

# SOCIETY



Auxiliary President Maria Smith, right, talks with Sr. Caroline and Sr. John Elise of the Little Sisters of the Poor at the group's June 25 fundraiser at the Virginia Country Club in Long Beach.

## Event aids the poor elderly

The Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor hosted its 14th annual fundraising event on June 25 at the Virginia Country Club in Long Beach.

Members of the auxiliary and community supporters enjoyed a festive evening that included a silent and live auction along with music and dining. All proceeds benefit the needs of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

"The Virginia Country Club proudly features its founding year of 1909 and it was only a few years before that, in 1905, that the Little Sisters of the Poor arrived in Los Angeles," explained Maria Smith, auxiliary president, in her opening remarks.

The event theme, "Heritage of Hospitality," gave special recognition to the Little Sisters of the Poor, each of whom are consecrates her life exclusively to the service of the elderly poor by taking the special vow of hospitality.

According to Rita Swartz, event co-chair, "As auxiliary members, we witness how the Sisters welcome the elderly into their home and form one family with them. We see the sisters accompany the elderly day to day and care for them with love and respect until God calls them home."

The Little Sisters operate a home for 100 elderly persons on Western Avenue in San Pedro. They accept the poor of any ethnic or religious background and care for them until their death. Because government funding and other benefits cover only about 40 percent of operations, the auxiliary, founded in 1997, organizes an annual fundraiser to aid the Little Sisters.

The auxiliary membership is made up of more than 200 women from the South Bay and Long Beach. They meet three times a year in the months of January, April and October. New members are welcome.



Rita Swartz, left, and Dawn Sliskovich co-chaired the event.



Auction co-Chair Marie Treacy auctions a ride with Father Frank Hicks on his motorcycle.



At the event were, from left, Bridget and Rick Crook and Caragh and Dan O'Brien.