



A beautiful gift to inspire devotion

Many Residents are avid outdoor walkers – and our centenarians can often be found among them!

But Calvary and surrounding Stations of the Cross in our “Jeanne Jugan Park” have been showing wear and tear from unkind treatment by our capricious New England weather.

We know, however, that Divine Providence is not capricious, and thus God has sent us a kind donor, our Jeanne Jugan Associate Joe Porcaro, to provide for us a new Calvary (sculpted in Italy!), along with the refurbishing of the Stations and renewal of the surrounding landscaping.

Joe gave us this magnificent gift in loving memory of his wife Ann and his daughter-in-law Alissa, who must surely have been smiling down from heaven upon the blessing ceremony.

Just a stroll beyond our Calvary one comes to our once-lovely pond which became overgrown during COVID, when all attention needed to be focused on efforts within the Home to keep our Residents safe and well.

Now, the Residents are asking to have the pond restored. Perhaps their Heavenly Father will hear and answer their request?



Father Rousseau, our chaplain, and Resident priest Father Stanley Miekina, CM, our Resident priest, blessed and dedicated our new Calvary and Stations to the great delight of Joe Porcaro, Residents, Little Sisters and other Jeanne Jugan Associates.

Have the poor ever had a greater friend?

On April 13, the hospitaller family of St. Jeanne Jugan will commemorate the birthday of a dear friend.

It will be the 200th anniversary of the birth of Father Ernest Lelievre, who devoted himself untiringly to the Congregation in its early days, establishing many foundations in the United States and elsewhere. Father Lelievre gave of himself without counting the cost, so dedicated was he to the mission that God had inspired in the heart of St. Jeanne Jugan.

Father Lelievre's biographer, Msgr. Baunard, wrote, “Three thousand letters

of his, open here in front of me, have revealed to me a soul and an existence so absolutely devoted to the poor, to the aged poor, that I ask myself if they have ever had a greater friend than he?”

At the age of 63, Father Lelievre – having poured out all his strength and spent his entire priesthood in the service of this mission – went home peacefully to the Father's house.

As we thank God for Father Lelievre and for the many priests and bishops who have been so kind to us Little Sisters of the Poor throughout the years all over the world, we cannot help but



join St. Jeanne Jugan in saying with grateful hearts “Blessed be God! Thank you, my God!”



Holy Door closed; graces live on

Our Holy Year pilgrimage day dawned bright and beautiful as a large delegation from St. Joseph's Residence boarded the bus and vans. Each pilgrim was given a jubilee scarf as Sister Michael passed out rosaries.

Our destination was St. Stanislaus Basilica in Chicopee, Massachusetts, an officially designated site for the jubilee indulgence.

The pastor, our good friend Father Brad Milunski, OFM, Conv., outdid himself in generous welcome. His homily during Mass brought alive the beauty of the moment.

We experienced an air of heaven as this jubilee milestone united us in a special way with the Universal Church ever on pilgrimage to the Father!

And the Franciscan Jubilee Year begins

A wonderful surprise delighted us Jan. 10. Pope Leo XIV proclaimed a "Special Year of St. Francis" to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the beloved saint's death.

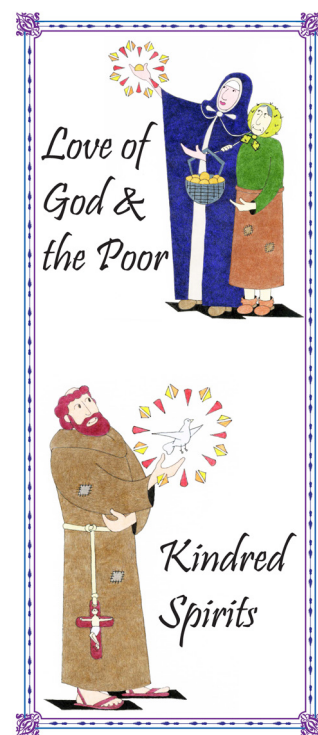
The Franciscan Jubilee Year, considered a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal, was officially inaugurated with a decree by the Holy See.

Here in the hospitaller family of St. Jeanne Jugan, we strive to live

the same Gospel joy, simplicity and peace that St. Francis exemplified and that St. Jeanne Jugan, our foundress, radiated within her own special charism.

Although St. Francis and St. Jeanne Jugan lived in different centuries and in different milieus, they are certainly kindred spirits!

May their prayers assist us and their example continue to inspire us throughout this Franciscan Jubilee Year and beyond.





Let's go UCONN!



Six string lessons

Four wishes do come true

Sue, a Resident on our second floor, is a big fan of women's sports at the University of Connecticut.

When asked if she had a special wish, she immediately said she would like to go to one of their games.

Well, Andrea Hoisl, director of the Connecticut chapter of the Twilight Wish Foundation, was determined to make this happen! And so, it did . . .

On Jan. 3, Sue and company were off to the basketball game and enjoyed it in very special box seats! She even had the UCONN mascot visit her.

Sue and her entourage were treated royally – and to their excitement, her team won!

Mary T. always wanted to play the guitar and so the Foundation gave her a beautiful guitar and lessons, too.

Everyone joined in Mary's excitement as her wish was granted with much fanfare during a surprise gathering in the lobby of the Home.

Mary Justin, in her younger days, had devoted herself to the poor in Liberia. She so loved the poor whom she served there that she had authored a book about her experiences.

When asked to make a wish, she asked if her book might be published – and so it was, much to her excitement and to that of her family and friends!

Paulette has always wanted to learn how to play the organ and so – you guessed it! – this is going to become a reality, thanks to Twilight Wish.

Now, we are just waiting to find someone willing to give her the lessons. Stay tuned!



Author! Author!



Hitting the right notes

A NOTE FROM MOTHER

Dear Friends,

After a long, hard winter, spring will be a welcome gift!

Speaking of “welcome,” I am happy to tell you that Our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV was warmly welcomed at our Home in Istanbul, Turkey a few months ago. He spoke to everyone, saying: “Hospitality is a gift of this Home.”

He also mentioned that our name “Little Sisters of the Poor” “is a beautiful name, and one that makes us think!

“Yes, the Lord has called you not only to assist or help the poor but has also called you to be their ‘sisters.’ You are to be like Jesus, whom the Father sent to us not only to help and serve us, but also to be our brother. The secret of Christian charity is that before being for others, we must first be with others in a communion based on fraternity.”

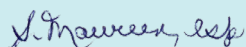
Pope Leo also acknowledged the goodness of the friends and benefactors of the Home.

He then turned to the Residents and told them, “The elderly are the wisdom of a people, a treasure for their grandchildren, families and society as a whole.”

What a grace our Holy Father’s visit was for our Little Sisters in Istanbul, but his message resounds in the hearts of all Little Sisters and the entire family of St. Jeanne Jugan!

You, my friends, are a big part of this family and we thank you with all our hearts!

With our grateful prayers,



Mother Maureen
and all your Little Sisters



Thank you, Dr. Masih!

We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Younus Masih, who has faithfully served St. Joseph’s Residence for 45 years, both as attending physician and as medical director.

Our Residents have benefited through the years of Dr. Masih’s clinical expertise in both internal medicine and pulmonology. His commitment to the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor has been deeply appreciated.

As Dr. Masih enters retirement, we honor his dedicated service and thank him for all that he has done for our Home community. We wish him



abundant joy, good health and deep fulfillment in the next chapter of his life!

Listening Hearts

We are so grateful to God for drawing 22 beautiful young women with listening hearts to our vocation discernment retreat Jan. 30 to Feb. 1!

Newly ordained Father Mitchell Kendrioski and Catholic laywoman, Simone Rizkallah, each gave reflections on discernment, followed by discussion.

The retreat, with the theme of “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps. 46:10), was rich in sacramental life – including Eucharistic adoration – and in silence, which had been specifically requested by the women.

We thank God for the graces received by our retreatants during these days, and we invite all of our friends, both near and far, to be ambassadors for vocations for us Little Sisters of the Poor.

Kindly, let young women know about discernment opportunities with us and also about the availability of personal vocation accompaniment by a Little Sister (in person or remotely) for those who might desire this.

For more information, contact Sr. Carolyn at sc@littlesistersofthepoor.org or (860) 402-4478.

Wish List

- Individually Wrapped Candies – All kinds!
- K-cups – Regular & Decaf
- Apple Juice
- Boxed White Wine
- Hand Sanitizer
- Mouthwash
- Clorox Surface Disinfectant Wipes
- Lysol Spray
- Gripper Socks
- Wild bird seed for our Residents who love to feed the birds

To make a donation, stop by the front desk or call 860-741-0791.