



Depending on God's Providence

During this difficult time, the Residents of St. Joseph's have been truly amazing. Before the quarantine started, the Residents were busy with the start of making masks for the Staff, Residents and Sisters. When everyone was put into quarantine on their floors, we set the Residents up in their rooms with the sewing machines so they could continue their great work. They have made so many masks, that we are able to share them with many who need them outside of our Home.

At this time, we are all safe with no Covid-19 cases here in our St. Joseph's Home in Enfield. The Activities department has helped each Resident log on to Skype or Facetime with their family members. Many of our AJJ members call and check up on the Residents throughout the week. This is good for both the AJJ members and the Residents.



Talented Residents used their sewing skills to make masks for the staff, Sisters, other Residents, and local healthcare workers.

Many volunteers and benefactors have stopped by with donations of paper goods, masks, and other items we need during this difficult time.

One mother of three dropped off birthday cards for our 12 May birthdays. Another benefactor dropped off 100 small bottles of hand sanitizer.

We have had so many generous donations, we have been able to share many items with our wonderful staff.

We feel so fortunate to have such wonderful staff, family and neighbors. We have learned to appreciate each and everyone, especially the dedicated staff that leave their families and come to work every day to care for the Residents and continue to keep our Home safe and healthy.

Providence, how great is that?

- Sr. Frances



SAVE THE DATE

30th Annual Golf Tournament
Monday, September 14

Spaghetti Dinner
Friday, October 9

Craft Fair
Saturday, October 17

Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, November 14

Turkey & Candy Drop
Saturday, November 21

St. Joseph's Residence Celebrates "Helping Hands & Hearts"

Thank you and God Bless you, Volunteers!



Volunteer and Jeanne Jugan Associate Julie LaFlamme works with Residents to craft Valentine-themed door decorations.



AJJ Volunteer Ginny Smith greets Residents Isabel (above) and Ken (below) with the weekly treat wagon.



Spring is the time to celebrate our volunteers. Their faithful and generous helping hands and hearts add vitality to the Home. The impact of volunteerism on the success of the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States over the past 150 years, affirmed in our recent stage play, is immeasurable. That impact continues at St. Joseph's Residence every day.

Mother Genevieve expressed deep appreciation to every volunteer on behalf of the community. "Without them we would be lost," said Mother, adding, "they bring a breath of fresh air in with them, always ready to help in so many ways, always with big smiles and warm hugs for the Residents. Such commitment evokes the true spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan. God bless them!"

Diane Falkowski, Recreational Therapy Director and Activities Coordinator, agrees. "The jobs done by the volunteers are vital to keeping the Home going day-to-day," she said. "I can depend on these people to make things happen. Whatever is on the weekly calendar, they come in and know what to do and make sure the

Residents have the opportunity to participate. Be it a special entertainment or fundraising event, dominoes, bingo, casino games, Bible study, shopping, chapel, whatever it is, they're always here for us. I love them all for how much they love the Home and the Residents."

The few featured here show St. Joseph's volunteers to be diverse in age and background, but alike in their agreement that they always get back far more than they give at St. Joseph's. Though they defy a typical "profile," what they do have in common might be called "the giving DNA."

As an example, at age 95, Julie LaFlamme's 40-plus years of combined volunteerism and employment at St. Joseph's place her among the longest-serving volunteers. Her favorite thing? As she puts it with a modest smile, "I do whatever is needed ... mending, baking, games, visits ... It's giving back, and it keeps me going." Fellow AJJ volunteer, Ginny Smith, commends Julia for stamina and devotion to St. Joseph's Residence.

Ginny has carved out her own volunteer niche over the past 11

plus years. One of many volunteers who have childhood memories of the Little Sisters of the Poor, she remembers visiting her grandmother in their care in Pittsburgh. Ginny's weekly "treat wagon" is a welcome sight at every stop. Asked about her experiences at the Home, Ginny says, "St. Joseph's saved me."

Kitchen help volunteer Robert (Bob) Nedjoika, who shares an equally long and storied history at St. Joseph's as that of Julie, named above.

For Bob it was a family affair from the beginning, when the Sisters came to Enfield from New Haven, where Bob's father had been the "begging driver," a role his father continued at St. Joseph's. For over 13 years Bob has been working three days a week in the kitchen, where he enjoys his early morning arrivals, which let him get right to work doing "whatever needs to be done for the day's meals." He will happily, and very skillfully, pare 50 pounds of carrots and leave the Home thinking on the way home that he's "done something worthwhile and made a lot of Residents happy in the dining rooms." Does he cook at home? "You bet I do!" he says, while his coworkers add that "he also makes a mean carrot cake!"

Dietary Supervisor and Chef, Stu Martinez, offered his appreciation for Bob's dependability and willingness to

do what needs to be done when he gets in. "We look forward to him coming in so regularly and doing so much good work, always with a smile on his face and grateful for the opportunity to help the residents and serve the Sisters."

On the other side of the Home, the "24/7" arts and crafts shop is also a beehive of activity, including needleworking, painting, designing seasonal decorations for sale in the gift shop, etc. A regular there, often at a sewing machine, resident Lorraine Thibault describes how the shop satisfies her needing to keep busy. She shared fond memories of the shop over the many years her parents had lived at the Home and worked on crafts. Committed to service, Lorraine also runs a "movie night" every Saturday, plays cards, and looks for opportunities to, "give back by filling in wherever they need me."

As the Little Sisters of the Poor face economic and vocational challenges ahead, we recognize the ever-increasing importance of volunteers' contributions to the success of our mission at St. Joseph's Residence ... God's work, as St. Jeanne Jugan reminds us.

Please call or visit our website for more information about the many ways you can be of service as a volunteer at Saint Joseph's Residence.



Kitchen Volunteer Robert Nedjoika



Resident Lorraine Thibault with Volunteer Karen

2020 Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras this year was phenomenal. The Theme was Four Seasons. Each department was free to pick their own theme, including each Resident floor, the kitchen, laundry, & administration departments.

The King and Queen were voted on by the Residents, with Ken and Dorothy the happy winners. Both Residents from the skilled nursing unit, which made their election very special.

There were many unique characters, especially the mermaid handing out beads. Some of the families

were involved in Mardi Gras preparations this year and they really did some real beautiful things.

Mardi Gras is a one of our favorite activities of the year because the whole house participates and comes out to see the parade; everyone is there when the winners are announced. No one was a loser for all the participants got prizes. Everyone enjoyed the party after the parade. Many of the staff came by to enjoy the festivities and dance with Residents. It was a great way to kick off our Lent season!



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



As you know, St. Joseph is the Patron of our Home. We turn to him as our protector and provider. When we wanted to celebrate him as our patron, we looked at the dates of his feast. Both March 19 and May 1 were already full of events. With a bit of research, we were happy to discover the feast of the “Betrothal of Joseph and Mary” on January 23. It is one of those old feasts that have been overshadowed in the liturgical renewal, but it is such a lovely remembrance and for the last two years, we have marked January 23 as the feast of our Home.

Actually, it is a good choice since January is sort of a down time for the Residents after the Christmas excitement and often, with the cold Winter weather that keeps them indoors.

We don't hear the terms “betrothal” or “espousal” much in our common American dialogue. In thinking about it, I looked at the six married couples among our Residents. Lived out betrothals are a beautiful thing to observe. Each couple has their own history, even their own style of relating. Yet each spouse is one half of a beautiful sort of puzzle, fitting together so perfectly, being complete when they are together. They watch out for each other and often, serve each other in a very loving way, making it look so natural. That has to have taken a lot of work and self-renouncement in their 60-70 years of “marital bliss.”

Mary and Joseph were not given those graced years to live out their commitment to each other but I am sure their years together were ones of service and self-forgetfulness to make their mission possible.

We all have loved ones whose marriages we pray about. St Joseph understands our concern and hears our prayers.

During this epidemic – we pray we will continue to be safe. It's really bringing out the best in everyone during this difficult time. The true compassion, patience and love for our neighbors.

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:

- Hand Sanitizer
- Lysol Spray
- Dental Cleaner
- Mouth Wash
- Body Wash
- 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
 - 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 assured that the Little Sisters of the Poor do not share any of your private information with anyone)

