

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

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A Renewed Moment of Light and Hope

As this Year of Faith progresses, the family of the Jeanne Jugan Center, Little Sisters, Residents and all our lay collaborators receive and welcome our new Holy Father, Pope Francis with a prayerful embrace of acceptance and loyalty.



In Gratitude for our first grant of 2013

How lucky we are to have such wonderful friends! Thanks to a recent grant from the Federal Association of the Order of Malta, we are able to purchase some much needed medical equipment for our home.

Their generosity is not just financial, however. Local members of the Order of Malta have also volunteered here at Jeanne Jugan Center, helping with the upkeep of our grounds and visiting with Residents. These wonderful men and women truly live their motto of "Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum," or *defense of the Faith and assistance to the poor and suffering*.

Our sincere thanks to them for their generous support, and for their example of a vibrant, living faith.



Dave and Jan Knopke (left) and Bernie Dierks (right), Kansas City area members of the Order of Malta, present Sister Beatrice with a check as Resident Donna Kiefer looks on.

Upcoming Events

Tax Reduction Seminar
Thursday, May 2, 2013 | 5:30 p.m.

At Husch Blackwell Law Offices
[See insert for more information]

Summer Festival
Sunday, June 23, 2013

Join us for some fun in the sun at this year's Summer Festival. There will be food, music, games and our ever-popular raffle. Stay tuned for more information and raffle tickets in the mail.



Enjoying a train ride at last year's Summer Festival.

Contact Us

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Hospitality Club (ages 12-15): srskansascity@littlesistersofthepoor.org



A Simple Note

By: Mother Rose Marie



I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the first glimmers of Spring, as we are here at the Jeanne Jugan Center. With the days getting longer and slowly but steadily warmer, it won't be long before our grounds are back to their full glory of blooms and beautiful colors.

With Spring comes the Easter season, the most holy of feasts in the Catholic Church. Easter, like Spring, is a time of rebirth and renewal; a time of new life. How especially meaningful this is during this Year of Faith.

This year while the focus is on learning and renewing our faith, I like to think that each day can be like Easter and be a new start. Each day holds an opportunity to deepen our faith, whether through worshipping, studying, giving to those in need, or simply by sharing God's love with those we encounter. His Holiness Benedict XVI said it beautifully when he said, "Through faith, we can recognize the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for our love."

As Little Sisters, we see "the face of our risen Lord" in each of our Residents. And we couldn't do the work we do without you. We are grateful for the many ways you live your faith through financial support of our mission, time spent volunteering, and most importantly, your prayers.

We wish you all much joy and peace in your lives during this Year of Faith.

Mother Rose Marie

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor
in Kansas City since 1882.

Spring, 2013

JEANNE JUGAN CENTER
8745 James A. Reed Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64138

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JEANNE JUGAN CENTER

The Year of Faith Faith in Action

SAVE THE DATE

Tax Reduction Seminar
May 2, 2013

Summer Festival
June 23, 2013

**Fall Festival/
Spaghetti Dinner**
November 2013
(Date TBD)

Benedict XVI's reign as our beloved Pope is now over. We look back with immense gratitude for the spiritual impact that he has had on the Church, the world and each of us these past eight years. His shining example of someone who so clearly loves God has continually given us strength and inspiration for our daily lives. Although we are saddened to see him go, we take comfort in the bible verse "to everything there is a season." We wish His holiness Benedict well in this new season of his life, and we keep him in our grateful prayers as he continues God's work in silence and prayer.

Of the many wonderful things Pope Benedict did as our leader, we are especially grateful to him for declaring this the Year of Faith. It has given us all a valuable reminder to reexamine our faith and learn

"The door
of faith
is always
open for us."
- Pope
Benedict XVI

more about our religion. Many here at the Jeanne Jugan Center are taking full advantage of this opportunity to deepen their connections to God and each other by participating in various spiritual programs.

See inside for some of the ways faith is being put into practice here at our home. Our Residents and volunteers are truly amazing!

We hope these stories will inspire you to nourish and ignite your own faith, and remind you of what a glorious gift God has given each of us in Himself, His Son, and the many kind, faith-filled people who share life and faith with us.



YEAR
OF
FAITH



Oct 11, 2012

Nov 24, 2013





Apartment Resident Don Fessler watches a documentary in the home's Faith Museum.



Bishop Robert Finn and Mother Rose Marie cut the ribbon at the Faith Museum's opening.



Glen Ernstmann talks about the DVD the group will be watching.



All eyes are on Glen as he begins the class.

In the Still of the Night

Night has fallen, dinner is over, the home is still, and there's not much to be heard aside from an occasional sound of sleep drifting from a room, or a nurse's footsteps as she makes her rounds to check on sleeping Residents.

However, if you go down to the main mall area you'll notice a warm glow of light coming from the Faith Museum - a stark contrast to the darkened ice cream shop and library nearby. If you listen closely you may even hear soft music playing or the turning of book pages.

A closer look inside reveals our Resident night owl, Don Fessler. He lives in the apartments at Jeanne Jugan Center and likes to visit the Faith Museum at night when it's quiet. The Little Sisters graciously leave it open for Don and he closes up when he's finished.

Don has incorporated the Faith Museum into his spiritual practice. He said many nights after spending time in the home's chapel and his evening prayer time, he will come to the museum to spend some time alone with Christ.

Sometimes that involves watching a DVD from the collection about Catholicism or reading one of the many books about the lives of the saints. Many times, however, it involves just spending quiet time among the various religious items and artifacts, reflecting and feeling the presence of God. That's why

Don prefers the nighttime. It's easier to focus on just "being" with God without all the distractions and bustle of daytime life.

The Faith Museum opened in October of 2012 to coincide with the opening of the Year of Faith. It is a wonderful resource for all things faith related for Residents, family members, volunteers - really anyone who comes to the Jeanne Jugan Center.

The museum is truly a community project. Many friends donated and loaned items to be displayed. There is a beautiful section on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the rosary, various paintings and wall hangings, statues

and religious relics that were graciously contributed.

For those without much time to spend in the museum itself, there is also a lending library so people can check out books and DVDs to take home and use.

We invite you to come and check out our Faith Museum the next time you're here. We hope it will serve as a reminder to focus on faith this year and offer a glimpse into our church's beautiful history. We are happy to be able to share this with everyone and hope you will feel as Don does when he says, "It's a blessing. And it's available to everyone."

A Lifetime of Service

Father Michael Gillgannon has traveled the world sharing his faith, and now he's bringing his ministry home to the Jeanne Jugan Center. After spending 30 years in Bolivia, Father returned to the U.S. and recently moved into our Jeanne Jugan apartments. We couldn't be happier to have him!

For this Year of Faith, Father Gillgannon is leading a study group called *Lenten Reflection on the Risen Jesus*. He and a group of fellow apartment Residents meet weekly during Lent to discuss the theology of Holy Week, and Jesus's Death and Resurrection. He presents a different theme each week and offers various bible readings for reflection and prayer.

The Residents enjoy this opportunity to study and prepare for Easter, and appreciate the classes very much. We are all grateful to Father Gillgannon for sharing his knowledge and most importantly, for the gift of his faith.



Fellowship in Learning

Residents and volunteers are taking to heart the suggestion of learning and studying more about their faith during this Year of Faith. Along with quiet solitude and time in prayer, many are also including a healthy dose of fellowship with their studies.

Study and discussion groups are popping up everywhere around the Jeanne Jugan Center. Some are impromptu gatherings of a few friends discussing a religious topic over coffee.

Others are more structured programs like the weekly video and discussion series called "Footprints of God" hosted by volunteer Glen Ernstmann. The group meets every week to watch a documentary highlighting a different holy person throughout history.

Glen is a true example of faith in action. A Knight of Columbus, he has done many different volunteer jobs at our home over the years. He, like

many of our volunteers, is happy to do whatever is needed. A recent job was pitching in with fellow Knights to drive Sister Christine on her begging rounds until a permanent driver could be found.

Another of our faithful volunteers is JoAnn Axtell. Throughout this Year of Faith she is leading a monthly book club on *My Life with the Saints*, by Rev. James Martin, SJ.

She and about ten Residents meet monthly and discuss this unique book about how different saints have impacted the author and his own conversion. Everyone enjoys the class and can be seen reading and studying long after class is over.

JoAnn is new to the Jeanne Jugan Center. After reading about the Little Sisters in a newspaper article, she toured the home and was impressed with the Little Sisters' work. We are thrilled to welcome JoAnn as part of our extended family!

"We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God"

A New Path

When Sondra Williams came to live at the Jeanne Jugan Center apartments, she wasn't thinking of becoming Catholic. Although her husband had been Catholic and she admired the religion, she was raised Baptist and was perfectly happy remaining so.

The longer she was here, though, and spent time with the Little Sisters and some of her neighbors, the more curious she became about Catholicism. She began to ask questions of Father John McCormack, the home's Chaplain, who lives in the apartments as well. Other Catholic apartment friends also answered questions and helped her study. She soon started going to Mass in the home's chapel and studying the catechism.

The more she learned, the stronger the feeling was that God may be calling her to a different path. Sondra answered that call on December 12th when she officially entered into the Catholic Church. She was baptized, received her first communion, and was confirmed by Father McCormack here in the home's chapel. What a wonderful way to start off the Year of Faith!

Sondra says she believes that God brought her to the Jeanne Jugan Center to help her grow in spirituality. He gave her a gift that she hadn't even realized that she needed. She feels fortunate to live in a place where she can nurture and practice her new found religion by utilizing the chapel and the home's faith museum. She's also happy to be surrounded by such supportive and faithful people.



Sondra Williams lights a candle during her Mass of Initiation into the Catholic Church.