



Many the Grains, Many the Gifts

The three-year National Eucharistic Revival inaugurated by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the solemnity of Corpus Christi in June of 2022 launched its initial phase with a diocesan level/leadership preparation emphasis. As of Corpus Christi of this year, the focus shifts to a more local level, with activities and resources aimed at increasing Catholics' understanding of what the Eucharist really means in our daily lives.

For several months in advance of this year's June 11 solemnity of Corpus Christi, our Residents, Jeanne Jugan Associates, staff, volunteers and other friends – under the creative guidance of Sr. Mary Alexandra – joined the Little Sisters in painting a beautiful Eucharistic mural. Artistic talent was not required of the participants, for the blending of everyone's contribution to the project was its greatest beauty.

As the clock ticked toward the planned Corpus Christi date for the unveiling, and there was still much to be done on the mural, we prayed the Divine Artist to send us someone who could help us bring it to completion on time. And so it was that, almost miraculously, local



artist David Pluta became known to us and graciously agreed to bring it all together into the final masterpiece it was to become. With prayerful intensity and dedication, he labored on the mural

from early morning to late afternoon every day until that masterpiece emerged – truly a labor of love on the part of our whole hospitaller family.

The finished mural, unveiled in our lobby on Corpus Christi and remaining there to inspire passersby, effectively blends “street art” where “the medium is the message” with evangelization, which is central to the Church's message of the good news of the Gospel being open to all who seek faith in Jesus Christ. As David describes it, the representation of the visual image of the Heart of Jesus reflects the boundless love of His blood “flowing out for the world, beyond borders and unconfined by artificial boundaries.” The vivid colors of the mural are designed to convey the spiritual movement from darkness to light as made possible through Jesus. This ties in with the overall meaning of the mural and its relevance to the promise of the Eucharistic Revival: The broken bread offered at holy Mass is the source from which we all partake of the message and then incorporate it into our everyday lives to foster good within and among us, that we may in turn become a leaven for our world.

Remembering Mother Genevieve

“I just want to say ‘thank you!’” These words echo a song that Mother Genevieve Regina loved to sing and they seem appropriate for us to echo as we bid our farewell to her. On the afternoon of August 21 her earthly journey ended, surrounded by her Little Sisters.

These past few years she has had her share of suffering, but she was never one to complain ... ever! So she continued bringing vitality and joy into the lives of all those around her. Mother Genevieve had a keen

intelligence along with a quick and witty sense of humor.

She was a born leader and knew how to bring the best out of everyone. She accomplished many things in her life for the good of the elderly and for our Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor, having been in various leadership roles most of her religious life, including her past roles as superior here in Enfield and as provincial superior of the Brooklyn province for a number of years prior to that.

We could never begin to articulate all the good she did, but one thing which encompasses it all – she was a happy, holy and wholesome Little Sister of the Poor. No more than that, but ALL of that. In return, all we can say is “Thank you” as we strive to emulate her virtue in our everyday life. Yes, Mother Genevieve, we just want to say “thank you!”



Parade Highlights Our English Treasure

The Enfield Fourth of July Town Celebration is an annual event. It spans three days and is packed with activities and events, including a parade honoring the rich history of American independence.

The Little Sisters of the Poor have been actively involved in community events, and this year's parade was no exception.

As in past years, the parade stepped off at the front of our property, with the many participating organizations and local businesses making their way down historic Enfield Street to the Old Enfield Town Hall, then proceeding two miles to the Town Green.

During the event, the Little Sisters were very proud of the special



recognition given over the public address system to one of our beloved Residents, Josephine DeLorso, who had reached the noteworthy milestone of her 100th birthday in May. Josie, as she is known among us, was born

in 1923 in South Hampton, England. During World War II, she proudly served her country as a switchboard operator. She also sang to entertain soldiers during the war. Once the war was over, and shortly after she arrived at Ellis Island on the Queen Mary, Josie married the love of her life, Ralph. As the years went on, she sang in a band with her sons, and she happily continues this pastime at St. Joseph's to this day. Everyone's favorite from her repertoire is her signature song, "Accentuate the Positive," with which she delights us all.

Josie is a joyful person who is proud of her achievements in life. Our St. Joseph's Residence family is likewise so proud of her – and of each of our wonderful Residents!

Navy Drops Anchor to Honor Resident

One of our most amazing and patriotic Residents, Dottie Roberge, was honored recently when six service members from the U.S. Navy visited on Aug. 29 for her 104th birthday celebration, with many local veterans also present to show their appreciation.

Before a very attentive crowd gathered in St. Joseph's Hall, the sailors reverently folded the flag while one of them recited "Old Glory." This tribute was moving, and there was a tear in the eye of more than a few. The flag was solemnly presented to our birthday honoree as she was thanked for her service.

During World War II Dottie joined one of the first groups of female Navy recruits called WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), in which she proudly served from 1943 to 1946. Her duties on behalf of our country in its time of need included paying the sailors when they came to port. Accompanied by an officer, she would salute, board the ship, and then give the sailors their money. Dottie herself received \$78 per month as



her salary. Our honored WAVE also rode in an open convertible in New York City parades.

As Dottie observes, "I have been blessed with amazing health and wellbeing for my age, and throughout all these years my service as a WAVE has always remained deeply meaningful to me. The personal satisfaction of this

honor today arises from my hope that it can inspire future generations with the values that it represents."

She concluded that she could not think of a more significant way to celebrate her 104th birthday, mark the 80th anniversary year of her enlistment, and remember and honor all the WAVES who served.

Mother General Maria Returns to the USA

It was with joy and eager anticipation that we Little Sisters of the Poor in the USA welcomed our Mother General María del Monte Auxiliadora back this year for her second visit to our country. Her special mission on this visit was to strengthen our Congregation here in North America through the reorganization of the provinces, which included merging three provinces into two: the Baltimore-Brooklyn Province and the Chicago province – and enhancing our focus on vocations.

Mother General visited several of our Homes around the country, including those undergoing construction. These projects (in addition to new foundations in mission countries) inspire great hope as we strive to reach out to the many elderly poor who need us.

Another cause for hope being the openness of so many young people in our country who are sincerely discerning their life's call, Mother General encouraged us to recognize what a great blessing and opportunity



Left to right: Sr. Mary Alexandra, Sr. Mary Augustine, Mother General Maria, Sr. Regina, Mother Assistant Joseph Christine, Sr. Emilie, Sr. Michael, Mother Maureen, and Sr. Carolyn

this offers us as we Little Sisters strive to make our beautiful vocation known to those whom God might be calling.

The Mothers Superior from all of our Homes in the USA were blessed to meet with Mother General at our novitiate in Queens Village, New York and benefit of her counsels and encouragement as well as news updates about our religious family. Our Vocation Team – newly created since our General Chapter last fall and including our own Sister Carolyn – was also present. The seven Little Sisters on this team were particularly

happy to be able to meet with Mother General, who offered them wise guidance and well-founded hope for their special task and for the future of our beautiful mission and charism.

We are grateful to all who support our work through their prayers and financial gifts, and we confidently ask all of our friends to be ambassadors for Little Sister vocations, for the future of our mission of hospitality to God's elderly poor. As our Mother St. Jeanne Jugan used to say, "If God is with us, it will be accomplished."

Missionary Disciples Service Weekend

With the restrictions of the COVID pandemic receding from view, our Little Sisters are pleased to be able to welcome discerning young women to the Home once again to gain first-hand experience of prayer and service with our religious community. It has been our joy in recent months to welcome several young ladies who have asked for such an experience and are contemplating a vocation to the consecrated religious life. Praise God!

To support single women 18-35 in their vocational discernment, our Little Sisters will be hosting a "Missionary Disciples Service Weekend" October 20-22, 2023 here at St. Joseph's Residence. Be sure to check out the information on our website (www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org) and be a vocation ambassador by spreading the word to young women who may be interested!



Scan the QR code to learn more!

A NOTE FROM MOTHER



Our Jubilarian, Sr. Joanna Frances (at left) pictured with Mother Maureen.

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful summer we've had, and now we're enjoying the beauty of autumn!

In July we celebrated World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, showing special honor to all of our elderly Residents as we enjoyed watching young people share fun and prayer together with them. It is such a blessing when generations unite in mutual respect and love!

Still savoring the joy of this special celebration, we then turned our attention to Lisbon, Portugal, where we were able to follow the World Youth Day events, with hundreds of thousands of young people gathered with Pope Francis to celebrate their faith. Young people of all different nationalities and languages joined with one voice...in the language of love!

Speaking of love, in August we celebrated the silver jubilee of religious profession of Sister Joanna Frances, pictured above. Sister lovingly responded to the call of the Lord, left Malaysia, her homeland, and has served the elderly poor as a Little Sister of the Poor in several countries. We are blessed to have her as an integral part of our family here at St. Joseph's Residence in Enfield.

As one family – including Residents and Little Sisters – we assure you of our grateful prayers for all you do for us. May the Lord bless and reward you!

Mother Maureen

Back in Gear at the Car Show

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID, we resumed our annual Classic Car Show here at St. Joseph's Residence on June 23. Sister Frances, director of development said, "We are thrilled to bring back the show. It's been three years since we had in-person events – other than drive-throughs – so we're glad to welcome people back among us once again."

The idea of a car show as a fundraiser for the Home actually originated with Sister Frances, who is from Michigan and grew up surrounded by the love of cars. Her grandfather was an inventor of the Paige car in the 1930's, along with Fredrick Osgood Paige, after whom the car was named. Sister got the idea to do a car show here in Enfield after someone gave the Little Sisters a classic car to raffle. She took it to many car shows and sold tickets.

"People at the shows treated their cars with such respect, and they were so kind and receptive toward us," Sister said. "I was a little afraid to do this in the beginning, but they all made us feel so welcome."

Participants at our show here at St. Joseph's came with vintage cars, antique cars, muscle cars, convertibles and other classic cars,



each paying an entry fee.

Our car show featured raffles, grilled burgers and hot dogs, and music with a DJ. The attendance was estimated at several hundred people, who enjoyed browsing the many vehicles on display as the owners proudly stood by. Two Residents, Richard and Gilman, viewed all the cars and selected the winners, which included a Chevy Bel Air and a Ford Mustang GT. Proceeds will go toward the Home's many equipment upgrade/replacement projects in progress. Additional needs for future fundraisers include the replacement of eight trees which were lost due to last year's storms, as well as some shrubbery replacement.

"We're happy that we were finally able to bring the Classic Car Show back," said Sister Frances. "It's a fun event and it gives people a way to be a part of our mission."

Current needs include:

Red wine (Any kind will be appreciated – but Cabernet Sauvignon is our Residents' favorite)/ Individually wrapped candies/ non-alcoholic mouth wash/ Chlorox disinfectant wipes/ tissues/ gripper socks

For Arts & Crafts: seasonal silk flowers/ tacky glue/ large & small hot glue sticks/ quilt batting/ black & white cotton thread (spools and cones)/ paint brush sets/ a steam mop

Dining: individually wrapped snacks/ cake mixes/ chocolate chips for baking/ luncheon size paper napkins/ apple and cranberry juices/ Ensure (all flavors)

Laundry: Oxiclean stain remover/ dryer sheets

Gift cards for Amazon, Walmart, Stop & Shop, Michael's, Dunkin' Donuts, etc.

Thank you for your support!