

*Little Sisters of the Poor*

Serving the elderly poor in San Francisco since 1901.

ST. ANNE'S HOME

# Merry Christmas



“On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth.

Peace on earth to men and women of goodwill, who work quietly and patiently each day, in their families and in society to build a more humane and just world, sustained by the conviction that only with peace is there the possibility of a more prosperous future for all.”

Pope Francis

Merry Christmas from our Home to yours.

Little Sisters of the Poor



## Resident Spotlight – Betty Li and Maggie Wong

BY MARIA CUNNINGHAM

Sisters can easily be described as allies, as friends, and as a perpetual support system to each other for life's highs and lows. Witnessing that special type of bond is something that we are lucky to see at St. Anne's in our Residents, Betty and Maggie. However, it is not only the bond they have with each other that is worthy of admiration. These two sisters have been Residents at St. Anne's since 2011, but have been devoted to supporting the work of the Little Sisters as volunteers since 1996. They started by volunteering, post-retirement, by coming to the Home twice per week to help with Resident care, whether in the dining room or elsewhere.

That devotion has not changed 21 years later. It is commonplace to see Betty and Maggie helping get Residents to and from Mass or activities, assisting those who need a little extra help in the dining room, or simply running for a necessary glass of water to calm a cough. When discussing what they do at St. Anne's they humbly explain, "We have the time and the ability to help, so we do what we can." Their selfless and innate sense of service is part of who they are. What started for them as an opportunity to volunteer because they wanted to be with people and help where they could developed into a committed vocation.



**Maggie Wong**



**Betty Li**

In 2004, they joined the Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) with the desire to participate in the Little Sister's mission of hospitality to the elderly in a committed and ongoing way and to help them carry out the apostolic work of St. Jeanne Jugan. As AJJ members, Betty and Maggie specifically vowed to help the Little Sisters by praying with them at the bedside of Residents during their final hours of life. In addition to this tender act of kindness, these siblings have a variety of other responsibilities that seem

automatic to them and which they proudly execute as a part of their daily routines. Betty is responsible for taking care of the St. Anne's chapel in preparation for all Masses. She also drives the Little Sisters to medical appointments as needed. Maggie has become involved in the Water with Blessings Program, an international program that provides water filters to developing countries that don't have access to clean water, particularly to countries like Africa and Asia, where the Little Sisters have a presence. With a small filter and a simple bucket, water is cleaned of impurities and made safe to drink. Betty has joined Little Sisters, Residents, and staff members in other homes in crocheting little socks that cover the filters. Each sock is designed to prevent cracks if the filter is dropped, and also to provide it with a personal touch. Betty has crocheted close to 500 water filter socks!

Originally from Hong Kong, Betty and Maggie came to San Francisco within a few years of each other. They settled in San Francisco's Chinatown to fulfilling and interesting careers. Betty coordinated the catering office for the Holiday Inn Hotel in Chinatown for 20 years until retirement due to illness. Maggie worked in the administrative office of an import/export company that represented clients like Proctor & Gamble, Hershey, and Rubbermaid in Japan and Korea. Their life in Chinatown included a busy work life and regular visits to Old St. Mary's Church, where they found the comfort of prayer. "At St. Anne's, we found the comfort of kindness and care. We are so grateful to be in a place that has made us better Catholics, made us feel closer to heaven, and where we can continue to give of our time and help others," they share thoughtfully." The loving and thoughtful efforts of these two lovely women are a blessing to all of us, and we are thankful for the light they bring into the hearts of all who know them.



**Betty has crocheted close to 500 water filter socks!**

## The Hearth of our Home – New and Improved

BY MARIA CUNNINGHAM



Last year around this time we were delighted to share a story with you from one of our Residents regarding her insights on the importance of the St. Anne's dining room. She described the dining room as a haven that defies loneliness, a place where friendships are born, memories are relived, and traditions are shared. A place where Residents come together over a home-cooked meal to celebrate their joys and to comfort each other in times of sorrow.

This place that breeds warmth and comfort is where Residents share meals in community and where they can discuss a variety of things or nothing at all, but always know that they belong. After 18 years of continual use, the hearth of our home was in need of upgrades to help improve the quality of life for our Residents. Our buffet server was in

need of warming units, improved ventilation, draining, plumbing, and electricity to better meet the current service needs of our residents. As is common with many projects, the upgrade prompted unexpected improvements, but the St. Anne's community came to the rescue and helped us realize the goal of bringing the much used dining room to current standards.

This October, a new dining room re-opened. The five month and on-budget project became a reality through the gift of grants, the generosity of individual donors, auxiliary members, supporters of our golf tournament, and our 2016 Christmas Angels. The improvements not only include the much needed buffet that features five hot wells and three cold wells to accommodate a variety of foods all in one place, but also fresh paint, new flooring, drapes, lighting, and very well received ergonomic chairs. "The new location for the buffet station opened up the room so that we can all see each other, as well as enjoy the beautiful view from the windows," says Mary Nelson. The walls are decorated with landscapes donated from the estate of a generous family. The eye-catching, colorful food photography that frames the buffet section was graciously created by a staff member and her family. Resident Lea Schick loves the color coordination, finds the artwork striking and enjoys being able to see the sunset from the dining room. The new chairs, which feature front wheels, make it easier for Residents to maneuver. They fit under the tables with ease, and their comfort is appreciated by all the Residents. Kathleen D'Arezzo says, "It is so nice to have a special warmer for the dinner plates and to be able to put our food on a warm plate!"

Residents are enjoying their new dining room and have gratefully acknowledged the consideration that went into the decor, lighting and design to enhance their comfort and to support their self-sufficiency. Many thanks to all who made this project possible and for helping us make the elderly happy — we couldn't have done it without you!





## Christmas Wishes from Mother Theresa



Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of hope and near the close of another year, we are grateful for all that we have shared together. We are thankful for your support of our mission on behalf of our Residents — what a blessing! We recognize the wisdom of our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan who, over 175 years ago, knew that her call to love and serve the elderly required a village. She knew it was something she could not do alone. Today her legacy lives on in much the same way that it did then, with the love and support of the community that embraces the importance of the elderly and the ongoing need to provide them with the love and care they deserve.

Thank you for standing beside us in our journey. We thank each and every one of you for your meaningful contributions. We have many angels in our midst who selflessly give by lending a hand and generously sharing of their time, others who are able to support us financially, and some who graciously do both. You are our village and we could not do what we do without you! May God bless you and your families abundantly this Christmas season and always.

Gratefully yours,

**Mother Theresa**

## Seeking Christmas Angels

In the aftermath of natural disasters we are made acutely aware of the importance of emergency systems and the need for having them in place. The sick and the elderly require indispensable special assistance during the best of times. A crisis situation only intensifies the significance of this need and the necessity of being able to call on reliable systems that will continue to protect and preserve their health and safety.

St. Anne's Home is in need of a new emergency generator that will provide the protection required for the safety of its residents in the event of an emergency.



The campaign for the replacement of an aging 35 year emergency generator is considerable with estimates in the range of approximately \$1.5 million to cover required environmental and engineering studies, governmental permits, labor, underground tanks, and the generator itself. To the extent possible, most of our recent fundraising efforts have and will continue to focus on this endeavor.

This Christmas season, we turn to you, the angels in our midst, and thank you most sincerely for considering lending your support to this cause, as this is not an effort that we can undertake without help from our community and extended family. Donations in any amount will make a difference and help get us closer to replacing our 35 year old generator.

*"...God never abandons us. Each time we need it, one of his angels will come to lift us up again and give us comfort: Angels come, at times, with a human face and heart, because Christ's saints are always here, hidden in our midst ..."* Pope Francis

May God bless you for all the good you share with those in need.