the gifts of wisdom and love given by those like Sr. Anastasia who have served God through the elderly for many years, to the enthusiasm and joy of our new Little Sisters like Sr. Bernadette Rose, we praise God!

Please join us in prayer for vocations, and if you know a young woman who loves God and the poor, please share this email with her and encourage her to contact us for more information at vckansascity@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Gaudium et Spes Award



Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus; Mother Loraine Maguire and Archbishop William Lori, Supreme Chaplain.

The Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, was originally founded as a mutual benefit society to low-income immigrant Catholics. It has expanded its mission to provide charitable services, promoting Catholic education and Catholic public policy positions, and actively defending Roman Catholicism in various nations.

Recently the Knights of Columbus recognized the humble actions of the Little Sisters at the States Dinner in Toronto with their greatest honor, The Gaudium et Spes Award. It was given to the Little Sisters of the Poor in recognition of their stand against the HHS Mandate.

The keynote address at the dinner was delivered by Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops at the Vatican, who is archbishop emeritus of Quebec. The cardinal praised the Knights of Columbus for its practical works of charity performed not just "for the poor, but with the poor." Pope Francis has urged the Knights to work with the poor in every way possible.

Here in Kansas City, our Jeanne Jugan Center was honored to be the recipient of proceeds from the regional Knights of Columbus golf tournament that was held here this summer.

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Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorkansascity.org

Our New Mission Home

"It is such a privilege; I'm humbled to be chosen." These were Sister Joseph Marie's words after learning that her new assignment would be in Lima, Peru. She was to be a part of a small group to start a new foundation or Home for the Little Sisters of the Poor and the community of Callao. Sr. Joseph Marie is well known to many in the Kansas City community as she has been the collecting sister for our Home, connecting the area parishes to our mission, and securing much needed food for our Residents.

Sr. Joseph Marie will leave Kansas City's Jeanne Jugan Center and join three other Little Sisters who have begun to set up their temporary

Home in Peru. As the Sisters continue to prepare to welcome their first Residents, they look to the future of building a Home where St. Jeanne Jugan's beautiful mission continues. We pray for God's blessings on this new endeavor.



Resident Mary Allen and Sr. Joseph Marie

Jeanne Jugan Home Happenings

Summer Festival 2016

A summer rain storm dampened our grounds but not the fun of the families and friends who attended our annual Summer Festival at the Jeanne Jugan Center. Train rides, little faces painted like tigers, delicious baked goods and games of ring toss were just some of the fun our guests enjoyed. The mall was filled with Residents, friends and families who came to enjoy the day and support the Little Sisters.



Mother Marguerite and Sr. Joseph Marie, with volunteers.

Women Speak for Themselves Visit to the Jeanne Jugan Center



Representatives with Women Speak for Themselves visited our Home.

With big smiles, warm hearts and a commitment to their Catholic faith they came to our Home. Carloads of women representing "Women Speak for Themselves" arrived with their trunks filled to capacity with paper goods and necessities for our Residents. Our Residents received loving hand massages, and warm conversations with women who came to support our Sisters and our Home. From parishes located all over the city, they came to our Home to tell our Sisters that they stand with them in support of Jeanne Jugan's mission to care for the elderly poor.

Many family and friends choose to remember The Little Sisters of the Poor and the Jeanne Jugan Center in their estate plans. They realize that by investing in the Little Sisters of the Poor, they are investing in the future of our care for the most vulnerable elderly. The Jeanne Jugan Center is the recipient of bequests, trusts, and charitable gift annuities from individuals who recognize that the Little Sisters are making a difference in our community.

For more information contact the Development Office, at 816-761-4744 or dv2kansascity@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

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