



## Contacts with the Legionaries of Christ is enriching for both young and old

Each Friday evening we have the joy of welcoming 10-15 Legionaries of Christ who come to the Home to serve, assist, and participate in the Stations of the Cross and to offer other Resident services. These young men are in various stages of formation for religious life and priestly ministry at the Legion of Christ Novitiate and College of Humanities in Cheshire, CT.

After the Stations of the Cross and evening prayer and reflection with the Sisters, each visiting member of the Legionaries assists with the evening meal service to the Residents, and then sits and shares the meal, providing an excellent opportunity to engage in conversation, to “break bread” with the Residents.

After supper, the entire group gathers on the skilled nursing floor to lead a sing-along for the Residents, with drum and guitar accompaniment, much to the delight of all. The Residents look forward to these get-togethers and have come to enjoy this end-of-the-week encounter with the young men. Some of them request a special song or tune and often sing along, tap their feet, clap their hands, or just smile at the sound of an old favorite.

The shared experience has also increased the Residents’ appreciation for the prayer for vocations offered by the Legionaries of Christ as a continuing part of their formation. The Residents promise to share in the prayer for the young men they have come to know here at the Home, knowing that some are on their way to studying in Rome on the path to Holy Orders.



### SAVE THE DATE

**29th Annual Golf Tournament**  
Monday, September 9

**Spaghetti Dinner**  
Friday, October 11

**Craft Vendor Sale**  
Saturday, October 19

**Christmas Bazaar**  
Saturday, November 16

**Turkey & Candy Drop**  
Saturday, November 23



### Josephine Sferrazza – 100th B-day

Another St. Joseph's Resident joined the venerable Centenary Club at a festive party in June. Josephine Sferrazza celebrated her 100th birthday with a huge cake, flowers, gift baskets, music and lots of memories. She even garnered a full-page article in the Enfield Press and wishes from the Governor's office!

A long-time Resident of St. Joseph's and a woman of strong faith, her daily missa attendance is paramount. She loves the chapel and prayer times, conversations with the Sisters, and the peace and love she says make St. Joseph's Residence a true home.

Always exhibiting a flair for style and fashion, even at age 100 her well-manicured hands belie the hard work she's known to have done all her life. In earlier years at the home, she maintained a vegetable garden that supplied fresh produce to the kitchen, just like she'd done for many years at home in nearby Thompsonville.

Josephine was born in Italy, one of seven children. Although she came to the United States over 60 years ago, she still intersperses her conversation with lilting phrases in Italia, always with a smile. Not only that, but often "talking" with her hands, embellishing, for example, a mini tutorial on pasta making. Talking about her love of cooking, Josephine displays familiar rolling and pinching gestures, all the while ticking off intricate names of pasta shapes that enhanced her homemade sauces. Her daughter-in-law, a decades-long volunteer at St. Joseph's, says she always made her own pasta, from scratch, recalling a family favorite of Josephine's cucina, begnolatta, a spinach-laced specialty bread. Try as they might through the years to nail down such a special dish in writing, Josephine's culinary skill defied capture in a recipe ... she just knew how



much of this or that to put in!

She's been involved in a variety of activities at the Home through the years, each allowing her never-idle hands to do useful work for the Sisters and the Home. She helped establish the library in concert with her volunteer daughter-in-law; has excelled at numerous needlework crafts; and used her deft sewing skills to create items for Residents and the gift shop.

No matter how filled with work her day would be, however, Josephine has always found time for prayer beyond daily Mass. She has a particular devotion to Saint Calogero, whose likeness enjoys a place of prominence among her religious articles collection. A miracle worker and evangelizer in Sicily, he went to the Island to preach and take care of the sick and poor. Josephine notes the similarity of his life to that of Saint Jeanne Jugan, to whom she is also fervently devoted.

Reflecting on her 100th birthday milestone and the loving home she's made at St. Joseph's Residence, Josephine attributes her health and happiness to the care and hospitality of the Little Sisters of the Poor, to her life-long walking regimen; and to the love of her family ... her son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. She says that in gratitude for these 100 years, she'd like to share with everyone her love of God and awe of nature through all of His works.

### Tree Dedication for Jubilee

On May 8, 2019 2 birch trees were planted in honor of the jubilees of Sister Alodie & Sister Gertrude Marie de St. Joseph. One tree was dedicated in memory of Sister Alodie's Sister, Elizabeth Bishop, the other tree was dedicated in memory of Sister Gertrude Marie's brother, Russell McConnell.

Everyone was excited for this event, and all the Residents and Sisters came out to watch the blessing of the trees and to see the Sisters water their trees for the first time. Many of the Residents promised to keep a special watch on the trees and ensure they get plenty of water to grow tall and strong.



## *Major Capital Improvement This Spring ...*

# New Cooling Tower

Most improvements at Saint Joseph's Residence elicit a chorus of "ooh's and aah's" at long anticipated "reveals." There was great excitement at seeing new and convenient windows were installed in Residents' rooms; at appreciating the beauty and comfort of chapel renovations; and in savoring the promise of tasty meals from our shiny new kitchen.

But, we wondered, who would get excited about a cooling tower? Not surprisingly, little fanfare accompanied a huge crane as it installed the house-sized tower this spring, replacing the former 15-year old model.

Jim Falkowski, maintenance manager, explained that the cooling tower is a critical element of the

Home's water management system. A 24-hour-a-day process circulates water between chillers in the basement, which absorb heat, before the same water is pumped up to the tower. A set of 12-foot fans and a mesh-like media send it back on down, over and over, day and night. Contributing to health, welfare, comfort, and safety, the tower plays a key role in regulating temperature, humidity, and various environmental and regulatory functions.

"Working with Mother Genevieve and the Advisory Board to approve the new cooling tower," said Jim, "is another step forward in transforming Saint Joseph's 50-year old infrastructure for the 21st century."



Jim Falkowski, Maintenance Manager, at new cooling tower atop Saint Joseph's Residence

## New Resident Library – "The Novel Nook"

We are thrilled to tell you about our new Library. Sister Mary Alexandra won the "Name the Library" contest with "Novel Nook". The name is a perfect fit, as a "nook" is part of a home, yet set aside as a warm, cozy, quiet and welcoming place to be. We hope that's how the Residents will feel when they come to find a book. We thank Ted Grossi for his incredible craftsmanship and the time that went in to providing awesome and sturdy shelving for our books and DVD's.

As for the "Novel" part of our name, we have many, including exciting and interesting stories of romance, mystery, war, westerns, adventure, historical and memoirs too. We also have many fascinating and attention-grabbing biographies. The Residents will find that we also have many coffee table books, which hold thousands of interesting facts and pictures of popes, the Vatican, celebrities, science, nature and presidents and their families. And for those who like lighter reading we have large print Reader's Digests. There is something for everyone to enjoy!

At this time, we have over 175 DVD's on our shelves; some of which have five or six movies or episodes on them. There are people we all know, Like Lucille Ball,

Dick Powell, Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr, Bruce Willis, Henry Winkler, Leonardo DiCaprio, Henry Fonda, Sandra Bullock, Ingrid Bergman, Audrey Hepburn and Red Skeleton, to name just a few. They are excellent for a few hours of comedy or a good movie to watch with a friend. It is our plan to obtain additional books and DVD's for the Library in the future. We are accepting donations of books with large print only, or any DVD's that might be of interest to our Residents.

We invite everyone to come by and visit or sit and read a book with a Resident. The Library will be blessed at a later date TBD.





**A NOTE FROM MOTHER  
BY: MOTHER GENEVIEVE**



**“This sister (Earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.”**  
*(Pope Francis)*

A few years ago, our Home embarked on an energy management program. This was certainly in response to the invitation of our Holy Father, in his encyclical Laudate Si. In pursuing our goals we received valuable help from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Replacing all the old windows has been the biggest part of this endeavor, but we have also introduced recycling, the use “green” chemicals, cutting the use of plastics and disposables and replacing dripping water faucets.

There is still a lot to do before we become truly energy efficient. Thank you for your help in this important undertaking. Going forward, we have to look at our air conditioning units, boiler controls and even (someday maybe) solar panels.

Our Home is located on a beautiful piece of property where trees, flowers and gardens can constantly remind us of God’s great natural gifts in “Sister Earth.” Pope Francis reminds us “to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing.”

*Mother Genevieve*

## 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
- Lysol Spray
- Wild Bird Seed
- White Wash Cloths
- Sugar Free Cookies
- Crackers
- K-Cups (Reg & Decaf)
- AA & AAA Batteries
- Gift Cards for Walmart, Target, Kohl’s, CVS and Dollar Store

## Ways to Donate

- On our website at [www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org)
- Monthly – Request a free calendar of gift envelopes  
Call 860-265-1872
- Matching gifts at your Company – See list on our website
- Ask for envelopes when the Sisters visit your local Church
- Wills & Bequests, Stock Transfers, Charitable Gift Annuities
- Amazon Smile – Connect your Amazon account to our nonprofit

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

## Other Ways to Help our Home

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 assure that the Little Sisters of the Poor do not share any of your private information with anyone)

