Jeanne Jugan Center

Little Sisters of the Poor

Summer 2023

# **A Lifetime of Joyful Service**

70 years! Can you imagine doing something that long? That's a lifetime for many, and a lifetime of service for Sr. Charles Marie de la Trinité and Sr. Therese Marie de la Trinité as Little Sisters.

They took their first vows together on June 23, 1953, and over the years each served in many capacities in many different cities. They recently came together again here in Kansas City, and this past June they celebrated their 70th jubilees and renewed their vows at a special Mass in our chapel. It was a day of jubilation among the Residents, staff, family members, and fellow Little Sisters who shared in the celebration.

Sr. Charles Marie, who is originally from Denver, CO, was 18 years old when she took her first vows. She "What Happiness it is for us to be a Little Sister of the Poor!" – Saint Jeanne Jugan

recounts how her mother was hesitant for her to join the Little Sisters at the time, because she wanted Sr. Charles to receive an education. The Little Sisters assured her mom that she would, and indeed she did! One of several degrees she received was in nursing, and she has served in many Resident-care and administrative roles over the years.

Sr. Therese was born in Brooklyn, NY. She had a perfectly fitting trait for a Little Sister: she always had a special love and appreciation for the elderly. In fact, when everyone applauded her for her anniversary at her jubilee party, she said that it was the Residents who deserved the applause and the thanks for her vocation, not her.

Sr. Therese went to heaven a few weeks after her jubilee. Her wonderful example of joy in service will remain in our hearts, and we will fondly remember her kindness in her interactions with our Residents and staff. We are thankful for the years of dedicated service that she and Sr. Charles have both given to the elderly and to our Lord.



Sr. Therese Marie with Mother Margaret at her party.



Sr. Charles Marie renews her vows at the celebration Mass.

## Little Sisters On the Move Spreading the Joy of Life in Hospitality

The Little Sisters have had several changes lately, both locally and nationally. Here at home we have welcomed three new Little Sisters in the past year. Sr. Rose joined us last fall. She came from our home in Gallup, NM and she oversees the skilled nursing unit. Sr. Jacqueline and Sr. Grace followed this summer. Sr. Grace came from our home in San Pedro, CA and oversees the intermediate-care floor. Sr. Jacqueline, who is originally from Sri Lanka, came to us from one of our homes in Italy. She is studying to fine-tune her English, and also accompanies Sr. Agnes on her begging rounds. We are happy to have them all here!

Nationally, over the last several years the Little Sisters have withdrawn from a number of Homes across the country in order to consolidate our aging communities and strengthen our religious life. This has resulted in a merger of our three U.S. provinces, or governing regions, into two. We now have the Chicago province and the Baltimore-Brooklyn province. Our Chicago province, which is headquartered at the home in Palatine (IL), consists of our Kansas City home, as well as homes in Louisville, Chicago, Indianapolis, Mobile (AL), St. Paul, San Francisco, and Gallup (NM).

Our other two U.S. provinces (Baltimore and Brooklyn) merged into the Baltimore-Brooklyn province, comprised of two homes in metropolitan New York, Pawtucket (RI), Enfield (CT), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Totowa (NJ), Baltimore, Newark (DE), Washington, D.C., our novitiate in Queens, and a retreat house in New Jersey. This province is headquartered at St. Martin's Home in Baltimore.

Finally, a new vocations initiative has been launched.

During their U.S. visit this summer, Mother General María and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine gathered with the superiors of our U.S. Homes and a group of Little Sisters experienced in vocation work to help make our Congregation better known, and to create an action plan for fostering vocations.

Amidst these changes, we look to the future with faith and confidence, remembering the words of our foundress, "If God is with us, it will be accomplished ... God will help us; the work is his." Please join us in praying for a new flourishing of vocations to all ministries in the Church, and especially to our religious family!



Sr. Rose with Resident Stephanie.



Sr. Jacqueline (left photo) and Sr. Grace (right photo) at their welcome gathering in June.



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## A Rose Bud Blooms Again 🔌

Our gift shop, the Rose Bud Shoppe, is near and dear to AJJ (Association Jeanne Jugan) member and volunteer Alice Grego's heart. She has spent many hours acquiring unique and beautiful items, arranging them just so, and getting the shop ready to open again to shoppers. And after being closed for so long during the pandemic, we are happy to say it is now up and running again.

Visitors to the Home, employees, and especially our Residents, enjoy going in to browse for treasures, which change all the time. Shoppers may come out with a lovely silk scarf, a piece of vintage jewelry, or a special collectible. Or they may find something in the assortment of hand-made afghans, rosaries, seasonal and holiday décor, or our ever-popular collection of Irish items. Regardless of what shoppers buy, though, they always leave with a smile on their face.

If you would like to help, Alice is always happy to get cash donations to purchase items for the shop. She has also received requests to expand the offerings for men, so could use donations of new men's socks and handkerchiefs. And new this year, we are offering gift certificates to the shop. So the next time you're here, stop by the reception desk and pick one up (you can buy one in any denomination you choose) to give to a Resident. They would be thrilled to get it!





Residents Delores and Marjorie mix up the batter.

## Cookies Return!

We have happily welcomed back volunteers to our Home, and along with them some favorite activities like cookie baking. The first batches were lemon sugar, and they were delicious!



Volunteer Gabby and Activities Asst Mitch are ready to bake.

### Mother's Message

Dear Friends, I hope you are all enjoying the summer and time with your families.

We are enjoying the warm weather, and are happy



to have the new Little Sisters here. We are also happy to announce that we can now welcome back visitors and volunteers to our Home. Everyone can interact face-toface with each other again, too, since face masks are no longer required.

To that end, we would love to see you at our Spaghetti Dinner on November 5. We are thrilled to have it again after a fouryear hiatus!

It was lovely to celebrate the 70th jubilees of Sr. Charles Marie and Sr. Therese Marie in June. We are so grateful for their service! And speaking of service, Sr. Agnes will be celebrating her 50th jubilee on September 8.

Many of you may know her from her talks at area parishes, or have spoken to her on the phone. She is happy to be resuming her in-person "begging rounds" again and will soon be out visiting area businesses with her companion Little Sister Jacqueline. Who knows, you may see them out and about!

As always, we are grateful for your support and prayers throughout the year. You are gratefully remembered in our daily prayers.

May God bless you, *Mother Margaret* 

## SPAGHETTI DINNER



Sunday, November 5 Noon - 5 p.m. at our Home

#### Join Us for Delicious Pasta and Meatballs and all the Fixins!

We are excited to welcome everyone back to our Home for this autumn tradition. *We have missed you!* 

Along with a delicious Italian meal of pasta and meatballs, garlic bread, and salad (generously prepared and donated by our friends at Garozzo's Ristorante), we will have a bake sale with decadent home-made desserts to take home, as well as crafts and treasures from our Rose Bud Shoppe.

We still need volunteers, so if you're interested in helping out, please call 816-761-4744 and leave your name and contact info with the receptionist. We will reach out to you soon with more info.

Dinner Tickets are: \$10 Adults / \$5 Kids [4-12] and can be purchased at the door. Eat here or take it to go.

All proceeds benefit our Home for the elderly.

#### **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.

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