

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

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

Summer, 2018

JEANNE JUGAN CENTER

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



JEANNE JUGAN CENTER



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.

SAVE THE DATE

Spaghetti Dinner
November 18, 2018

150 Years in the U.S.

Many people take the presence of the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States for granted, as if we have always been here. Perhaps you have memories of visiting a loved one in our home here in Kansas City, of volunteering here when you were young, or of encountering our Little Sisters during a parish visit. It's true, the Little Sisters have been in America for a long time. This year marks the 150th anniversary of our arrival in the U.S., and 136 years of presence in Kansas City. It's easy to forget, though, that ours is an international congregation which began in France, and that young, courageous Little Sisters, most of whom did not speak English, once made the long trip across the ocean to this "foreign land" to help spread Saint Jeanne Jugan's charism of love and care of the elderly poor.

**"Give us the house
– if God fills it, God
will not abandon it!"**

— Saint Jeanne Jugan

The first Little Sisters destined for America arrived from France on September 13, 1868 to open a home for the elderly in Brooklyn, NY. Next came homes in Cincinnati, New Orleans and Baltimore. Within four years, the Little Sisters had established thirteen homes for the needy elderly in the United States. The sacrifice that these young women made — leaving their homeland to travel to a new, unfamiliar country in the aftermath of an anti-Catholic nativist movement, a bloody civil war and a racially-charged period of reconstruction — was admirable indeed.

On August 30th, the feast day of our foundress, we will begin a jubilee year of celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Little Sisters of the Poor in America. Stay tuned for more information as the year progresses!

Earlier times in Kansas City.



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Our Home Week

What do bad hair, twins roaming the halls, balloons flying, and lots of ice cream, have in common? They are all part of “Our Home Week,” our way of celebrating National Skilled Nursing Care Week.

National Skilled Nursing Care Week is an annual week-long observance that recognizes the role of skilled nursing care centers in caring for America’s seniors and individuals with disabilities. Although skilled nursing is only one of the levels of care we provide to meet the needs of the Residents, we are always ready to celebrate the life of our Home.

Here at the Jeanne Jugan Center, we like to celebrate with something that highlights the relationships our employees have with our Residents, and all that they do to make our house a home. With that in mind, we decided to call this year’s celebration “Our Home Week,” and had different events each day which included our employees, Residents, and sisters, who all contribute to the family atmosphere.

The week started out with a family breakfast on Monday, where employees joined the Residents in the dining room for a giant breakfast buffet and plenty of visiting.

The favorite day of the whole week was Tuesday, or Twin Day. Employees and Residents teamed up and dressed alike for the day. There were some great looks and friendly competition as the pairs vied for the coveted title of “best twins” during the afternoon competition. The winners were chosen by audience applause, which was a challenge because each duo was very charming and worked the crowd in their own way. Each participant also got a photo to remember the occasion.

The competition didn’t end with the contest. After the winners were chosen, everyone – sisters included – joined in for a rousing match of balloon volleyball.

(continued on page 3)



The twins show off their matching outfits.

An Author Among Us

Father Michael Gillgannon has led a very interesting life! A priest for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, he spent nearly 40 years as a missionary in Bolivia. His time working alongside the indigenous people was life-changing for him, as well as for those he served.

Fr. Gillgannon returned to Kansas City at age 79 and moved into the apartments here at the Jeanne Jugan Center. Not one to slow down, he continued his Hispanic ministry in this area. Not only that, but he decided to write a book about his experiences in Bolivia, and *Padre Miguel* was published this year.

What a great example of living for Christ with all that we have! We are lucky to have him with us.



Fr. Gillgannon at his book publishing party.



Our Home Week *(continued from page 2)*

Wednesday ushered in some strange looks – and loud laughs – around the home as employees showed up with some truly awful (but fun) hairdos for Bad Hair Day. An ice cream social rounded out the afternoon.

Thursday was a time of food and fellowship as the whole home showed up for a baked potato bar and potluck dinner. It was fun to try different foods and share stories of old family recipes as well.

The week ended with Employee Appreciation Day and an award ceremony. The employees were treated to a cookout and those celebrating milestones received awards for their years of dedicated service.

It was a wonderful week and a great chance for us to spend some extra “fun time” with our Residents. We’re already looking forward to next year.



The volleyball game heats up.



Employees Tammy and Cindy go all out for Bad Hair Day, while Cindy and Trudy enjoy the ice cream social.



Residents and employees visit over breakfast.



Mother Margaret presents Ora with a plaque, thanking her for 20 years of dedicated service.

50 Years of Saying “Yes” to God

This June we had twice the fun here at the Jeanne Jugan Center. We celebrated the golden jubilees of Sister Chantal Mary of Jesus and Sister Paul Mary of Jesus. Imagine, 50 years of being a Little Sister of the Poor! They each took vows on the same day back in 1968, and over the years, their vocations have taken them to many different places. This year, they are together again serving at our Jeanne Jugan Center, and celebrating their golden jubilees here in Kansas City.

It was a wonderful day. Bishop James Johnston celebrated Mass as the



Sr. Michael Anthony, Sr. Chantal Mary, Mother Margaret, and Sr. Paul Mary stop for a picture with Bishop Johnston after the Mass.

sisters renewed their vows of chastity, poverty, obedience, and hospitality. Friends, Residents, and Little Sisters

from our homes in St. Louis and St. Paul, MN joined us for Mass and a lovely dinner. Sister Michael Anthony, who also made vows with the two sisters, came in from the St. Paul home too, eager to share in their celebration. The afternoon was rounded out with an ice cream social and live music.

We are grateful for Sr. Chantal’s and Sr. Paul’s lives of service to the elderly, and couldn’t be happier to have them both here with us, sharing their gifts and joy-filled spirits with us and our Residents.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*150th Anniversary of the
Little Sisters in America
adapted from the Magnificat
(Luke 1:46-55)*

Our story tells the greatness
of the Lord;
and together we rejoice
in the love of God our Savior.
For he has smiled down upon our
lowliness
and cared for us, in his Providence,
these 150 years.
The Almighty has done great things
for us
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
on those who trust in him.
He has shown his power in
weakness
and revealed the mysteries of his
kingdom
to little ones.
He humbles the powerful
and lifts up the lowly.
From the rich he calls forth
generous hearts
so that the hungry may be filled
with good things;
He comes to the help of his
servants,
remembering his promise of mercy;
for when God fills the house he will
never abandon it.
And when God is with us
anything can be accomplished.



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorkansascity.org

Our Needs

Volunteers – especially drivers to take Residents and Little Sisters to appointments and events.

Home projects – new phone system, cell phone booster, humidifier, whirlpool tub for Residents.

Medical and hygiene supplies – including mouthwash, Kleenex, lotion and shampoo, denture cleanser, and toothpaste.

Bingo prizes – new items to bring a little sunshine to our Residents like puzzle books, costume jewelry, pocket tissues, candy, adult coloring books, colored pencils, hand mirrors, and trinkets. Or use your imagination!



Volunteer Nancy enjoys being of service.



Summer Cash Raffle

Some things change ... we didn't have our Summer Festival this year, but plan to have more events at our home during the jubilee year of celebration, honoring the Little Sisters' 150 years in the United States. It begins August 30, so stay tuned for more information on that.

... while some things stay the same. We are still having our popular cash raffle!

The proceeds from the raffle will help to pay our air-conditioning costs and keep our 100 Residents cool and comfortable this summer.

Prizes are \$3,000, \$1,500, and five additional \$100 prizes.



Drawing will be August 3, 2018, so get your tickets in soon!

See insert for details and raffle tickets. Call the development department at 816.761.4744 for more information.

We value your privacy. Please be assured that we do not sell, rent or share our mailing list or donors' personal information.
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