



SAINT JOSEPH

“To be a father means above all to be at the service of life...”

These are the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI spoken on the feast of Saint Joseph in 2009. His predecessor, Saint John Paul II, wrote, “Saint Joseph lives his fatherhood fully and completely,” and has been given “the important task of raising Jesus ... feeding, clothing and educating Him.” Don’t overlook the fact that he uses the present tense — a reminder of the ongoing providence and protection of Saint Joseph for the Body of Christ today.

How fitting it is that Pope Francis, in declaring a year honoring the special patronage of Saint Joseph for the world, reminds us that we have recourse to Saint Joseph — as a family has recourse to a father — for guidance and guardianship, especially in times of apprehension and uncertainty.

We can look to him for help, even as Mary surely did at such times. Trusting fully in God, he protected her from the harm that might have overtaken her when she announced that she was carrying the Son of God within her. At the prompting of the Holy Spirit, he guided the Holy Family to safety, keeping them far from the raging of envious kings and persecutors.

What you might not know is that here, at our own Jeanne Jugan Residence in Newark, we experience events that can only be described as miraculous when the Little Sisters pray ardently through Saint Joseph’s intercession. For example, when their funds would not cover the bills that were due, the Sisters sought the help of Joseph. While they were still praying, a check for the exact amount needed was given to them through an



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unexpected legacy specified in the will of a complete stranger. When the Sisters came out of the chapel, they met the excited employee who had opened the mail, waiting eagerly outside the door for them, waving the check in the air!

But there is more — so much more! Everyday we witness the intervention of Saint Joseph in all phases of the running of our Home. The Little Sisters’ prayers are answered by our generous benefactors who provide the financial

support; our very loyal Jeanne Jugan Associates and volunteers, who assist the staff; our special philanthropic foundations, who understand our mission and needs; our reliable vendors, who keep our buildings and landscape in pristine condition; our wonderful staff, who care and love our elderly family; and our local clergy, who provide our spiritual nourishment.

Now you might have a better understanding of why we make such a fuss here on March 19th, the feast of Saint Joseph. And why a statue of Saint Joseph the Worker, armed with his carpentry tools, stands proudly in the front lobby of our Home.

Joseph the Guardian



“I hope that as people see this work of art, their hearts will be touched, that they will see what each of us can be as we follow Joseph’s example in caring for all of God’s children.”

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HEY! What's That?

Andrew Bebbington, 16 years old, needed to complete a community service project to be considered as a candidate for the Eagle Scouts. When he asked our Sisters what they would most like to be built on the grounds of our Residence, he never imagined a PERGOLA!

Undaunted, Andrew got busy. He designed and drew up the plans, found sponsors to finance his project and an architect firm to review and approve his plans. He also needed a commercial building permit—and HE GOT IT! He must be the only 16 year old in the history of Delaware to have that!

With the final approval of the City Council, and the help of his dad, his buddies in Troop 50, and our Resident, Dan Roberts, Andrew worked long hours in the hot summer sun to complete the work.

The Sisters are very pleased with Andrew's work, and are thrilled to have such a beautiful place where Residents can gather outside to enjoy the beauty of God's creation!



Special Thanks to the Raskob Foundation

We are truly blessed to have the Raskob Foundation's wisdom and experience to fulfill the mission of St. Jeanne Jugan. For over 30 years, the Trustees and members of the Raskob family have been a great source of comfort and encouragement in our apostolate of caring for the elderly and for this we are very grateful.

Thank you for believing in our charism and trusting in God's Divine Providence.



Mother Margaret, Patrick W. McGrory, Chairperson, Raskob Foundation & Connie McGrory, AJJ Member

“Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words.”

— ROBERT FROST



Ethel has taught us that we can reach for a future full of hope (cf. Jeremiah 29:11) not only for ourselves but for all of humanity. Hope allows us to celebrate our passage through time and illuminates the genuine connection we have with one another and with all of creation.

Inspirations of a Lifetime

At Jeanne Jugan Residence we are blessed to have many Residents who were gifted with talent for writing both prose and poetry. One special Resident, Ethel Bowser, has compiled a journal of her “Inspirations and Tributes” recorded throughout her life. Ethel notes, “God wrote these and allowed me to sign my name.”

After raising six children — four boys and two girls — Ethel pursued her childhood dream of becoming a practical nurse, specializing in geriatrics. Ethel’s career spanned over thirty years at St. Francis Hospital and home care. Drawing from the wisdom and experiences of her clients, Ethel began connecting the past, present and future through poetry.

Like an author with pen and paper, and an occasional napkin in hand, Ethel formed her thoughts while observing the scenery during her driving excursions. She tells repeated stories of having to pull off to the side of the road to record her thoughts.

Ethel’s journal allows one to take in her memories through four generations of children, dear friends, co-workers, outings and life at Marydale and Jeanne Jugan Residence.

Our Residents, Little Sisters and staff who have read her “Inspirations & Tributes”, with their accompanying illustrations, thoroughly enjoyed her enlightening poems.

God Cares

I feel like a tree covered with ice
And certain any minute to break
But God in His wisdom always knows
Just how much I am able to take.
He will send the sun in the morning
And as I rise to face the day,
He will give me the strength to continue
And make a difference in some special way.

A Worm

I saw a worm today
He wasn’t going anywhere
He just was.
No schedule to keep
His time was his own.
Come sunset he’ll sleep,
At dawn start to roam.
Just sleeping and eating
Is all he need do.
And one day, believe me,
You’ll be there too.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



This newsletter is dedicated, to our Protector and Provider, "Good Saint Joseph" as Saint Jeanne Jugan would refer to him.

Now I know why she emphasized "Good"!

Sister Edith joins me in this photo, as we want to share with you a secret that not everyone knows. When we profess our vows, in addition to receiving our profession crucifix, we also receive a blessed statuette of Saint Joseph, which we carry in our pockets! Every Little Sister turns to him spontaneously in her everyday needs. We know he cares about us!

Joseph holds the baby Jesus high almost on his shoulder, and Jesus points to him as if to say, "don't worry, give it to Joseph."

Yes, all Little Sisters know of his protection and intercession on a daily basis for our needs, both spiritual and temporal.

Matter of fact, he inspires many of you to be his advocates! We are grateful! Thank you!

I believe you too, have been inspired by Joseph! He seemed to be always ready to listen and act, once he realized what God wanted of him.

As we look forward to the New Year, "Let us look to Jesus, Mary and Joseph! St Jeanne would say "See how Jesus, Mary and Joseph loved one another. With what kindness and gentleness they spoke to each other. In our little family it must be the same."

"Holy Family, pray for us!"

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas!

Mother Margaret and all at Jeanne Jugan Residence



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
Jeanne Jugan Residence

Share the Care



St. Jeanne Jugan's devotion to St. Joseph was an extension of her trusting abandonment to God. In him she found a father in the likeness of our heavenly Father, whose Providence watches over the little ones. She turned to him to obtain bread for the poor and chose him as Protector of our Congregation.

Today, we are asking our friends and benefactors to assist us in caring for the needs of our elderly family.

Please *Share and Care* with us!



God Bless You!

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As we emerge from the pandemic constraints, we are preparing to undertake critical upgrades to Jeanne Jugan Residence to meet the needs of our current Residents, as well as the needs of tomorrow's elderly. Extensive efforts to raise the funds are proposed through private donor contributions as well as corporate and foundation grant requests.

More information will be forthcoming as we finalize the details of these much needed renovations for the good of our Residents.

As we strive to continue the charism of Saint Jeanne Jugan through the care of today's needy elderly; we invite you to share in our mission.



**From Our Home & To Your Home
We Wish You and Your Family
A Joyous and Blessed Christmas!**