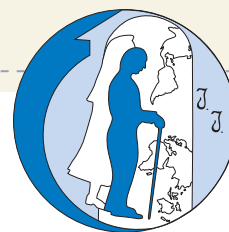




Serving the
elderly poor in
San Francisco
since 1901.



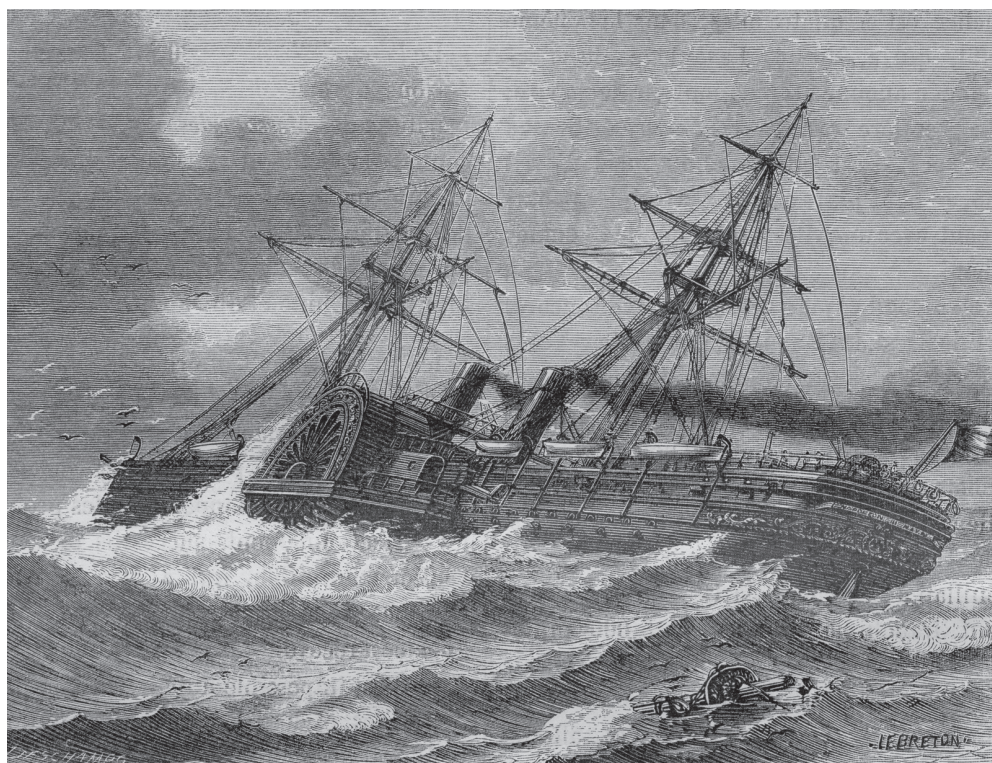
150 Years in America

On August 30th, the feast of Saint Jeanne Jugan, the Little Sisters of the Poor inaugurated the sesquicentennial of the Little Sisters' arrival in America.

The Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor was founded in France in 1839, when a humble woman named Jeanne Jugan opened her heart and her home to an elderly, blind and paralyzed woman in need.

From Jeanne Jugan's humble heart flowed a great wave of charity which eventually spread all over the world. This wave reached America on September 13, 1868, when seven Little Sisters arrived in Brooklyn, New York to establish the community's first home in America. Within four years, the Little Sisters of the Poor had established 13 homes for the elderly in the United States. From Boston to St. Louis to New Orleans, they cared for needy older women and men regardless of race, religion or nationality.

The Little Sisters arrived in the United States, three years after the Civil War, a particularly painful period in our nation's history. The ravages of the Civil War and the failures of Reconstruction left an untold human toll, vast economic devastation, and a profound racial divide. Like a healing balm, the Little Sisters of the Poor brought a much-needed infusion of humble service and merciful love to America.



The Napoleon III, the ship that brought the Little Sisters to America in 1868.

Continued on next page

Little Sisters of the Poor

Continued from previous page



Sketches accompanying an article on Little Sisters' home on 70th Street in New York, from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, February 7, 1874

In the early decades of our nation, elders depended on their children or personal wealth to assure a comfortable old age. There were poorhouses, modeled on England's "Poor Laws" that sheltered the indigent elderly, but they were characterized by primitive, often subhuman conditions. By the mid-1850's benevolent societies and fraternal organizations began to build old age homes to give old people, with the ability to pay, an alternative to poorhouses.

The Little Sisters charism of hospitality brought a unique Gospel message to 19th century America. Firstly, they came specifically to care for those who could not pay their own way. Secondly, the charity they practiced was universal in its reach. In a century characterized by unapologetic religious and racial discrimination, the Little Sisters opened their doors to the needy elderly regardless of race, religion or nationality — Catholic and non-Catholic, immigrant and native born, black and white. The population of the country was reflected in the homes of the Little Sisters. All lived in peace under the kindly, peaceful influence of the Little Sisters, where all languages were spoken, and blended in the universal language of charity understood in any country.



The Little Sisters' loving care of the poor and their accompaniment of the dying offered a counterbalance to the dehumanizing forces at work in 19th century American society. The values personified by the founding Little Sisters in America are no less relevant today than they were in the post-Civil War era for they also respond to the wounds in our 21st century culture and the longing in contemporary hearts for God's merciful love.

Today, the Little Sisters minister to the elderly in 27 homes across America and in 31 countries around the world.

"As we leave the old world for the new, we will still have the same responsibilities, the same struggles, the same people, the same God. On the shores of the Mississippi as on the banks of the Jordan, the world has need of being renewed."

~ Fr. Ernest LeLievre, Ambassador of the Little Sisters to the New World

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

St. Jeanne Jugan Award Dinner

*Honoring the
Sanchez-Corea Family
Friday, September 28*

5:30 p.m. Cocktails

6:30 p.m. Dinner and Program

9 p.m. Dancing to David

Martin's House Party

The Event Center at

St. Mary's Cathedral

San Francisco

*Tickets available on-line at
www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org*

Fall Carriage House Sale

Friday, October 12 and

Saturday, October 13

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Anne's Home

San Francisco

Auxiliary Fall Luncheon

Under the Tuscan Sun

Date to be determined

*Please visit our website for
information update*

Our Hidden Sanctuaries

By Maria Cunningham

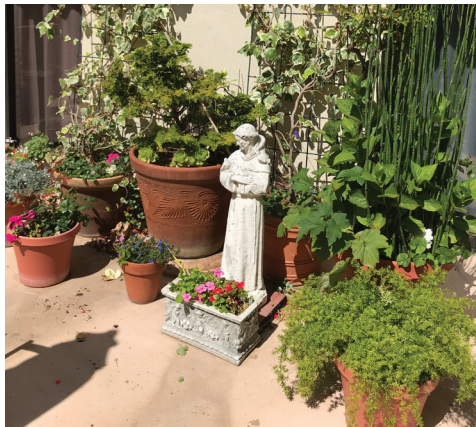
In 1977, the Little Sisters at Saint Anne's Home received news that their building, so carefully built in 1901, was in need of serious safety upgrading. These upgrades, which included seismic retrofitting, were so substantial it was determined that the imposing brick building at 300 Lake Street had to be demolished and a new building had to be built — a project as imposing as the original construction itself. It was at that time that collaboration with many volunteers, benefactors and City officials began. In 1981, the success of that effort rendered the new Home as it stands now. Careful foresight and planning created a Home for the Residents of St. Anne's that followed the Little Sisters' vision of caring for the elderly with dignity and respect.

In order to not disrupt the lives of Residents, construction of the new Home began on the grounds behind the old building. It was not until the Home was entirely completed that Residents were moved into the new building

and demolition of the stately old home began. This well-thought-out construction plan is what gave birth to a beautiful lawn with surrounding parking area inside our present-day gated entry. The feat of this construction, close to four decades ago, was impressive then and still is, even by today's standards.

Architects and engineers gave great thought to building a home unlike most facilities intended for the care of the elderly. Private rooms were built so that Residents could enjoy privacy and continue under the vision of care that defines the mission of the Little Sisters. Because "aging in place" is not always possible for the elderly of limited means, St. Anne's strives to keep "aging in place" alive and well in its community living lifestyle. Ninety rooms were built as quads which share a patio area between them. These small courtyards allow for Residents to maintain gardens, to step out for an outdoor meal or to share with visiting guests. The transition from living in one's private

home to living in a community setting can be complex. However, living quarters at St. Anne's were designed to ease the transition by allowing Residents to have some of the comforts of home and their own private space, while sharing in community life. Since 1981 the patios have been maintained either by family members, volunteers or by Residents who are able, and who welcome the opportunity to garden. Residents who delight in gardening as a pastime often care for multiple gardens in the patios. It is common to hear them joyfully and proudly comment on the booming Rhododendron's, the Bonsai Trees or even the blooming succulents that adorn their patios year-round. Some Residents use the areas as meditative spaces and others to just enjoy a bit of fresh air and sunshine. The Home's larger garden spaces are even used for Residents to enjoy a picnic lunch with other Residents or visitors. Gardens and patios at St. Anne's are an important part of the landscape and are one of the aspects that add to the beauty of life for our Residents.



Resident, Edith Hartnett, admiring the blooming rhododendrons

A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



Dear Friends,

The month of August gave us two special occasions to celebrate. On August 21st, we had a lovely celebration for Sr. Mary Pascal's Jubilee that began with Mass celebrated by Bishop William Justice and was followed by a Nigerian inspired meal shared with family and friends. The entire month was dedicated to remembering the legacy of St. Jeanne Jugan and on August 30th, we celebrated her feast day with a special Mass. That day also marked the beginning of our sesquicentennial celebrations commemorating the arrival of the Little Sisters in America.

As we learn more about our early history in America, we realize that our congregation has lived through the evolution of our country and has seen advances in every aspect of life, but the vision of our foundress has remained constant and relevant for two centuries. Following in her example we continue to rely on God's Providence, manifested through the kindness of benefactors, to continue our work of caring for the elderly.

The responsibilities that our Little Sisters faced in the New World in 1868 remain the same in 2018, caring for the needy elderly and embracing all with open arms, hearts and minds. Thank you for supporting us as we continue in the footsteps of St. Jeanne Jugan, eager to pass on her charism to future generations of Little Sisters. We are very grateful for all that you do to join us in support of our work.

We look forward to celebrating with you at our largest fundraiser of the year on September 28th, when we will be honoring the Sanchez-Corea Family with the 2018 St. Jeanne Jugan Award.

May God bless you,

Mother Theresa

With Gratitude for the Angels in our Midst

We are six months into our campaign to raise funds for the replacement of our emergency generator and we are about half way to our goal of raising the needed \$1.5 million. We are beyond grateful for the heartfelt response received thus far. The letter below is one example of the support that we have been blessed to receive from members of our community and for which we are eternally grateful. May God bless you all for opening your hearts and standing beside us in our journey to, "Make the elderly happy, because that is what counts."

April 3, 2018

Dear Mother Theresa and the Little Sisters of St. Anne's Home,

Reading through your Spring newsletter and seeing your campaign for your 35-year old emergency generator brought back memories of our overnight stay at St. Anne's home on the night of the Loma Prieta earthquake, 29 years ago.

I was visiting my mother, a resident of the home at that time, and we were walking together just down the street from the home when the earthquake struck. Making our way back we realized how important the construction of the new home was that had incorporated joints to move with the quake to avoid damage.

Since the Bay Bridge was damaged our commute back home to Oakland that night would have been a nightmare, and we were invited to stay the night at the home and drive back in the morning.

As much of SF, or perhaps all of SF was without power, your emergency generator gave the home the emergency power to provide emergency lighting and power and kept us abreast of what was happening throughout the Bay Area. It allowed us to view everything on the TV that was placed out in the hallway and around which we were all gathered.

So, we are happy to contribute to your emergency generator campaign, and to thank you again, 29 years later, for the help it provided to us.

*Sincerely,
A Grateful Donor*