



# Message from Mother

What a joy and a blessing it was to welcome Mother General Maria back to the United States!

Mother Maria's first visit, after many starts and stops due to COVID, was in December of 2021, and included a whirlwind tour of four of our Homes, where she received joyful and grateful greetings from our Residents as she became acquainted with the United States.

This most recent visit had a specific purpose — to reflect with us on the consolidation of our three U.S. provinces into two and the need for greater vocation outreach, as explained at [www.littlesistersofthepoor.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org):

“Over the last several years we have withdrawn from a number of Homes across the country in order to consolidate our aging communities and strengthen our religious life, despite a diminishing number of vocations and a growing crisis in the healthcare workforce. From over thirty Homes for the elderly in three provinces at the dawn of the new millennium, we now count nineteen Homes in two U.S. provinces, or governing regions.”

At first glance, this news may appear disconcerting. But I was fortunate to participate in a meeting at our novitiate with Mother General Maria and all the superiors from around the country following the installation of Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica as superior of the new Baltimore-Brooklyn province. We made preliminary plans for vocation



On the steps of Queen of Peace Residence just outside NYC, superiors from around the country gather with Mother General Maria (front, center, fourth from the left)

*“If God is with us, it will be accomplished ... God will help us; the work is his.”*

— Saint Jeanne Jugan

efforts to be led by a newly-formed Vocation Team, which helped us to look toward the future with a sense of realism, hope and trust.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).*

We pray that the remaining nineteen Homes in California, New

York, Pawtucket, and everywhere in between, will flourish. We know we can count on God's grace and generous benefactors like you to support us as we continue our mission to the elderly.

You may remember our own Sr. Anastasia Grace, who along with two novitiate companions, recently traveled to France for her final two years of formation. With the help of your prayers, and an openness to the Lord's call, we hope many more young women will discover the blessing of being a Little Sister of the Poor.

May God bless you for all you do for us. Please continue to pray for vocations.

— *Mother Patricia Mary*

# The Tradition Continues

Just before the “official” start of spring, we were blessed by an outpouring of support for the 15th annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner & Fundraiser.

We were delighted to welcome hundreds of guests to The Old Grist Mill Tavern for this year’s celebration, which was a blend of new and old. The restaurant’s new owner embraced our long-standing tradition and the previous owners were still on hand to help with planning and logistics.

Greg and Sue Esmay launched the event fifteen years ago and Karl Pelletier of Red Oak Hospitality, agreed to host again this year. “Greg passed over the reins to us, but we were extremely excited to continue the tradition,” Karl told us. “We couldn’t imagine celebrating St. Patrick’s Day any other way.”

We thank everyone who helps to preserve the tradition, including collaborative vendors, hardworking restaurant staff, and generous benefactors. We are also thankful for dependable volunteers — thirty in all, including the ever-supportive Navigant Credit Union V Force. These helping hands welcomed guests, assisted in the kitchen, and sold scones and raffle tickets. It was the epitome of “teamwork” and with your help we raised nearly \$50,000 in support of our mission.

A special thank you to Sr Emilie, Sr. Frances, and Sr. Mary Alexander who joined us from St. Joseph’s Home in Enfield, CT. We hope to see everyone again next year!



*"We are very grateful to Karl and blessed by his willingness to partner with us. We are also fortunate that Greg and Sue continue to help us even in retirement." — Mother Patricia Mary*



In Grateful Appreciation  
to  
**The Old Grist Mill Tavern**  
for more than a decade of generosity and friendship  
and the following who make this event possible...

**Vendors**

Blount Fine Foods	Reinhart Food Service
Calise Bakery	Russell Morin Fine Catering
Colorado Premium Foods	Scialo's County Bakery
Cross Country Cookie	Stop & Shop
DiLanna Foodservice & Paper	Sysco Corporation
Gordon Food Service	Table Talk Pies
Hershey Ice Cream	Trader Joe's
Quality Rental Center	Tourtellot Fine Produce

**Friends and Benefactors**  
We are grateful for the kindness and charity  
of countless friends and benefactors for  
their generous support of the annual  
St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser

**Volunteers**  
The Staff at The Old Grist Mill Tavern  
Navigant Credit Union VForce  
Jeanne Jugan Associates  
Jeanne Jugan Residence Volunteers

## Little Sisters Big Bucks RAFFLE New Chairs for the Auditorium



During any given week you might find a group of five to twenty-five Residents enjoying singalongs, playing bingo, or participating in chair yoga. These activities, along with arts and crafts, movies, and more, take place in our auditorium, the hub for our elderly family to enjoy games, musical entertainment, and each other's company. This is also the place we gather to celebrate feast days and holidays with friends and family.

While the auditorium could use a refresh of sorts, the pressing issue is the furniture. The heavy, chrome-finished steel chairs purchased in 1979 have served us well for forty-plus years but the vinyl-covered padding is disintegrating, the chrome finish is rusting, and the wooden arms are splintering.

Through the Little Sisters Big Bucks RAFFLE we endeavor to purchase 50 new sturdy yet comfortable chairs, with fabric covered seats, backs, and arms, for a warmer, softer, more comfortable feel for our fragile resident family. Fifty coordinating stacking chairs will round out the set for larger family events. If we meet our goal, we hope to also augment the Activities Fund for resident entertainment and outings.

We hope you will help us again this year. The 2023 Little Sisters Big Bucks Raffle form is enclosed. Tickets are \$100 each but the chance of winning the \$5,000 Grand Prize is just 1 in 500! Act soon! Ticket sales will end when the 500 tickets are sold. Thank you for your support!

### THANK YOU!

The 2022 Little Sisters Big Bucks Raffle was a success, and the purchase and installation of the new commercial dishwasher and laundry machines are complete!

## Why I Give

"Isn't she something!" my mother used to say about Sister Laurelliya, as she watched Sister cheerfully gathering Residents on the patio for ice cream and the Rosary. Yes, she is, something, I would say to myself, as I joined Mom, the Sisters and Residents to pray. Indeed, they all are quite "something," these Little Sisters of the Poor.



For many years, Mom volunteered with the Little Sisters, assisting in the ceramics shop and later helping to feed the most infirm. Mom always spoke so highly of the care and respect the Sisters showed the Residents, not only while they were up and around, but also as they were passing to their next life.

Fortunately, for Mom and for us, when she needed the Little Sisters, they were there for her. As she approached 90 years of age, she became a Resident herself and experienced that same gentle and compassionate care she had witnessed as a volunteer.

We always felt lucky that Mom was in the care of the Sisters, and that caring extended to our family too. The Home was like home to us. In fact, we celebrated my mother's 90th birthday there in the dining room after Mass. Later, we celebrated my nephew's Christening in the chapel, and three days later, Mom passed away. What a blessing it was, then, to be surrounded by the Little Sisters praying and chanting as Mom left this earth, with my brother and me by her side. They gave us great comfort as she moved from our loving arms into the loving arms of God in such a beautiful and peaceful way, just as she had hoped.

The Home where my mother resided closed just a few months after she was called home to God and the Little Sisters relocated to other Homes. I discovered that Sr. Laurelliya ministers to a new family of elders in Pawtucket, RI, and so it is to Jeanne Jugan Residence that I now send my contributions.

"Isn't she something," Mom would say. That special something is the reason I continue to support the Little Sisters of the Poor, no matter where. The compassion and love the Little Sisters gave my Mom, while she lived and as she passed, shaped my life-long commitment to help the Little Sisters of the Poor. The care, respect and kindness shown by the Sisters and the staff to Residents and their families, is unequalled anywhere else.

I hope my message will inspire others to give.

*Marianne*

# Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer

*Reflections by Sister Mary Vincent*

The stark and somber aura that typifies Catholic churches throughout Lent was the same in our chapel at Jeanne Jugan Residence, with one exception, the Feast of St. Joseph.

On this still yet new spring morning, we placed yellow and white bouquets, one each on the altar, at the statue of the Holy Family, and the icon of St Jeanne Jugan. A gold and red embroidered frontal crafted in India, featuring the Eucharist symbols of a Chalice, Host and fish also helped to set a modestly festive tone as we prepared to welcome Bishop Thomas J. Tobin to celebrate Mass on the transferred feast of St. Joseph on Monday, March 20.

The Bishop, accompanied by his secretary Rev. Hiep Nguyen, was joined on the altar by Rev. Robert Caul and Rev. Msgr. Nicholas Iacovacci, with Bishop Ernest Boland, O.P. present among our Jeanne Jugan family. Resident Tom Hartigan proclaimed the first reading and a Little Sister assured the second. After

proclaiming the Gospel, Bishop Tobin invited all of us to live as St. Joseph lived, wholly and completely according to the plan of God. He encouraged us to invoke St. Joseph under many different titles: patron of the universal church, patron of fathers and families, patron of laborers and carpenters, patron of a blessed and holy death, protector and guardian of the Holy Family.

At the end of Mass, the Bishop presented everyone with a holy card of St. Joseph – “Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer.” Then, as was his custom, he visited the upper floors of our home, greeting each member of our elderly family.

St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of the Little Sisters of the Poor, to whom our Mother Foundress confided all her needs. What a privilege it was then to honor Saint Joseph in such a special way, as well as to be able to thank Bishop Tobin for his many years as shepherd of the Diocese of Providence and for his many pastoral visits to Jeanne Jugan Residence. We



will treasure our community photo with him, near the Holy Family and with resplendent light flowing from the soaring stained glass windows.

Dear Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, you protected Mary and Jesus. We count on you, as Jeanne Jugan did, to continue to protect our home and the elderly family entrusted to our care.

May God bless Bishop Tobin as he prepares for a new chapter in his priestly ministry. Godspeed, Bishop Tobin and Welcome Bishop Henning!

## THANK YOU!

The response to the 2023 Winner-A-Day Calendar was an encouraging start to the New Year. Your raffle ticket purchases and very generous contributions helped us to meet our goal of \$75,000 for Phase 1 of the new plaza entrance project. We are so very grateful for your support.

SAVE THE DATE

## Summer Soirée

AUGUST 23, 2023  
5:30 PM to 8:30 PM



Dear Sisters:

Please accept my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I do not wish to participate in the raffle but would like to help you in your mission of caring for the elderly poor.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please also consider including the Little Sisters of the Poor in your Estate Plan.*