



The Little Things

“Little, very little, be very little before God.” Our Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan often said this to the young Little Sisters of the Poor with whom she worked in the novitiate. And she not only said these words, she lived them.

Many who knew St. Jeanne during her lifetime commented on her humility and her hidden acts of service to God. She was not just little out of reverence for God, but she embraced little acts that only he knew about.

The times of early spring and Lent remind us of this, with their little hidden acts that lead up to the “bigger” outward blossoming of spring and Easter.

Just as flowers that bloom and bulbs that appear in spring are the culmination of many small, sometimes unnoticed things like seeds in the wind, fallen leaves that fertilize the ground, or rain showers, so too is Easter the fruit

of the humility and small acts of Lent.

The elderly embody this sentiment as well. Elders plant the seeds in the past for the springtime blossoms of the present.

They lay the foundations – each generation contributes countless little things that influence the next. Things like starting a small business, caring for the sick, passing on traditions, raising children, even a kind word or smile to a stranger – they all matter.

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– Saint Jeanne Jugan

In her time, Jeanne Jugan knew that making one old person happy through a small kindness could change their life, and that could change the world.

All of us, if we are lucky enough to grow old, will eventually become little again. The elderly become “little” in allowing others to care for them, in showing grace while dealing with their limitations, and in stepping back and allowing the younger generations to shine. We are inspired by our elderly Residents’ humility in these ways every day.

This Easter season, we invite you to join us in becoming little. Even if we can’t always be as humble as St. Jeanne Jugan was, we can remember the value of small acts, that time spent doing little things is not wasted. Let us relish and find joy in doing the little things that others may not know about, but that benefit us all.



5-star Employees Make a 5-star Home

Just as St. Jeanne Jugan did many little things in the service of God and the elderly, so do our employees, every day. Like her, they don't do it for the accolades, they just do it because it needs to be done, or because it will make the lives of our Residents a little better.

Last July we launched a new program in our Home to recognize and thank our dedicated employees. It's called 5 Star Staff – Above and Beyond, and it brings awareness and gives recognition to staff members who excel in practicing our mission and values. The free program and training are provided through Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO), which is a cooperative service between the MU Sinclair School of Nursing and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Whenever a staff member is seen doing something that is above and beyond their regular job duties, whoever saw

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them – a Resident, co-worker, Resident's family member, or visitor – can fill out an Above and Beyond (A&B) card noting what the employee did. The A&B cards are posted on a display in the mall area and tallied up. After six months, hundreds of slips had been turned in, and in January we had a party to celebrate. Several employees were honored with special plaques for achieving 5-star status. They did that by receiving A&B cards from all categories of Staff, Supervisors, Residents, and Family members. You can read a little about each employee below.

The Residents and their families have enjoyed being able to recognize the staff that help care for them, and employee feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We are so grateful for our employees. They truly are an extension of our hands and play a big part in making our house a Home.

Next time you're here, we hope you too will participate by filling out an Above and Beyond card (located at the front desk or by the elevators) to acknowledge any staff members you encounter going Above and Beyond.



Cindy Barnes
Housekeeping Supervisor

Recognized for her spirit of caring and efficiency. Residents say she helps with any request, makes them feel comfortable, and manages an excellent team.



Betsy Page
Housekeeping

Recognized by Residents and co-workers for the many thoughtful and helpful things she does for the apartment Residents. In addition to cleaning and decorating, she keeps Residents safe by communicating very well with them. She always has a smile on her face.



Karen Ruhling
Reception

Residents recognize Karen for her kindness, caring, and warm conversations. Co-workers appreciate her pleasant hospitality, enthusiasm, and willingness to help out in any way.



Booker Franklin
Janitor

Recognized by co-workers for his hard work, covering extra security shifts, and being naturally kind and helpful in many ways. A gentleman who helps start cars. Residents say he is conscientious, and puts in extra effort to do difficult jobs.



Tom Reuther
Reception

Recognized by Residents and co-workers for his “hidden” kindness, cheerful outlook, and willingness to always help others. Tom wears so many hats with different responsibilities we can't list them all.



Diamond Snow
CNA

Recognized by all for her kind smile which makes people feel good, and by co-workers for her willingness to always help out. Diamond makes Residents feel special, is courteous, gives great baths, and takes her time to talk with them.



Teresa Jackson
CNA

Recognized by Residents for her special caring and by co-workers for always helping out. Residents say that they feel safe because of her.



Courtney Wall
Social Services

Recognized by Residents for her patience, advocacy, and willingness to answer any question. Co-workers say that when adversity strikes, she excels. She is kind and knowledgeable. She loves her work and it shows.



Trudy Vigliaturo
Housekeeping

Recognized for her helpful and friendly attitude, for meeting the needs that are present at the time, and her flexibility in changing routine to meet them

IN MEMORIAM



Sister Denise embodied the joyful aspect of Easter. At our yearly Easter parades, she could often be found there with the Residents, hat and all, celebrating. It seems fitting that when she went to heaven, it was just before the Easter season.

Sr. Denise Marie de l'Eucharistie (Lane) was born on February 20, 1930 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Never one to be too predictable, she died on leap day, February 29, 2024, here at our Home.

A Little Sister of the Poor for 66 years, she was a registered nurse, and served in many of our Homes across the U.S. in that capacity.

Among her many talents, she played the piano and sang. Many would say she carried the music inside her, as her eyes always seemed to be sparkling and dancing.

Sr. Denise was here in Kansas City since 2009. She will be remembered for her humor and light spirit, and also for her nursing skills and intelligence. A fitting story is about when nurses at one Home would call the medical director to report on a Resident, he would only half-jokingly ask, "what does doctor Lane say about it?"

Rest in peace, Sr. Denise. And thank you for reminding us of the joy of being a Little Sister of the Poor! We are sure you are singing the glories of our risen Jesus in heaven this Easter.

MARDI GRAS FUN!



Resident Barbara shows off her mask at the party.



The Home's puppy, Molly Mae, gets into the festive spirit.



Resident Georgine catches up with apartment Residents Paula Marie and Toni.

And the Winner is ...

The Kansas City Chiefs! And their fans! But mostly our Residents!

Leading up to the Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers squaring off in the big game in February, we had a friendly competition

with the Little Sisters' Home in San Francisco to see whose fans could raise the most money. We are happy to say that we won by a landslide!

Many thanks to all who supported our fun fundraising drive. Both Homes' Residents benefitted from their hometown's generosity.



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