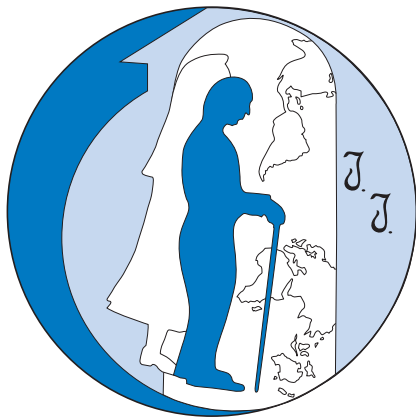


Spring 2018



## OUR MISSION

The Little Sisters of the Poor are an international congregation of Roman Catholic Women religious founded in 1839 by Saint Jeanne Jugan. Together with a diverse network of collaborators, we serve the elderly poor in over 30 countries around the world.

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 DATES

### Home Show

March 10 & 11

### Scone Sale

March 17

### Ham Drop

March 31

### Rock-a-thon & Bake Sale

April 7

### Jazz Brunch

April 22

### Pet Show with KoC

May 12

### Jewelry Sale

May 19

### Car Show

June (TBA)

### 4th of July Town Celebration

July 7 & 8

### Golf Tournament

September 10

Ellington Ridge Country Club

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

## ST. JOSEPH'S RESIDENCE

*Serving the elderly poor in Enfield, Connecticut since 1972.*



**Banners announcing new St Jeanne Jugan Parish have been placed in front of St Bernard and Holy Family churches here in Enfield.**



**First fruits from the St. Jeanne Jugan Parish garden established on our property.**

## A new parish for Enfield

Due to changes in demographics and Mass attendance in local churches, there have been changes and the merging of a number of parishes in the archdiocese of Hartford. Here in the town of Enfield two parishes — Holy Family & St. Bernard — merged into one new parish with a new and exciting name. What a joy it was when we received the news that this new parish would bear the name of St. Jeanne Jugan! At the same time, we wondered how the name of our foundress had been chosen.

We found out that the archdiocese asked parishioners at the two churches involved to vote for a name for the new parish. It was to our delight that St. Jeanne Jugan was chosen. All of the Little Sisters and Residents were very excited to hear the news!

We quickly contacted the pastor, Father Golas, whose mother lives in our home, and shared our excitement with him. The Little Sisters were asked to come to the next Women's Guild meeting to give a talk about St. Jeanne Jugan. We prepared a beautiful PowerPoint presentation and brought over literature about Jeanne Jugan to share with the parishioners. Everyone was very happy to learn more about their new Patron.

In late August we had an ice cream social for St. Jeanne Jugan's feast day and invited the

parishioners from both churches to our home. One of the priests had been adding little bits of information about St. Jeanne Jugan in their weekly bulletins while advertising our event. Everyone joined us for Mass and then gathered in the coffee shop for ice cream.

The Glen Mohr Chorale from New York came to Holy Family on October 22nd to perform a musical about St. Jeanne Jugan entitled *The Hidden Heart*; they had given the performance at New York's Lincoln Center in 2009 in celebration of her canonization. Many of the parishioners, as well as other local Catholics, came to see the performance; everyone enjoyed learning more about St. Jeanne Jugan.

Later on, Rev. Robert Rousseau, pastor at Holy Family, was named chaplain for our home.

We are so grateful for this wonderful tribute to our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan. We continue to bring literature to each church so they will learn more about her. For Christmas we gave the parishioners at each church a medal or key chain of St. Jeanne Jugan to continue to foster the relationship and make our foundress better known. Our desire now is that a young woman from the parish will find her vocation as a Little Sister of the Poor!

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

## Warm and Cozy

### Little Sisters of the Poor cap 2-year effort to replace 535 windows at St. Joseph's Residence



Buddy Thibodeau, who's lived for 8 years at St. Joseph's Residence in Enfield, cranks the new window in his room, one of the 535 windows recently replaced at the facility.

Photo by Jim Michau

We recently completed one of our major capital improvement projects, the replacement of all 535 windows at the residence, the adjoining convent, and a guest house. The contractors had finished a majority of the windows four months after the start of the project. There are a few doors and windows left that will be finished this spring. It has been a long two-year fundraising effort which entailed many fundraising events, but we were finally able to raise the \$550,000 needed to get the project done.

The maintenance department, as well as all the Residents, have noticed a significant difference with the new windows. The Residents no longer need to cover their windows with plastic or blankets. The new windows are perfectly insulated and do not allow any of the cold winters draft in. Maintenance has seen a

huge difference in that there are no calls from the Residents and no complaints about being cold in their rooms. The New England cold air no longer finds its way through the windows. The windows are much easier to open and close and they let the morning sunshine in every day.

We are so grateful to all those who donated to the Window Project and all those who have come to our many fundraising events, such as the popular "Rock-a-thon" and the Jazz Brunch. We couldn't have done this without the help of so many kind people!

The final piece to the Window Project will be to install memorialized name plates, which will allow many of our donors to leave a legacy legacy of a loved one in our building.

## 1st Annual Victorian Tea

Little Sisters of the Poor in Enfield held their first Victorian Tea Party on Sunday, December 17. This event was held at the Storowton Village Carriage house on the Big E grounds. We had a Fashion show held by a local Reenactment group. The Residents had so much fun. We plan to do it again for 2018, with the Residents dressing up as well.

## It's Official!

### Gabrielle (Gabby) Johnson Celebrated Her 100th Birthday at Saint Joseph's Residence in Enfield!

Gabrielle (Gabby) Johnson talked about turning 100 recently, going back in time and sharing some thoughts from the past, looking over a lifetime that brought her to the United States from her girlhood days as part of a large family on a small farm in Canada.

In a chat to find out a little bit about her life and times, the first question posed was: "So, Gabby, what's your secret to celebrating your 100th birthday? What piece of advice would you like to share about marking this big milestone?"

Sitting comfortably in her cheerful room and smiling from bright eyes under a distinctive halo of wavy white hair, she said, after only a moment's pause, "I always tried to be nice to everybody."

Some of her memories include reflections on the sadness brought on by the early death of her mother. Gabby was "about in the middle," as she recalls, of her eight brothers and sisters. She attended church and a Catholic school about a mile from the family's farmhouse and walked to school with her siblings.

What has no doubt also been a trait matching her kindness is her a quick sense of humor. When asked if she was a good student during her school days, Gabby, reverting instinctively to her childhood French, replied with a grin: "Comme ci comme ça!"

Memories of her early days include stories of hard work by the men in the family, many of whom, including her father, worked in a nearby gold mine. Hers, like so many families during those times, immigrated to the United States in search of work and opportunity. At one point, Gabby came to Vermont with a sister and brother-in-law.

She recounts some early work experiences, including duties in a hospital, domestic work in private homes, and in a school, where she worked with a choir.

Although some of the memories have dimmed through the years, many remain very keen. When asked about holidays and favorite foods from childhood, Gabby remembered that each of the children received a bag of fruit at Christmas, remarking especially about the apples.



One of her food memories, which seemed a bit unusual, was her recollection of a fondness for something they had "every Friday night." She called it "Chinese bread," saying, "it was so good, so delicious." Thinking of Chinese bread being served at a turn-of-the-century Canadian farmhouse might sound unusual, but a Google search after this interview sure enough turned up "Chinese Brioche," of French origin, which confirms her memory being very sharp at 100 years old! And, just like Gabby, the writer of the Google piece ended with, "Why Chinese? I have no idea. The only thing I know for sure is that they are delicious!"

In addition to her bright eyes and lovely hair, Gabby retains a youthful complexion and healthy appetite. Asked about her meals and dining experience at Saint Joseph's, she said, "We have good choice." No doubt Gabby shares her lifelong "niceness" with her resident companions at every meal.

***We all join in wishing a hearty and healthy  
Happy Birthday, Gabby, and many more!***

# A Simple Note

By: Mother Genevieve



2017 proved to be a very full year for us as we pursued our goal of energy efficiency. The kitchen upgrade and new window installation were major steps in the project and we are very grateful to all those wonderful people who helped us accomplish them.

Now, we are looking at WATER! How many times a day we absentmindedly turn on a faucet and draw this precious liquid for our use! Along with our preservation efforts we are seeking to reduce our home's huge water bill. One of our staff members provided an impetus and a starting point for this project. She monitored a leaking faucet in a Resident room, measured the loss of water and looked up the cost. Her informal estimate is that we lose \$600/year from that one leaking faucet. So, we hope to start with faucet replacements throughout the home. From there, we can look at the limping laundry machines and other equipment.

Pope Francis has repeatedly asked us to take better care of the wonderful earth God has given us. In our efforts of conservation, we always have that basic faith perspective.

During 2018, we hope to give our chapel a needed facelift with new pews, flooring, lighting, and sound. The Residents would greatly appreciate such improvements. We do hope to have it completed for Sr. Michael Mary's Silver Jubilee in September.

The Little Sisters will be celebrating a milestone this year with our 150th anniversary in the USA. The Pioneers of the young Congregation were French speaking when they were welcomed into the Brooklyn diocese in 1868. Most of the anniversary celebration will take place in the Brooklyn diocese but we will mark it locally in some way. We have to thank God for bringing us to another milestone and pray for his continued presence & guidance.

We hope that 2018 will be a healthy and blessed year for you and your loved ones. When we read the news we feel like the world is sinking into turmoil, but we know God's Providence is always watching and ready to hear our trusting prayers.

## Our Needs

Saint Jeanne Jugan often repeated to the first Little Sisters of the Poor "If God fills the house, he will never abandon it." Since the day Jeanne Jugan opened her heart and home to God in the person of the first elderly Resident, God has continued to provide for the needs of our Residents through the generosity of many benefactors.

Current needs include:

- Dental Cleaner/ Mouth Wash/ Body Wash / Hand Sanitizer
- White Wash Cloths / Cookies / Crackers
- Gift Cards / Gift Certificates for Walmart, Target, Kohl's, CVS, Etc.

## Ways to Donate

- On our website at [www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org)
- Crowdfunding website [www.youcaring.com/littlesistersofthepoor-819036](http://www.youcaring.com/littlesistersofthepoor-819036)
- Monthly – Request a free calendar of gift envelopes 860-741-0791
- Matching gifts at your Company – See list on our website
- Ask for envelopes when the Sisters visit your local Church
- Amazon Smile – Connect your Amazon account to our nonprofit

**Share your email with us – we have eBlasts that go out often with upcoming events.**

## Ways to Help

Ways for you to help our Home:

- Chapel Renovation – Carpet, and Pews need to be redone.

You can easily donate online at any time by visiting our website. Simply click on the **TO DONATE** button and follow the step-by-step prompts. *(Please be assured that the Little Sisters of the Poor do not share any of your private information with anyone)*

## Upcoming Events

**Rock-A-Thon**  
Saturday, April 7  
St. Joseph's Residence

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Raffles, live music, food & fun for everyone. Come sponsor a Resident!

**Jazz Brunch**  
April 22  
Holiday Inn/Enfield

**4th of July Town Celebration**  
July 7 & 8

**Annual Golf Tournament**  
September 10  
Ellington Ridge Country Club

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org)