

Little Sisters of the Poor

JEANNE JUGAN RESIDENCE



Serving the elderly poor in Delaware since 1903.

Mutual Caring – What Brings a Family Together

Many of our Residents have chosen to make Jeanne Jugan Residence their home because of the security of knowing their needs will be met not only by our Little Sisters, but also by the staff and many volunteers. When our Residents join our family in the independent units/apartments, they well understand the choices of self-sufficiency but know their neighbors will soon become good friends who help each other out when they need assistance. This first step toward a community life-style is often difficult, but through the encouragement of fellow Residents, newcomers find a wonderful blend of privacy and kinship.

The family spirit is seen every day through many acts of kindness and caring

among our Residents. It is the basis of long-term relationships and happiness. Many of our Residents enjoy spending time with other Residents whose families live too far away to visit, as well as those who have no family members at all. A watchful eye when someone is not feeling well and needs extra attention, or when someone is facing the many aspects of aging, is ever-present.

Our Home has earned many accolades with regard to meeting the high standards of nursing care as dictated by government requirements, but our most valuable distinction is gleaned from our own Residents who define “home” with mutual caring through comfort, acceptance, and sharing.



"We believe that we are all brothers and sisters and so should care for one another."

Respect for Life and Sharing the Art of Accompaniment

By Mark Christian

My mother, Cecilia Christian, was a Resident at Jeanne Jugan Residence from October 2007 until her death in January 2014. She was always grateful to everyone who cared for her throughout the years. In the last couple of years mom's health declined and she was confined to a wheelchair. Even then, she made the best of her situation and always thought of others.

It was during her final illness that I came to fully appreciate the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Throughout the final days of mom's journey, a Little Sister was always with her. The staff was very attentive and cared for my mother as if she were their own mother. My sister,

brother and I were blessed to experience the healing presence of God's love during this sad time. We laughed, cried, prayed and remembered the good times of our lives with our mom and dad.

Sharing in the summit of the Little Sisters' apostolic work through the art of accompaniment was truly our family's blessing but also our mother's blessing as she received the Anointing of the Sick and final Viaticum. When she took her final breath all the Little Sisters and many of the staff were with me at her bedside praying and singing. The pain of mom's loss was very real but it was also accompanied by a grateful heart for all the love she was shown throughout her entire time living at the home, especially during her final days.



Mark Christian and Mom

Our Knights' Helping Hands!

As a Servant of Charity, Venerable Michael McGiveney founded the Knights of Columbus within the Catholic community. His vision of anticipating the needs of others through the service of those less fortunate is now shared throughout the world. Their mission is based on four characteristics: charity, Catholic unity, a fraternity based on family and patriotism. The Knights of Columbus are the "helping hands" of each parish as they carry on their founder's belief that everyone is a representative of Jesus and must share in the spirit of brotherhood as members of their parish family.

The involvement of the Knights of Columbus in our many fundraisers and the difference they make in the lives of our elderly Residents are invaluable. Each year, we are blessed to have not only their financial support for our Rockathon, Swing for Little Sisters Golf Outing, and Nun Run,

but also their participation in these events. The fall Nun Run has become synonymous with the Knights of Columbus as they encourage each parish throughout the State to participate. Their presence begins with the ceremonial Presentation of the Flags at the National Anthem, and continues throughout the event.

On a more personal level, weekly bingo activities with our Residents have become very special since the Knights' presence brings fun entertainment to all who participate. The Knights lending their "helping hands" to evening activities at the Residence has enabled our Residents to enjoy fun and stimulating games as one family. We would encourage young people to consider joining the Knights of Columbus as a means of giving back to the community at large and especially to our elderly Residents.



Residents participate in weekly bingo activities

Listening & Learning through Memoir Club

By Virginia, Activities Department

Memories, everyone has them—from the simplest things like having had toast and grape jelly at breakfast this morning, to more complex moments from the more distant past like falling in love for the first time or winning a spelling bee. In the course of a lifetime, particular memories serve as milestones. They represent achievements, transition, loss, and joy. These are the memories we treasure most.

At our Memoirs Club, Residents find themselves in a community of friends who want to explore the world of memory. As we gather in circle, either a knowledgeable volunteer or I facilitate, offering Residents the opportunity to share memories. Sometimes we give cues related to the season or current events. Some Residents, like Bob, come with whole “chapters” to regale us with, reciting life stories in full theatricality. Others have shorter, simpler

memories to share. And there is always ensuing discussion as sharing Residents want feedback and their listeners want to respond to what they hear. Often one person’s memory sparks many more among the group. Residents lean forward and nod with interest, smiling, sometimes laughing, as they talk or listen.

In a recent session, one Resident shared Christmas memories, and the group spontaneously began to sing a song about Santa Claus. I asked, “Do you still believe there is a Santa Claus?” Angela replied shyly, “I believe he is around somewhere.” Claire perked up and delivered a one-liner in perfect comic style: “...then send him my address!” These are the kinds of unscripted, happy moments that keep Residents and volunteers alike energized and excited to return to the group for every bi-monthly meeting.

Apart from the free sharing that occurs

in the group, volunteers and I try to record some of what Residents share. And some volunteers meet with our Residents outside the group in order to interview them privately to write their life stories. Our goal is to record at least some part of everyone’s story. Sometimes, as part of our group discussions, volunteers or I read what we’ve recorded about individual Residents.

The success of the Memoirs Club is that it stimulates both mind and heart, as Residents tell us. “Memoirs Club makes you think,” Millie Kramer says. It’s an enjoyable way for Residents to connect with each other, too. Monica Street remarks, “It’s nice to hear about other peoples’ lifestyles and life stories.” The Club also satisfies Residents who want younger generations to learn from their lives. “It’s a good way to teach young people what life was all about,” says Winnie Griffin.

Members of Memoirs Club said...



*“Memoirs Club makes you think!”
-Millie Kramer*



*“It’s a good way to teach young people what life was all about.”
-Winnie Griffin*



*“It’s nice to hear about other peoples’ lifestyles and life stories.”
-Monica Street*

Mother Jeanne Mary's Message



As another year is about to close its doors on us, we stop to ponder, reflect and to say "Thank you" to God for all the blessings He has lavished upon us in this year 2014.

Recently our Holy Father Pope Francis spoke about saying thank you in our families. He said it is such an easy thing to do but so often we take one another for granted, but these two words said with sincerity can go a long way.

That is what I wish to do in this brief message. Together with all the Little Sisters and Residents, I want to express to you our sincere gratitude for your continued financial support through your various donations of cash or kind, through the special fund raising events during the year, monthly contributions, church collections, and also your "hands on support" through the many hours of volunteer work. Without all of this we would not be able to keep our doors open to the 78 residents we love and serve.

One of the constant refrains that our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan always said to the young sisters, "Let us pray, let us pray for our benefactors, for it is they who provide for us and our dear Residents. Then she would add, not only promise our prayers but to really say them." So it is that every day the Little Sisters have an intention during our prayers of the Divine Office and also in every home every month a Mass is offered for all of our friends and benefactors. We really do carry out our Mother Foundress's wish.

With this thought I wish you all a Blessed Christmas, filled with His peace and joy, and a New Year abundant in blessings.

Sister Jeanne Mary, lsp

Thank You Abundantly for Your Support!

Because of your participation and support during our Nun Run and Spaghetti Dinner & Fall Harvest events, we successfully raised the required funds to purchase a medical transport vehicle to assist our Residents who require wheelchair accessibility to and from their medical appointments.



Upcoming Events in 2015

St. Joseph Feast Day
March 19

Cooks for a Cause
@ Feby's Fishery

(to be scheduled in February/March)

Rock for the Aged
April 11

For Our Donors

Your tax deductible charitable gifts to Jeanne Jugan Residence provide you valuable tax savings and help us to provide care for our neediest elderly.

Many employers offer Matching Gift Programs. Please inquire with your employer.

*For more information, please call the Development Office:
(302) 368-5886 or email:
devnewark@littlesistersofthepoor.org*

Thank you to our friends at Newark Bike Project!

The Sisters received a lovely early Christmas gift this year. Our thoughtful friends at the Newark Bike Project lovingly restored and donated this beautiful bicycle for their use. The Newark Bike Project is a volunteer run community repair shop that offers shared access, professional tools and knowledgeable volunteer mechanics. They also sell and repair bikes for the community.

