



Serving the
elderly poor in
San Francisco
since 1901.

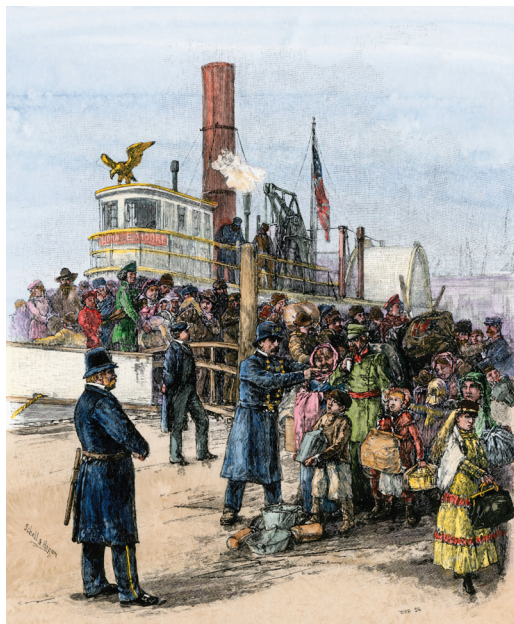


The Little Sisters of the Poor Celebration of 150 Years in America

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our presence in the United States, we hope that these reflections will help you to “enter in” and share the journey of our pioneering Little Sisters.

The first reality with which our first Little Sisters in America were confronted was the vastness of our country and its distance from the motherhouse in Brittany. Before venturing across the Atlantic, the Congregation had established homes in France, England, Belgium, Scotland and Spain, but America must have seemed like a world away. In 1868, reaching North America from Europe required an ocean voyage of two weeks onboard a paddle steamer. It could not have been an easy trip. The potential dangers at sea included dense fog, hurricanes and icebergs. Nautical lights capable of penetrating thick fog had not yet been invented so elaborate systems of bells, foghorns, whistles and sirens were used. Accidents and collisions at sea were common.

It is safe to assume that our Little Sisters did not travel first class. The overwhelming majority of immigrants



*Immigrants landing at Castle Garden, New York, 1880s
(Alamy stock photo).*

traveled in steerage, where there was no lighting and passengers were packed in as tightly as space would allow. It was common for water to seep into the steerage through holes intended for

ventilation. Most passengers suffered from seasickness. There was, on average, one toilet for every one hundred passengers – obviously not the comfort of modern cruise ships!

Disembarking in New York was only the first phase of their journey; they then had to travel varying distances across the country to reach the cities to which they were assigned. As an example, the trip from New York to New Orleans by train and barge took six days. With significant distances between the cities where our early homes were established, we can assume that the Sisters rarely had the opportunity to see one another. The first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable between Europe and the United States was completed in 1858, but it was costly, so the Little Sisters relied on old-fashioned letter writing to keep in touch and seek advice from our motherhouse. No doubt they trusted Divine Providence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, along with the advice of the local bishops and benefactors for many important decisions. Our pioneering Little Sisters were certainly courageous and enterprising!

San Francisco's 2019 Walk for Life!

BYSR. DIANE

We were all looking forward to participating in the Walk for Life and were delighted to find out that there would be a break from the rain for the annual San Francisco walk. Whether it be for the March for Life in Washington D.C. or in San Francisco, we welcome many friends to our Homes for the event.

On Thursday evening we welcomed the Sisters of Life from Denver and New York. On Friday, our other visitors and walk participants began to arrive. We welcomed a group of fourteen students from the Newman Club at Arizona State University, the Newman Club from Oregon Tech, a small group from St. Anne's Church in Gilbert, Arizona, and another from St. Henry's Church in Buckeye, Arizona.

We also had a group of thirteen from Riverside, California, who belonged to the Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust Youth Group. A father drove here from Nebraska with two of his teenage daughters, so they could participate in the events that led up to the walk and, of course, to take part in it.

Also staying at our Home was a gentleman from New Mexico, who belonged to Runners for Life, and also happened to be a retired diplomat with many experiences to share - all of which were very interesting!

Mary, originally from Vietnam, who usually attends the March for Life in D.C., did not attend there this year because of the severe East Coast weather. She instead joined us. Mary feels blessed by God and is very "pro-life" because of that. She is a very young 77- year old, who even attends World Youth Day because she feels energized and edified by the young people she meets and the new friends she makes.

We were happy to also be joined by Elise Pinick, a young woman who is spending the month with us. She has worked and volunteered in our homes in Minnesota and in Illinois and is now spending time at St. Anne's to discern a possible vocation as a

Little Sister.

Our Walk for Life weekend began with Vespers at St. Dominic's Church on Friday evening, followed by the Vigil Mass and Holy Hour. During the Holy Hour a couple gave their testimony on adoption, as they have adopted seven children through the years. They had a very different perspective from the one with which

we were familiar, emphasizing the importance of having birth parents remain involved as much as they feel able, for their sake and for the sake of their children. They did not feel that this interfered with the love they had for their adopted children, aged from teens on down, who were all there with them.

Saturday started with a Mass presided by Archbishop Cordileone, who was joined by several bishops at St. Mary's Cathedral. Following the Mass, we proceeded to breakfast at St. Dominic's with two of the Dominican Brothers who come to St. Anne's for service. The rally and walk followed.

The speakers at the rally were excellent and although I was hoping, by some miracle, to get to meet Anti-Abortion Activist, Abby Johnson, face-to-face that didn't happen during the walk or at the rally.

However, on our way home I recognized her walking toward us! We were able to chat with her, and tell her how much we admired her work and what she does. I assured her of our prayers, and she shared that she prays for us as well.

Our Residents were happy to hear about the Walk for Life when we returned and told us they had been praying for us. It was a gift to break bread with our guests and new friends. As always, it was beautiful to meet people of all ages, young, old and in-between - all of us there to support the Right to Life. It was reported that there were approximately 50,000 participants in the San Francisco walk, the second largest Walk for Life in the country.



Elise and Mary at the rally



ASU students cheering on the walk



Abby, Sr. Diane & Elise

With Gratitude for the Angels in our Midst

In December 2017, we began our 12-month campaign to raise funds for the replacement of our emergency generator. It has been a considerable undertaking 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. We have reached out for support through a variety of means in the last year, and how blessed are we to be surrounded by angels, who hear our calls for help and readily extend their hands in response. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and response. As Pope Francis has said, "... 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." We are truly blessed with angels in our midst standing beside us helping us to continue our work.

We are delighted to report that through our fundraising efforts and your generosity, we have raised, to date, \$1.25 million for this project. We are most sincerely grateful to ALL of our donors. It has been a collaborative effort with donors ranging from individual monthly donors, new friends, old friends, supporters of our events, and loyal Foundations. Together we made this happen and we are because you are – THANK YOU to all and may God bless you!



Ashes to Resurrection

The observance of Lent is defined differently by many people. For some, it is a good time to "diet," a time to give up unnecessary favorite things, whether they be in the form of food and drink or in the form of activities. For some it is a time to repent for past wrongs. For others it is a time for contemplative meditation and prayer, but for all it is a 40-day period, not including Sundays, that starts with Ash Wednesday and culminates with the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Over the centuries, Lenten traditions have evolved, but the purpose has remained the same. It is a season for fasting, penance, prayer, and almsgiving intended to prepare us spiritually for the passion and resurrection of Jesus, while we, in his image, also find renewal in our lives. The Lenten journey can lead us to being the best person we can be, with awareness toward kindness and understanding not only for those most like us, but also for those most unlike us. Almsgiving is not necessarily about writing a check, but about having the generosity of heart to help those who are in need of our help. Lent is a journey that reminds us of the road that we should be on throughout the year, not just for 40 days in the Spring, and one that allows us to strive for this enlightenment each year, allowing us to reunite with our Lord.

The Little Sisters of the Poor and the elderly for whom they care and prepare for eternal life wish you a Holy Lent and Blessed Easter!

"Let us sing the glory of our risen Jesus."
St. Jeanne Jugan

Congratulations to our Newest Centenarian!

Julia Souza has been with us since 2010, and the spring in her step has not dwindled in those last nine years! She participates in many activities at St. Anne's as well as independently. She enjoys volunteering daily at the General Store, a spot at St. Anne's where Residents are able to shop for toiletries, greeting cards, and other sundries, and where Julia assists her fellow residents with their shopping needs. Seeing her and her level of activity defies her biological age and inspires the rest of us.

This January, Little Sisters, Residents and staff were happy to come together with Julia to celebrate her joining the ranks of centenarian. She blew out her candles in one fell swoop and even took the microphone to express her gratitude. Happy 100th Birthday to you Julia!



A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



Dear Friends,

As we proceed into the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of our founding Little Sisters' arrival in America, we are delighted to share with you the history of their transatlantic journey, their early days in the new world, and the roads they travelled to bring us to where we are today. Many of the challenges they faced continue to be relevant for us today in modern America, and like them we too are supported by devoted and kind individuals who share in recognizing the importance of care for our elderly.

Entering the great season of Lent, a time for renewal and hope, we are ever so aware that without you, it would not be possible for us to do what we do. All of the physical renewal, restoration, and repair that has taken place in our Home in the last year has become a reality for us because of the support that we receive from our loyal supporters and benefactors. We thank you so very much for your kind generosity and offer you our grateful prayers as we prepare for the resurrection.

May your homes be blessed with the renewal of Spring, filling them with love and hope. Wishing you a blessed Lenten Season and a very Happy Easter, you remain in our hearts and daily prayers.

May God bless you,

Mother Theresa

Upcoming Events



10th Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament

FRIDAY, MAY 3

10 a.m. - CHECK-IN & LUNCH

NOON - SHOTGUN START

PEACOCK GAP GOLF CLUB
SAN RAFAEL

FOR QUESTIONS CALL:

CELIA BARBACCIA 415-713-7689 OR DAN BURKE 415-279-3126

Spring Carriage House Sale

Friday, March 29, and
Saturday, March 30

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

St. Anne's Home
San Francisco

Auxiliary Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, May 8

11 a.m. - Cocktails

Noon - Luncheon

St. Francis Yacht Club
San Francisco

Whatever the shape of your vehicle it fits our Vehicle Donation Program. Help support our mission of care for the elderly and qualify for a tax deduction. We take care of the heavy lifting and the paperwork too!

We Accept Vehicle Donations

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TO DONATE CALL – 844-422-4483

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.LITTLESISTERSOFTHEPOORSF.ORG