



A Bride of Christ for 75 Years!

She hails from the Boston area, where she followed her older sister into the religious life. Their whole family had entered into the Catholic faith when Sr. Gertrude-Marie was just five years old, and as they grew in their faith, her older sister ultimately embraced a religious vocation, became a Little Sister of the Poor, and took the name Sr. Gertrude Bernard. As Sr. Gertrude-Marie entered her teens she was “curious about what my older sister was doing as a Little Sister of the Poor, and so I went to see.” She was immediately smitten by the beauty of what she witnessed, and as she grew in her faith and in her relationship with Our Lord, she also sensed the call to become His bride. She entered into religious formation and then pronounced her vows as a Little Sister of the Poor on May 31, 1949. Since that time she has devotedly served Jesus Himself in the person of the elderly in the United States, Italy, and Malta.

As we celebrate this special jubilarian, who charms us with her sharp wit and with her abundant treasure trove of memories from these past 75 years, we continue to be



Sr. Gertrude Bernard (L) and Sr. Gertrude-Marie de St. Joseph (R)

inspired by her joyful fidelity. When asked what she might say to a young woman who is discerning a vocation to the Little Sisters of the Poor, Sr. Gertrude-Marie responds without hesitation, “If you desire to serve the Lord and you want to be truly happy, COME!”

Ad Multos Annos, Sr. Gertrude-Marie!

OUR JEANNE JUGAN ASSOCIATES:

A Vocation Within a Vocation

“The sharing of the charism of religious institutes with the laity”, Pope St. John Paul II once wrote, opens “a new chapter, rich in hope, in the history of relations between consecrated persons and the laity” (Apostolic Exhortation “The Consecrated Life and its Mission in the Church and in the World”, 1996).

Throughout the history of the Little Sisters of the Poor, the laity have held a deeply valued role in the hospitaller family of St. Jeanne Jugan, from Françoise Aubert, a lay companion of St. Jeanne and a precious collaborator in her early work, to other devoted laywomen who joined the mission and became “Oblates” and eventually “Fraternity Jeanne Jugan” members. Our dedicated lay collaborators today are called the “Jeanne Jugan Associates.” They include both men and women over 18 years of age — either single or married — who make annual promises to serve Our Lord in the elderly with joy and love within the spirituality of St. Jeanne Jugan.

We Little Sisters continue to treasure our Jeanne Jugan Associates and we are ever desirous of



On May 4 we rejoiced to witness our Jeanne Jugan Associates renewing their promises for another year and our four new Associates making their promises for the first time.

welcoming more and more faith-filled Catholic lay people into this special vocation. Individuals aspiring to the Association are given spiritual formation, and each Associate’s service is flexible according to his or her possibilities and the needs of our hospitaller family. For further information, visit www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org or call Sr. Frances at 860-741-0791.

A Celebration of Generations

Our party honoring St. Patrick was truly a celebration of generations as our Little Sisters and elderly Residents welcomed two wonderful groups to our Home: children from Queen of the Apostles Academy and young adults from Crossroads 4 Christ. St. Joseph's Hall was transformed into our own Emerald Isle with shamrocks, pots of gold, and tables overflowing with homemade treats and authentic Irish coffee. Our day included a visit from St. Patrick himself! Dressed as a bishop with his crozier and miter, an earnest

and attentive young Patryk honored his patron saint by visiting with each guest and presenting bags of thoughtful treasures.

The beauty of the bonds that unite the young and the old were perhaps best illustrated in a touching moment when young "St. Patrick" was visiting with our Resident Dot Snyder during the party and she asked him if he had a great-grandma. Without a moment's hesitation, he looked up at her and responded with sweet affection, "YOU."



Did You Know...?

The feast day of St. John of God is on March 8, and the Little Sisters of the Poor have a special connection with this wonderful saint! It was from the Brothers of St. John of God that St. Jeanne Jugan was inspired to adopt for her religious family the vow of hospitality — from whence the great wave of hospitaller charity of the Little Sisters has spread around the world.

After a personal conversion, St. John of God dedicated his life to God and began caring for those who were ill, physically or mentally challenged, destitute — people whom the society of his time had cast off. His religious family, the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, now labors in this same apostolate around the world, serving Jesus in their suffering brothers and sisters through the vow of hospitality.

Our Residents in Sacred Heart (3rd floor) and Holy Family (4th floor) neighborhoods marked St. John of



God's feast day this year by making special treats for our more infirm second floor (Lourdes neighborhood) Residents and serving these precious friends during an afternoon reception in their honor. Please enjoy the photos which relate this touching time of encounter.

1976 AMC Gremlin Raffle

Hot Rod over to St. Joseph's Residence today or visit www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org to purchase your tickets! \$25 each

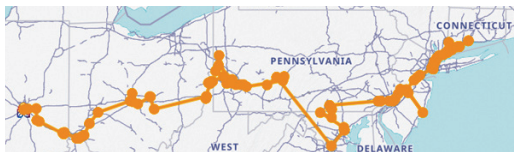
Automatic Transmission — Six Cylinder Engine

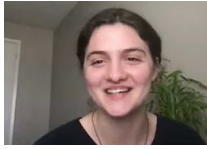


National Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage

A delegation from our Home in Enfield was privileged to accompany Our Eucharistic Lord on May 18 during the launch of the Seton Route in New Haven; from there they accompanied Him in prayer and song on the boat to Bridgeport, the next stop on the pilgrimage to Indianapolis.

* Keep an eye on our website for details! * www.littlesistersofthepoorconnecticut.org





Episode 6 - "Spring into Service"



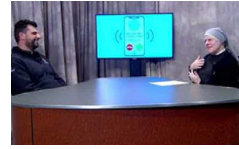
Episode 5 - "Sisters and SEEKers: Encore"



Episode 10 - "Brothers to Us All"



Episode 3 - "Sisters and SEEKers"



Episode 2 - "The Bold Ask"



Episode 1 - "So Who's Picking Up?"

CHECK IT OUT!

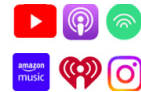
Little Sisters Roll Out New Podcast on Vocations

"Our life finds fulfillment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit..." These words of our Holy Father Pope Francis in his message for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations impel the Christian faithful to consider who they were created to be in God's plan — the plan that is their vocation in life and which, ultimately, will lead to their deepest happiness and their greatest fulfillment.

In order to generate conversation about vocations and raise awareness concerning this important topic, our Little Sisters have launched a new podcast entitled "God Calling: Vocation Vibes." Acknowledging our common call to holiness and situated within a perspective of deep respect for the vocation to Holy Matrimony, this podcast

focuses primarily on women's religious life and the vocation of a Little Sister of the Poor — but also on priesthood, the religious brotherhood, and other forms of consecrated life. Rich with insights and testimonies from many different Little Sisters, scheduled episodes also include conversations with a number of other interesting guests who converse with our Sisters regarding "all things vocation."

So how can you, our readers, be ambassadors for vocations? We invite you to check out our podcast and to "like" it on social media, share it widely, and follow/subscribe to it. This will enhance its visibility to more and more of today's young men and women who may hopefully be inspired to discern and embrace their God-given calling.



Another Missionary Journey

Our Residents, who are very intentional "missionary disciples" following the call of Jesus and the frequent exhortations of Pope Francis, were on the road again April 27th. Having been known to go serve at the local soup kitchen and visit the nearby warming center with treats for our friends from the street, all of our Home's missionary disciples were represented by three Residents who made the trip to the University of Connecticut, accompanied by two Little Sisters. There they offered support and assistance to college

students involved in organizing and assembling supplies and putting them into backpacks for homeless veterans. These backpacks, we are told, serve as the veterans' desk, their pillow, their 'locked box', their home.

Both old and young enjoyed their interactions during this missionary endeavor on behalf of those less fortunate, but our Residents were such wonderful "worker bees" that it was a challenge to get them to stop for a photo! We did succeed, however, so please enjoy seeing these smiles...



A NOTE FROM MOTHER

Dear Friends,

Our Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, was known to have often said: "If God is with us, it will be accomplished."

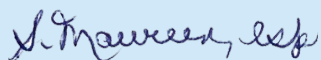
We, her daughters, know this to be very true.

Sr. Gertrude-Marie de St. Joseph, who celebrates her 75th anniversary of Religious Profession this year, has certainly echoed this same sentiment over these many years. Sister was only 19 years old when she made her Vows! She knew His Will for her and courageously pursued it at such a young age. No hesitation! Just trust! We are very grateful for her example of steadfast love and faithfulness as a Little Sister of the Poor.

Through you, our generous benefactors and friends, God performs miracles every day. You are His instruments of kindness, of compassion toward those in need. We are also blessed with our close collaborators, the Jeanne Jugan Associates, who have a spiritual bond with us and help us accomplish much to enhance the lives of our dear elderly. I invite you to come and see the marvels the Lord has done and does each and every day here at Saint Joseph's Residence. Our "home" is a place where we meet the challenges of the day, but with the support of one another, God accomplishes His Work, not ours!

United with you, our faithful friends who help form a true family in the Lord, we look forward to the blessings of the coming months and we assure you of a special place in our prayers in the Presence of Our Eucharistic Lord. We pray also that the Eucharistic Revival taking place throughout the country and culminating in Indianapolis in July will bear fruit for our lives and those of the whole world. God bless you and all your family!

Gratefully yours in Christ,



Mother Maureen, lsp and all your Little Sisters



"Care for the Elderly Well"

Those words from the lips of St. Jeanne Jugan were often spoken to the novices in the early days of her religious family, "for it is Our Lord Whom you care for in them," she would tell them. And our devoted Little Sisters and staff here at St. Joseph's still heed her advice today...as is attested to by our recent annual state health survey which showed "No Health Care Deficiencies"! Our Residents were every bit as delighted as the rest of our team to receive this excellent report.



Pictured here are Kenny Spellman (left) and Walter Seibert (right), vice-president and president of the Resident Council respectively, along with our first-time director of nursing Jacklyn Natale (Congratulations, Jackie!) and Sr. Regina, who keeps it all together.

We are grateful to St. Jeanne Jugan whose inspiration continues to inform our daily labors, to our benefactors whose support makes our work possible...and to God, to Whom we give all the glory!

"Thanks be to God! Blessed be God!" – St. Jeanne Jugan

WISH LIST

- Liquid Hand Soap
- Clorox Surface Disinfectant Wipes
- Lysol Spray
- Luncheon Size Paper Napkins
- Paper Towels
- Denture Cleaning Tablets
- Fixodent (in tubes, please)
- Individually Wrapped Candies – all kinds, but especially chocolate
- Raisin Bread
- Plain English Muffins
- Apple Juice
- Ensure – any flavor
- Glucerna
- K-Cups – regular and decaf
- Copy Paper
- Suet and Wild Bird Seed for our Residents who love to feed the birds

