



OUR MISSION

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.

Prayer for Those Who Serve the Elderly

Heavenly Father, your humble servant Jeanne Jugan saw the face of your son Jesus Christ in the elderly.

Moved by the power of the Holy Spirit, she opened her arms in welcome to the aged poor.

Inspired by her loving example, may we be mindful of older persons who are most in need.

May we respect and reverence our elders. May we learn from their wisdom and offer them loving assistance.

May we assure them of the promise of your presence during the autumn years of their lives.

Uniting our prayer with Saint Jeanne Jugan may we never tire in saying, "Blessed be God!"



Enjoying some sunshine and fresh air.



Cindy stops for a temperature check before heading into work. Betsy screens everyone entering the building for signs of illness.

Our Employees – the Hands of St. Jeanne Jugan

In each of our last few newsletters, we have highlighted a different department in our Home and told you a little about those employees and how they contribute to our mission. In this edition, we would like to tell you about all of our staff, and how, especially during this Coronavirus pandemic, they have truly embodied the family spirit that Saint Jeanne Jugan envisioned when she started the very first Home of the Little Sisters.

When news of COVID-19 first came out, it was a scary time for everyone in the country, and in fact, throughout the world! Not only could the virus cause serious complications for those who got it, but it was new and there was so much unknown about it. Directives changed frequently as health agencies rushed to learn more about it and what the country's people and facilities needed to do to stay safe.

So understandably, there were often changes we had to make quickly here as new information

came to light. One thing this pandemic has definitely taught us is the value of flexibility! And our employees have done a wonderful job with that.

Practically overnight, our dietary department changed from communal meals in the dining room to individual meals delivered to Residents' rooms. Other personnel were switched around to create and staff a check-in station at the entrance — taking temperatures and screening those entering the building. Housekeeping staff went into high gear, disinfecting everything in sight multiple times a day. The laundry department added washing fabric masks to their workload. And as the visitor restrictions became necessary, in addition to their regular duties nurses, aides, and activity staff became Residents' human in-person connections, taking extra time to chat and listen to those who miss their families and friends.

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Sister Michael with a beautiful rainbow of donated produce.



Resident Ann talks to her family using Skype.

Our Benefactors. What Would We Do Without Them!

When Saint Jeanne Jugan, the first Little Sister of the Poor, began her ministry years ago, she begged on the streets of Saint-Servan, France, for supplies she needed to care for her elderly Residents. By involving the local citizens in supporting her Homes, she was sharing the care of the poor with them. Through the years since then, we Little Sisters have carried on that begging tradition (until the recent lockdown, that is), and also St. Jeanne's complete faith in God's Providence to provide through generous donors. This faith is evidenced by our rules that prohibit endowments or other forms of guaranteed income.

Many may think that our faith would be tested during the pandemic and the uncertain financial times our country is currently going through. With stories on the news about people hoarding food and toilet paper, many losing their jobs, businesses closing, and stay-at-home orders, surely that would cut down on what charities receive. But that has not been the case for us - we have received what we need to keep going, even without traditional in-person begging. Our begging Sister has been confined to the home, like the rest of us, since early March and hasn't been able to visit her normal businesses to ask for help. But that hasn't stopped people from reaching out to us. As she frequently says, "the best kept secret is how many good people there are in this world."

We have had people make fabric masks for us, donate hand sanitizer, face shields, and other personal protective



equipment (PPE), and even give food for our Residents. Along with these necessities, many have also donated items to help keep our Residents' spirits up. We have received candy, snacks, puzzle books and games, and even some tablet computers so Residents can keep in touch with family members using video calls. This has helped a lot, as we have had to restrict visitors since March.

We are immensely grateful for all who have donated, and continue to donate items we need for our Home, as well as money to purchase extra supplies. With the costs of extra PPE, cleaning supplies, and food, our needs have grown; but we continue to have faith in our friends, our community, and our God to keep this mission going. As Jeanne Jugan said, "If God is with us, it will be accomplished ... God will help us; the work is his." It is his, ours, and yours. Thank you for being a part of it!



Ngan, Laundry



Theris, Housekeeping



Karen, Reception

Our Employees – the Hands of St. Jeanne Jugan

(cont'd from page 1)

Most importantly, our employees have shown up and come to work during an extremely uncertain time because they know the Residents need them. Even with their own family obligations, with kids at home because of school closures, fears of catching the virus themselves, and orders to stay at home, they join the city's other essential workers on deserted streets and drive in to work. Every day. They work overtime to cover unexpected needs that come up. They pitch in where needed, and never say, "that's not my job."

We are truly grateful for our employees, and couldn't do what we do without them. They have helped keep our home up and running and our mission alive. It fills our hearts to see the love and kindness they show to our Residents. It makes us smile to see employees stop in the hallway and dance



Paul, Dietary

and laugh with the Residents when the activities department plays "the Twist" over the loud speakers for an impromptu "dance off." They have all helped make a challenging time a little less so, for our Residents as well as for us Little Sisters.



Roxie, Nursing



Niki, Nursing



Micheal, Maintenance

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

This pandemic has brought many changes and challenges to our lives, as I'm sure it has to yours. We are in uncharted territory, and are learning together to navigate it with grace and gratitude. In the midst of the chaos, I have been touched by the generosity of so many people. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, "The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty."

We are happy to report that we were able to help our home in Gallup, New Mexico. It was hit especially hard with the virus, as was the Navajo Nation that they serve. Our Little Sister Jacintha, along with two Little Sisters from other Homes, went there to help care for the Residents during the outbreak, as many of Gallup's Sisters and staff were sick, along with many Residents. I am very happy to say that things there are much better now, and many of them have recovered and are back to work, thanks be to God.

Sister Jacintha will now travel on to our Home in sunny California, and after a 14-day quarantine and well-deserved 8-day retreat, will be coming back home to Kansas City, spiritually re-energized and ready to jump back in. She was greatly missed by the Residents, Little Sisters, and staff.

We are grateful for all of the support we have gotten from our employees, from the families of our Residents, and especially from you, our benefactors. May God bless and reward you.

United in prayer and gratitude,
Mother Margaret

Staying Active in Quarantine



Terms like lockdown, social distancing, and self-isolation were unheard of just a few short months ago, but are ones that we have become quite familiar with during this Coronavirus pandemic. They are manifested in things like the temporary cessation of meals together in the dining room and visitors to the Home, and everyone wearing masks (including Residents when they are out of their rooms). Our daily lives have definitely changed here, where a sense of

belonging and connection to others has always been such a large part of the atmosphere of our home.

But talk about making lemonade from lemons! Our activities department has really gone above and beyond to bring fun to the Residents while still keeping them safe. Hallway bingo, individual outdoor games, and games brought to their rooms to keep everyone active and engaged are just a few of the things our Residents are enjoying.