



Press Release

Little Sisters of the Poor to Withdraw from Jeanne Jugan Residence in San Pedro, California

(02/18/2020) – Today the Little Sisters of the Poor announced with sadness that they will be withdrawing from Jeanne Jugan Residence in San Pedro, California. This morning the Sisters met with the Residents, their families, lay Associates, staff and volunteers sharing their decision.

The Little Sisters of the Poor have served in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles continuously since 1905 when the first Little Sisters arrived by train from Chicago to start the 300th Foundation in the Congregation's history. After beginning in a leased home, the Little Sisters and the residents moved into Saint Ann's Home at the corner of First and Mott Streets in 1908. In the 1970s, the Little Sisters had to leave St. Ann's Home because the building no longer met the revised building codes. At that time, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles donated to the Little Sisters the site of the former Fermin Lasuen High School in San Pedro and, in 1979, the Little Sisters opened Jeanne Jugan Residence where they have cared for the elderly to the present day.

In making the announcement, Mother Maria Christine, Isp, provincial superior, explained: "As part of a strategic plan aimed at strengthening our ministry and the quality of our religious and community life, we Little Sisters have recognized the need to withdraw from a certain number of Homes in the United States, while at the same time dedicating our resources to much needed upgrades and reconstruction projects in others." She added, "many factors have obliged us to move forward with this decision. It has only come after a lengthy period of prayer, much consultation and the study of many factors."

The Little Sisters of the Poor are actively seeking a buyer for the Home with the hope of finding another mission-driven sponsor to continue operating the facility and allowing the Residents and staff to remain there. They announced that they will provide periodic updates as the transition process proceeds.

For more than a century, the Little Sisters of the Poor have been witnesses of Jesus' love for the poor and sick here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez. "I am grateful for their humble service and love for all these years and I am sad that they will be leaving. And I am praying that we can find alternatives to continue this vital mission of caring for the poor."

In letters to the Residents and their family members, Mother Marguerite, Isp, superior of Jeanne Jugan Residence, also offered the Residents the possibility of moving to another Home sponsored by the Little Sisters of the Poor. "Know that if you wish to go to any of our other Homes so that you can continue to be part of the Little Sisters' family, you will be welcomed with open arms."

Mother Maria Christine concluded the announcement by expressing the Little Sisters' profound gratitude to God for all that they have received from benefactors, friends and families - people of every religious belief and race – who have touched their lives and those of their residents for so many years. In a special way she thanked Archbishop Gomez and the people of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for its leadership in promoting and supporting the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor for the past 115 years. She assured every one of the Sisters' prayers and support throughout the transition period and asked for their prayers in return for the Little Sisters' community.

For further information, please contact Rev. Mark Cregan, Esq. at 917.767.2772.