

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor
in Los Angeles since 1905

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SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

The Example of St. Jeanne Jugan

By Rita Swartz, Development Director

In preparation for the joyful celebration of the feast day of St. Jeanne Jugan on August 30th, our Home decided to dedicate the whole month to her example and virtue. What a wonderful time for Residents, staff, Little Sisters and others to reflect and share on her model of holiness and the remarkable way God works through her to inspire our lives.

Jeanne grew up in the tough times of revolutionary France. As a young girl she was a shepherdess and later as a kitchen maid. Neither beautiful nor talented in the usual sense, she was gifted with an extraordinary heart. Barely out of her teens, she felt the call of a religious vocation. Preparing to leave home, she told her mother "God wants me for himself. He is keeping me for a work which is not yet founded."

Uninterested in impressing others, Jeanne started work among the poor and forsaken in a local hospital. Thus began her life of total service. Many years passed before she found her true vocation as she carried an abandoned elderly woman home and placed her in her own bed. Now she would sleep in the attic.

God led more poor old people to Jeanne's doorstep. Young women attracted to her and her work joined to help. Other lay helpers also began assisting. A religious community was born!

The work of the Little Sisters continued to spread and so did Jeanne's renown—until one day the ambitious priest, who had taken over the direction of the young community, replaced her as superior and sent her out begging on behalf of the growing number of homes.

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**"Remain little,
hidden by humility
in all God wants from
you, as being only
the instruments of his
work."
St. Jeanne Jugan**



The picture of St. Jeanne Jugan's dream displayed in our Home was a topic of conversation during the month of August.



St. Jeanne Jugan Trivia held on Thursdays in August attracted many Residents who enjoyed some quick answers and lively conversation.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Dottie Good (center) is the current Auxiliary President. Jan Werneid and Peggy DiLeva are past Auxiliary Presidents.



Marty Burke, a long time member of our Board of Advisors, enjoys the opportunity to visit with Mother Paul during the meal and live auction.



Dan & Laura Wetzel win a private VIP tour of the Reagan Library for six. Rita Swartz, Director of Development, holds the live auction poster.

Auxiliary Event is a Big Success!

The Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor hosted its 16th annual event on Saturday, June 22, 2012 at the law offices of Keesal, Young and Logan in Long Beach. The theme of *A Skyline Gala* fit perfectly with the venue's top floor location which provides a 360° view of the surrounding area including Rainbow Harbor, the Queen Mary and Palos Verdes Peninsula.

"This was an amazing location to hold our event," states Mingli Wang, Event Co-chair. "The Keesal Young and Logan staff worked tirelessly to make every detail just perfect."

Mickey Zimmer, Event Co-chair, adds "We are so grateful to our auction contributors and our supporters. Everyone is extremely generous. This

tells a great deal about the deep appreciation that exists for the work of the Little Sisters. *Thank you so much!*"

sage and take it back to peers and parents, to evangelize—especially in this Year of Faith.

By Resident Jeanette Knapp (photo RIGHT)

It was a refreshing experience to witness the youth coming together, united by their faith, to make a difference in our troubled church and world.

The open arms of Pope Francis seemed to embrace the world. The well planned programs were awesome. The spirit was contagious.

The call to this generation also went to all generations asking us to move out of our comfort zones and share the energy the youth produced.

We pray that the spirit of the youth will not be stifled as they go back to their countries to make disciples of all nations.

World Youth Day Reflections

Our Residents were very involved in watching World Youth Day coverage on TV. Most marveled at the changes in the church during their life time and felt enthusiastic about the impact of Pope Francis in such a very short time. Two Residents share their thoughts on WYD.

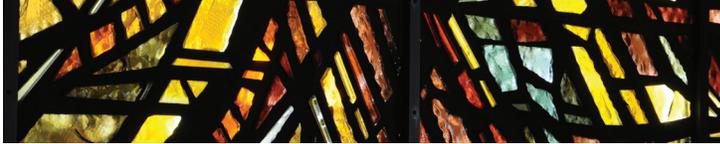
By Resident Margaret Beaton (See photo LEFT)

During Pope Francis' visit to the slums, the hospital for the drug addicted and the prison for youth, he never once said a word of condemnation. Instead he showed us Jesus' love through his love. He saw the dignity of their suffering and reminded all that even with our weaknesses God's love is the same.

The Stations of the Cross highlighted the power of suffering. You could see that the young people understood the suffering of Christ and how he used his suffering to communicate his love. The Pope said, "There is no suffering without God knowing about it." He asked, "What have you taken from the cross? What have you left on the cross? How are you uniting with the cross?"

Pope Francis radiated joy and hope. It was very reassuring to see the youth respond so totally — enthusiastically grabbing onto and embracing everything he said. You could just see that they were committed to live the mes-





Pictured with Cardinal Dolan after the ceremony at St. Ann's Novitiate are (L. to R.) Sister Malia Cecilia, from Tonga; Sister Mary Gerard of the Cross; a native of Syracuse, NY; Sr Mairéad Regina, from Tralee, Ireland; Sr Elizabeth Mary de la Croix, originally from St Louis, MO; Sister Sharon of the Sacred Heart, from Elmhurst, NY; and Sister Malia Makalita, also from Tonga.

St. Jeanne Jugan

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Quietly she accepted her life to walking the roads of Brittany seeking alms, knocking on doors and asking for money and gifts in kind—always promoting the needs of her poor. She had absolute confidence in God's Providence. She was known to say, "Give us the house. If God fills it, God will not abandon it."

And then one day the indefatigable Jeanne Jugan was instructed to retire and stop collecting. The beggar-maid, the great walker of the roads of France, was not to stir. As with everything, she obeyed.

Burying herself in littleness, a word she greatly loved, Jeanne now served in the Motherhouse keeping her past experiences to herself. Known only as Sr. Mary of the Cross, she became the guiding influence for the young novices sharing gladly with them in work and play. She loved them and they loved her.

Prayer became more and more the center of her daily life. At the time of her death 27 years later, the many young Little Sisters she had so carefully formed didn't even know that she was the foundress.

What a remarkable life and great example of humility she gives to us. By identifying herself with the forsaken, taking their burdens upon herself and going out to beg in their place, she was humble. By allowing herself to be set aside and forgotten, she was humble. Humility was the essence of her being – the secret of her sanctity.

The hiddenness of Jeanne's life also speaks to us. Leaving behind no diary or writings but only brief sayings, the details of her joys and sufferings remain almost totally unknown to us. She has given as an astonishing example of embracing the hidden life of service with joy. This is a far cry far from today's culture which prizes everything bold and public. Her example helps us see that the simple hidden acts of service are the ones most valued by God.

Thank you St. Jeanne Jugan and the Little Sisters of the Poor for your presence, example and prayers.

Cardinal Dolan Keeps his Promise

By Sister Mary Richard Morris, Isp

"You are the heartbeat of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!" This is how Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, described the six young women before him who were about to make first vows as Little Sisters of the Poor.

Cardinal Dolan presided at the Mass of Religious Profession at St. Ann's Novitiate, Queens Village, NY, on Saturday, June 1. He was keeping a promise he had made to one of them - Sister Elizabeth Mary de la Croix - when he met her in St. Patrick's Cathedral shortly before her entrance into the Congregation. When he learned that she was originally from his home parish in Baldwin, MO, and had gone to Holy Infant Grade School, just as he did, he vowed to be present if and when she made first vows. And so, about three years later, he arrived at the doorstep of the novitiate with Sister Mary Rosario, RSM, principal of Holy Infant, and his priest secretary, Rev. James Cruz.

In his homily, Cardinal Dolan reminded the six novices that they were dedicating themselves to being the heartbeat of Jesus, tenderness incarnate,

in treating God's people: first of all in receiving his love for them, gratefully, humbly, every day - and then in returning that love with tenderness to his people.

That message seemed to strike not only the six making profession, but also the five new novices seated in the front row at Mass, and the many Little Sisters from the various Homes for the elderly run by the Little Sisters. They were there to support the six newly professed, as they pronounced vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and a special fourth vow, hospitality.

After Mass, the Cardinal and those making profession were presented with leis by the families of the Sisters from the South Pacific. The newly-professed learned their new assignments, which will take them to Little Sisters' Homes for the aged in Dublin, Ireland; Sydney, Australia; Totowa, NJ; San Francisco and San Pedro, CA; and Pittsburgh, PA.

Welcome, Sister Mary Gerard of the Cross to our Home in San Pedro!

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorsanpedro.org

A Simple Note

By: Mother Paul



**Resident Lucy DiLeva
and Mother Paul**

Dear Friends,

Like the Residents (see page 2) who followed World Youth Day, the Little Sisters were also viewing the amazing events of Pope Francis' week in Rio. Interestingly, we were listening carefully for his comments about the elderly. The Pope spoke about the important "bridge" between young and old in his brief remarks to journalists en route to Rio. While young Catholics have the strength to bring the church forward, he said that older Catholics "can give us the wisdom of life, the wisdom of the past, the wisdom of our country and our family. We need this."

In Rio's cathedral on Thursday Pope Francis spoke to his fellow Argentine pilgrims. "I ask the elderly, from my heart: do not cease to be the cultural storehouse of our people, a storehouse that hands on justice, hands on history, hands on values, hands on the memory of the people. And the rest of you, please, do not oppose the elderly: let them speak, listen to them and go forward."

"...do not forget...take care of the two ends of life, the two ends of the history of peoples: the elderly and the young..."

What joy these comments bring to us as Little Sisters. We celebrate Pope Francis' extended arms of love to all. We join you in praying for him and for the young people. We are grateful for the beautiful witness they both provided to the world during the many WYD events.

Mother Paul, L.S.P.

Our Current Capital Need

During the initial study to replace our fire alarm system, it became clear that upgrading the nurse call system would also be necessary based on the requirements of today's healthcare facility construction codes.

The fire alarm and nurse call systems share the same annunciation lights and many of the same wiring paths. Combining the upgrade for these two systems into one project is both necessary and cost effective.

Both systems are essential for ensuring the safety and care of our Residents. Having easy-to-use and thoroughly dependable systems can make all the difference when responding to an emergency and saving a life.

The combined systems will be installed in all four floors of our resi-

dence building and the administration building.

Determine the total cost and time line for the combined projects is nearing completions. We look forward to keeping you informed. Your financial assistance with this critical effort is greatly needed and appreciated.

Join our E-Community

Please share your e-mail so we can send you periodic updates on important events here at Jeanne Jugan Residence.

Visit our website:
www.littlesistersofthepoorsanpedro.org
and click on "Register Here"

Donations can be made by credit card, e-check or direct deposit. Simply click on "Donations".

Upcoming Events

The Holiday Boutique

Saturday, October 19, 2013

We need your help with our annual Holiday Boutique which will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013. We need: COLLECTIBLES: China, silver, glassware, decorator items, small decorator furniture, lamps, vases, sets of dishes and wine glasses (even partial sets) etc. JEWELRY: Earrings, necklaces, bracelets, pins, beaded purses, and more. Call 310-548-0625.

The Auxiliary General Meeting

Luncheon, Wed., October 9, 2013

11:00AM Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Timothy O'Connell. Stonefire Grill will cater an amazing lunch. Chris Finney, who performed with Msgr. Joe Brennan and Augie Castagnola last year at the Warner Grand, will provide the entertainment. Reservations are \$20. Mail checks payable to the LSP Auxiliary, Jeanne Jugan Residence, 2100 S. Western Ave. San Pedro, CA 90732. Prospective new members are welcome at no charge. Call 310-548-0625 with questions.



Contributions of collectables and jewelry are needed for the boutique.