

## Celebrating St. Jeanne: 'A prophetic witness of the Gospel'

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About 2,000 parishioners gathered Nov. 21 at Mary Star of the Sea Church in San Pedro to celebrate the recent canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan, who humbly gave her life to the elderly poor and sick founding the order of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

"St. Jeanne Jugan was a prophetic witness of the Gospel of our time," said Cardinal Roger Mahony, presiding celebrant of the Mass of Thanksgiving. Concelebrants included Auxiliary Bishops Edward Clark, Oscar Solis, Alexander Salazar and retired Bishop Joseph Sartoris.

Citing the account in the second reading of the day (John 18), the cardinal noted that "we celebrate Jesus Christ the King, who came into this world to testify the truth.

"He was the kind of King exemplified for us in the work of St. Jeanne Jugan and in the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor," he said, with "a Kingdom of love and mercy and

service."

The cardinal reminded the assembly that Jesus could be found talking to and serving the outcast, the tax collector, the blind, the deaf, and the sick.

"He's come to bring good news of salvation reinforced by his own actions," said the cardinal, adding that the only way to be recognized in the Kingdom of God is through humble service to one another.

"That's what led St. Jeanne Jugan to her life of outreach and after her first encounter with the woman on the street she understood what Jesus meant and gave inspiration to many to follow her work with the elderly, poor and sick. She began with great obstacles, but she was faithful and had wonderful vision to see Jesus in the faces of the elderly."

The cardinal praised the Little Sisters of the Poor for attracting others to emulate their example of service. "Why?" he asked. "Because recognizing the face of the Lord on those in need brings inner peace and joy."

Cardinal Mahony compared the strength

of St. Jugan's ministry with St. Damian de Veuster's, the missionary priest who devoted his life to the lepers in Hawaii, also canonized Oct. 11 by Pope Benedict XVI.

He recalled that, as a St. John's Seminarian, he visited the first home for the elderly the LSP operated in Boyle Heights, and "delighted in being there to get exposed to your love and care and great inspiration for us seminarians."

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"In the life of Jeanne Jugan, everything manifested the gratuity of God's gifts and the power of his grace," she said during the saint's relic. "The

movement of her faith, simple and without reserve, free and certain, strong and joyful, active and humble, led her simultaneously to God and to the people of her time." **sp**



Little Sisters of the Poor gather with Cardinal Roger Mahony and Auxiliary Bishops Oscar Solis, Edward Clark, Joseph Sartoris and Alexander Salazar at Mary Star of the Sea Church.