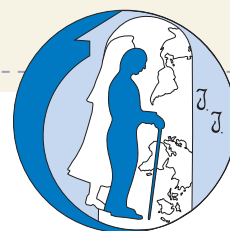




Serving the
elderly poor in
San Francisco
since 1901.



Our New Palms

BY MARIA CUNNINGHAM

For some, palm trees today evoke memories of relaxation and leisure in the tropics. Others are reminded of their amazing ability to bend and survive the severest of storms. However, with close to 3,000 palm tree species in the world and origins dating back 5,000 years, the history of the palm tree holds much more significance; it represents life, peace, hospitality, victory and triumph. Historian W. H. Barreveld claims that without the existence of the date palm, the expansion of the human race into the arid parts of the “old” world would have been substantially restricted. The date palm provided concentrated energy food that travelled well through desert journeys, while also providing protection from severe weather.

“Growing in grace they will still thrive
and bear fruit and prosper in old age.”

Psalm 92:14

At St. Anne's we have recently been blessed by the gift of four Pindo palms, which symbolically flank the front entrance of our Home. Although these trees will not provide sustenance for a journey, they are appropriately representative of longevity and beauty in age.

Just as the fruit of the palm tree grows sweeter as the tree ages, the elderly are in the season of life that bears the most wisdom through the fruits of their experiences —



Mark and Gregory Backer with their mother, Resident Melva Backer

experiences that have laid deep roots to help them weather the storms of life.

We are deeply thankful to Mark Backer for providing us with the beauty of these trees. Their grace and sway will be enjoyed by our community for many decades continually reminding us of their common symbolism among people of all faiths and backgrounds and their early importance referred to not only in scripture, but also throughout history.

Little Sisters of the Poor

Our Grotto

While the construction of St. Anne's Home was nearing completion in the early 1900's, one of the Little Sisters became ill and was given a poor prognosis. Edward LeBreton, the benefactor responsible for gifting the grounds and the construction of the new home for the Little Sisters, promised Our Lady of Lourdes that if she interceded for the ill Little Sister, he would build a replica of the Lourdes grotto on the grounds of St. Anne's Home. Several days after the end of a novena to Our Lady, the Little Sister had a complete recovery. By December 8, 1904, Mr. LeBreton's promise was fulfilled and the grotto was ready for its first procession in honor of Our Lady. Since then, the grotto has been the site of many processions and celebrations for the Little Sisters, Residents, and guests of St. Anne's Home. In 1906, the grotto at St. Anne's Home, was the site for one of the first Masses said in San Francisco after the Great Earthquake and Fire. Each year for the last several decades the grotto has also hosted Lourdes Day, an event sponsored by the Order of Malta as a recreation of a Lourdes Pilgrimage for those throughout the Bay area suffering from serious illnesses and unable to travel with them to Lourdes, France.



Over the last 113 years, nature slowly took its effect on the beautiful replica, and this year as a result of historic rainfall, after a long drought, erosion of the grotto walls reached heights that required swift repair. Once again, angels came to the rescue of the Little Sisters. A generous benefactor kindly funded the repairs, and skilled artisans lovingly took time and care in restoring the grotto back to not only structural safety, but also to its original beauty.

Resident Spotlight: Jonathan Curtis

BY MARIA CUNNINGHAM



Resident, Jonathan Curtis, a Southern California native, continues life at St. Anne's much in the same way that he has always approached life — as an active participant. Jonathan started his colorful and interesting career as a tour guide at 20th Century Fox Studios. It was there that his previous Hollywood and Beverly Hills sales experience and his refined sense of diplomacy were discovered, and he became driver to the stars. He was sought after by many and became a favorite to the likes of Don Rickles, Bob Newhart, Ed McMahon, Aaron Spelling, Dinah Shore, Bert Reynolds and many others. From there he moved on to be the personal driver for a Country-Western Record Producer and Manager, an Investment Banker, and finally as the private driver for the President and CEO of Yahoo. He travelled extensively with many of his clients, getting to know them and their families well and becoming a valued member of their trusted circle. Knowing Jonathan, it is easy to see how his integrity, mild-mannered demeanor, and consistently pleasant disposition would make him a highly desired member of this decidedly selective group of individuals. As he nostalgically shares his experiences, he is adept at not disclosing anything other than his own information and fondness for his employers. His value for their privacy, even though many of them have passed on, is clearly evident and endearingly off-limits for discussion.

Upon retiring in 2006, Jonathan became acquainted with St. Anne's

Home as a volunteer who enjoyed helping with front desk reception duties in his spare time. His connection to St. Anne's grew stronger over several years of volunteer work, and he was happy to be able to make the transition to Resident in 2012. He admits that the best thing for him at St. Anne's is that he has become a better Catholic. He feels closer to God as a result of his activities, which include leading the rosary once a week and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy several times a week. He also enjoys serving as Altar Server and Eucharistic Minister and bringing communion to Residents who can no longer attend Mass. In addition to actively helping wherever he can at St. Anne's, Jonathan is a gifted photographer of nature and landscapes as well as artistic "City" shots. Although exceptionally modest of his own talent, Jonathan's work was exhibited at our 2015 Celebrate HeART event that featured the work of nationally renowned artist, Susan Schneider. All five of his pieces were enthusiastically well-received and sold quickly.



Jonathan's intriguing capture of the Golden Gate Bridge on a Misty Day was one of the pieces that sold at our 2015 Celebrate HeART event.

Celebration of Love

This summer, visitors to San Francisco have been made keenly aware that it is the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love — theme parties, museum exhibits, special events, and era art reproductions abound. However, it is the fellowship and community prevailing at St. Anne's that led us to organize our own Celebration of Love, acknowledging the importance of peace and love in their true meaning and for all times. The St. Anne's community came together to enjoy a journey down the memory lane of an era that began in San Francisco with the core values that held the ideals of St. Francis: caring for those in need, especially the poor. At St. Anne's Home we are blessed to be able to celebrate together and to put into practice everyday the teachings of St. Francis in the interactions among Residents, Sisters, employees, volunteers, family members and friends.



Mother Provincial and Resident, Johnny Foley

Our themed festivities brought together Little Sisters, Residents, staff and volunteers from our Auxiliary and Association Jeanne Jugan to welcome Mother Provincial Maria Christine to city of St. Francis for her Feast Day and to celebrate her dedication as a Little Sister of the Poor. We were entertained with reflections of the era that espoused peace and we commemorated the spirit of loving service, started almost 180 years ago, by St. Jeanne Jugan, and that lives on throughout the world today. Fashions of 1967 were both genuinely and humorously donned in a well arranged fashion show. We listened to music that got its start in San Francisco and savored tasty comfort food. Our Celebration of Love gathering reinforced the air of good feeling that prevails in the hospitality of service and kindness.



Special thanks to the Archbishop Riordan High School Drama Department for sharing their colorful fashions with us

The laity were always a vital part of the mission of our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan. She created a network of charity, knowing that she could not do it alone. She relied on the charity of those in her community. At St. Anne's, we know we cannot do it alone in the 21st century any more than St. Jeanne Jugan could in the 19th century, and we are thankful for the network of collaborators in our community.

As is our tradition, the month of August is dedicated to commemorating our Mother Foundress, and our Celebration of Love will culminate on August 30th when we are joined by Bishop William Justice for her Feast Day Mass to honor her legacy of love.



Our lovely Residents, Justina Duncheon and Mary Mullen



A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying the long days of summer with quality family time at home or on vacation, whether crisp and coated in fog or blanketed in warmth and sunshine. We enjoyed early summer-like weather and a lovely day with friends at our spring golf tournament, where we gratefully honored the memory of Martin "Pete" Murphy. We are very thankful for your continued support of this event that marked its 8th year.

We are delighted to have welcomed many new and happy faces to our Resident community in the last few months and are very grateful to our dedicated volunteers for helping us help them to feel welcome. For Mother's Day our Residents and their guests celebrated with a Mother's Day Tea served by members of our Association Jeanne Jugan, and for Father's Day they were treated to antique car rides through the Presidio, thanks to the kindness of the Model A Ford Club. Our next highly anticipated activity of the season will be our annual Summer Olympics, which supports all levels of skill and mobility in an engaging and enjoyable atmosphere for all. The month of August is dedicated to honoring the legacy of St. Jeanne Jugan and Residents will enjoy many stimulating activities that will also provide them with historical insight into the early beginnings of our congregation.

Like with any home, our maintenance projects are on-going, and we are deeply thankful to you, our community, for understanding that our needs are also ongoing. Our dining room upgrade project, funded largely by our Christmas appeal, foundation grants, and the generosity of our Auxiliary, is going very nicely. We are hopeful that it will be completed by the end of September. We are very grateful for your generous support of this project and of 2017 Parent's Day Gala Non-Event, which has kick-started our fundraising efforts for the replacement of our emergency generator.

May God bless you,

Mother Theresa

Upcoming Events

Fall Luncheon

Wednesday, September 20, 2017
St. Francis Yacht Club
San Francisco
Cocktail 11 a.m. • Luncheon 12 p.m.

Fall Carriage House Sale

Date to be Announced



Boutique Preview Party Gala

St. Anne's Home
Thursday, November 16 • 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Cocktails • Hors d'oeuvres •
Dinner Buffet • Desserts • Boutique

Christmas Boutique and Seated Luncheon

Saturday, November 18 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
San Francisco, CA

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