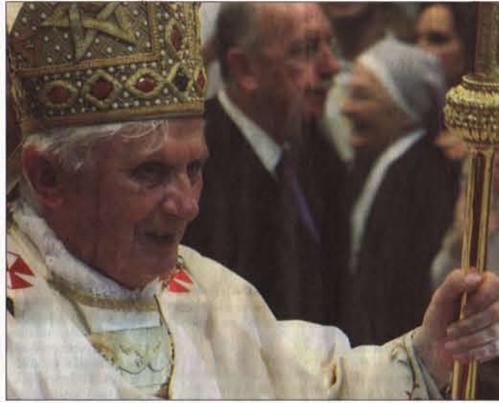
# Society A community making a difference in the lives of others

# Nuns find riches in poverty, joy in caring for elderly



rank Brown, Peninsula News

Most Rev. Joseph Sartoris

was one of four visiting

bishops who celebrated

Mass of thanksgiving and

canonization of St. Jeanne

pastor of St. John Fisher Church in Rancho Palos

Verdes, con-celebrated the

mass held on Nov. 21, in San

Pedro with Cardinal Roger

Mahony.

Jungan.

Il Papa Pope Benedict XVI is seen arriving in Vatican Square on Oct. 11 for the canonization ceremonies that designated Jeanne Jugan, a French woman and founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor, as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church.



Photo courtesy of Mary Florian

Up Close At the entrance procession for the canonization Mass, a novice (white veil) and Little Sister (gray veil), Sr. Jeanne Emmanueil, had a direct view of the Pope.



Pope Benedict XVI, left, is dwarfed by a painted reproduction of Jeanne Jugan, who was canonized as a saint on Oct. 11. Jugan, a French woman, who founded what would become the Little Sisters of the Poor in the early 1800s.

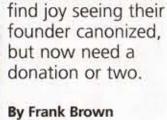


Another Budgeteer Peninsulan, businessman Lawrence McNeill, is on the Sisters' advisory board and taught them the skills of managing a major budget.



Volunteers Mary Winzen, and Dr. Noreen McGuinness are both from the Hill. Winzen coordinates the volunteers. In the past, McGuinness spent many years working in the volunteer office. Each is a Daughter of Malta, a group committed to helping the

Little Sisters.



# Peninsula News

Christmas came early this year for a small group of women known as Little Sisters of the Poor, when their founder, Jeanne Jugan, was canonized as a saint of the Roman Catholic church.

That event took place in Rome on Oct. 11, when Pope Benedict XVI welcomed a peasant French woman, born in 1792, into sainthood.

While thousands attended the canonization in Rome, more than 1,100 people crowded into Mary Star of the Sea Church in San Pedro for a Mass held on Nov. 21 by Cardinal Roger Mahony. He concelebrated the Mass with four bishops and 16 priests.

But it is the people in local communities who directly support the Sisters in their mission.

### Local support

There are more than 200 women from the Peninsula, San Pedro and South Bay who are members of the Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

One of the people they reached out to for help is businessman Peninsula Lawrence (Larry) McNeil

"I was asked to join the advisory board 10 years ago," he said. "We taught them how to budget. They're a group of great women, wonderful and so giving. But they had a big nut to crack: converting a former high school into a hospital.

McNeil added that "the sidelights built into their sysis very strict. They must take to the Sisters, call a vow of humility and they must go out and beg.

"I've heard stories," he said,

Little Sisters of Poor Western Avenue in San Pedro is "unbelievably warm and loving."

> McNeil also called the nuns "playful." He had taken his three granddaughters to visit the residence and they were quite impressed when one of the sisters suddenly appeared sporting a huge red nose and singing "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer."

#### Another view

Des Armstrong and his wife, Ann, of Rancho Palos Verdes, also have high praise for the Little Sisters.

"I've had a lot of contact with them," Ann said, "because my mother was in the home before she died. In today's world to do the kind of work they do, with so much loving care, is beyond self-sacrifice. Their chapel exudes such peace and seren-

"When [the Sisters have] a loved one in their residence, they have such a sense of happiness about every day," she added. "I was there with my sisters and grieving and they came in and sang 'Salve Regina.' What a way to go; my mother couldn't have written it better. She couldn't have been in a better place."

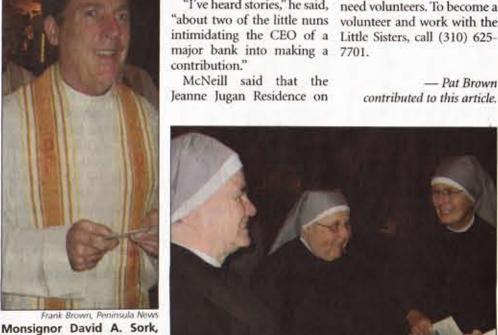
## How to help the helpers

Like everyone else these days, the Little Sisters can't ignore their own budget realities. The nuns receive 40 percent of their operating costs from various government agencies. They rely heavily on legacies and gifts for the remaining 60 percent of their operating costs.

Outright gifts and support for their fundraising events make up 35 percent of the shortfall. Foundations help with another 10 percent and individual donations bring in an additional 20 percent. Sisters have some interesting Donated goods make up the final 5 percent of the needed tem. First of all, their charter amount. To send a donation

> For those whose own purse strings are tied, the Sisters need volunteers. To become a volunteer and work with the

> > - Pat Brown contributed to this article.



Trio Sister Michael, Sister Clotilde and Mother Marguerite, pictured above, are shown at the celebratory Mass in San Pedro. Mother Marguerite has been transferred to Palatine, Ill., as superior of other Sisters working there.



Early Christmas Gift Twelve Sisters of the Poor took time away from caring for elderly to pose for this picture. Arrayed behind them is Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony, center, flanked by four bishops: Most Rev. Oscar A. Solis, Most Rev. Edward Wm. Clark, Most Rev. Joseph Sartoris and Most Rev. Alexander Salazar.