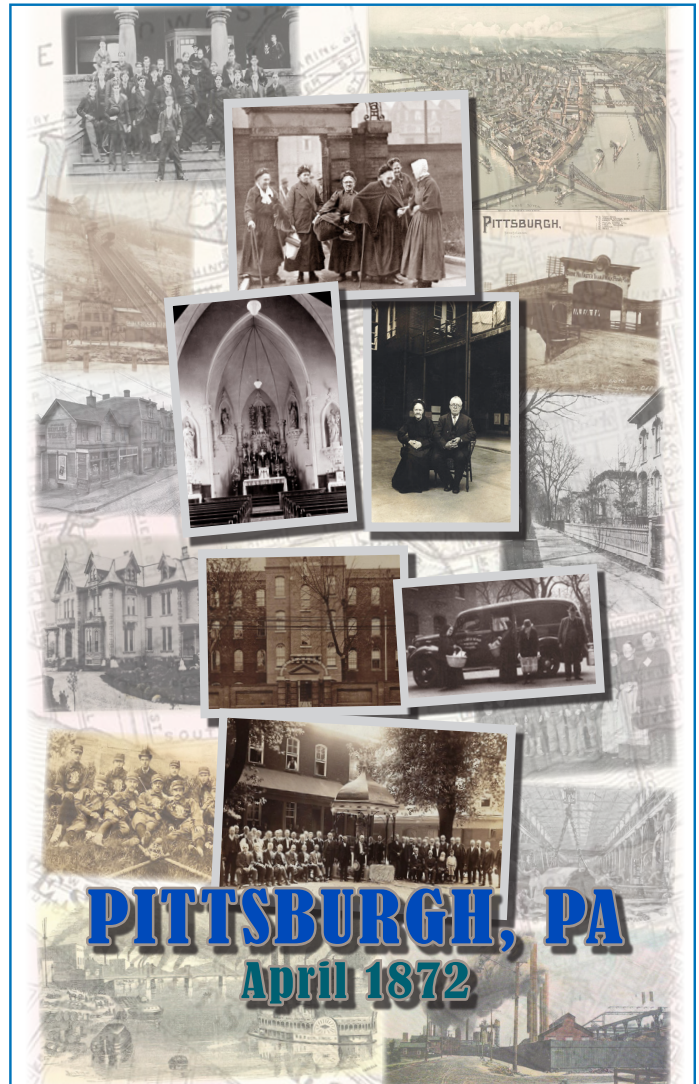
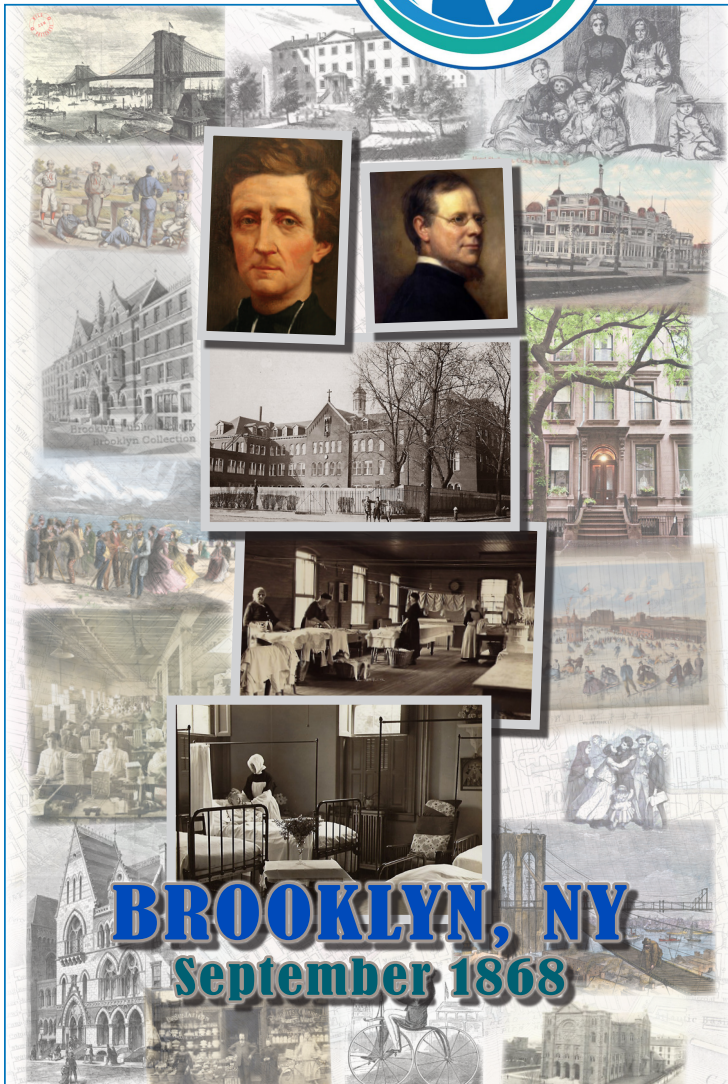




Little Sisters of the Poor

St. Anne's Home

Fall 2019



Seven Little Sisters arrived in Brooklyn, New York on September 13, 1868, to establish the community's first Home in America. Within four years, 13 Homes had been established for the care of the elderly in the United States.

Little Sisters 150 Years in America

Although our Congregation was founded in the aftermath of the French Revolution, it would be reductionist to say that Jeanne Jugan began her work in reaction to specific social conditions. Her outreach to destitute elderly persons was the fruit of the Holy Spirit's charismatic inspiration. Although it did contribute an effective and much-needed response to the human misery of her day, it was much more than a humanitarian effort. Similarly, in God's mysterious plan our little Sisters' arrival on American soil in the wake of the Civil War gave them the

opportunity to counter the anti-Catholic vitriol common among nativists and to make a significant contribution to the Church's works of charity at the crucial moment in American history.

In the early foundations in England and Scotland, the Little Sisters were often confronted with strong anti-Catholic bigotry. They were the object of suspicion and derision due to their religious habits and loyalty to the pope, and they were subjected to public humiliation because of the practice of begging. We can only wonder if the Little Sisters destined for

America had heard stories of their Sisters in Great Britain, if they feared that they would be treated likewise in America, or if they realized how deeply anti-Catholic sentiment ran through American society.

France had seen a certain level of immigration in the 19th century, but nothing could have prepared our Little Sisters for the multicultural environment they encountered in America. From 1790 to 1890 the U.S. population grew from one million to 63 million souls; the foreign-born population nearly

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Celebrating 150 Years in America

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doubled between 1850 and 1860 alone. This phenomenal growth was due to immigration. The earliest immigrants were predominantly British, Irish, Scottish and Welch. This first wave was followed by Germans and then Czechs, Hungarians, Swiss and Scandinavians, with French immigrants having a significant presence in the South, especially the Mississippi Delta region.

In a biography of Father Lelièvre, the priest who planted the first foundations of the Little Sisters of the Poor on American soil, we find this description: “The elderly immigrant is the same as the native-born American; they are both a shipwreck cast aside by the winds, for whom the Home of the Little Sisters is the only safe port.”

Our Congregation’s historian described the universal spirit in our first American Homes as . . . “a remarkable mixture of creeds, occupations, and nationalities of the various people who inhabit it. The reflection, as it were, of the population of the country is seen there – a population composed of a great

“The public appear delighted to see that the Little Sisters of the Poor are willing to work for the poor; that they ask no endowment; that they desire to trust in Providence and on the generosity of the public.

number of immigrants from all countries of the world who came to seek fortune on this new soil. The German and the Frenchman, the Irishman and the Englishman, mingle with the Spaniard and the Italian, with the inhabitant of Canada or with natives of the United States. All live in peace under the kindly, peaceful influence of the Little Sisters.”

Local citizens were dumbstruck by the Little Sisters’ humility, magnanimity and complete trust in Providence. A

letter to the motherhouse relates, “The public appear delighted to see that the Little Sisters of the Poor are willing to work for the poor; that they ask no endowment; that they desire to trust in Providence and on the generosity of the public.” A quote from the Boston newspaper read, “They came unheralded, with the very handsome endowment of 10 cents, and unlimited faith in Divine Providence, under the patronage of the great and glorious St. Joseph in whose intercession they have unbounded confidence, and who evidently has not disappointed their most sanguine expectations. With their courage, humble charity and the ability to adapt to their new circumstances, our pioneering Little Sisters were embraced by America and the mission that started in America 150 years ago, continues today with unfailing faith in Divine Providence providing needy elderly persons of every race and religion a Home where they are welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

An Inspiration and Model of Faith

By Maria Cunningham

Carmel Rutherford, one of our newest Residents, was recently recognized at the 39th Annual Christian Women of the Year Luncheon in San Francisco for her inspiration and service to her community. The award is bestowed by the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) to women of all denominations in recognition of their work in their churches and communities. Winners exemplify the ideals of the organization through leadership, development and advocacy for women of African descent, as they support their families and communities.

Carmel celebrated her 92nd birthday this past May and has proudly dedicated her life to her family, church, and community. As a member of the New Providence Baptist



Church, she has served on the Women’s Auxiliary, Mission Ministry, and the Mother’s Board, mentoring and providing support to members of her congregation. For many years, she also taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School to children as well as adults. She has been an ardent and lifelong promoter of the importance of education, devotedly adhering to the conviction that “education is the wing on which dreams fly.” As the mother of seven, grandmother of seven, and great-grandmother of three, Carmel has lived and continues to live a life of faith, thankful for each and every one of her blessings. Her devotion to share of herself for the benefit of others leaves a marked legacy for those who follow in the wake of her contributions.

Thank you, Carmel! We congratulate and commend you on this very special and well-deserved honor.

Source: 39th Annual Christian Women of the Year Program

Sister Cecilia Celebrates a Silver Jubilee

By Maria Cunningham

(Excerpts from Speech by Barbara Anderson at Jubilee Celebrations)

On July 30, we celebrated Sr. Cecilia's Silver Jubilee, honoring her 25 years of following in the footsteps of St. Jeanne Jugan. Sr. Cecilia was first introduced to the Little Sisters of the Poor when she visited one of the Homes in Hong Kong with her kindergarten class. Little did she know that experience would be the first of many, and that it would lead to a lifetime of service.

Over the years, Sr. Cecilia spent a great deal of time at the two Homes run by the Little Sisters in Hong Kong. She visited both her great-grandmother as well as her grandfather and became closely familiar with the lives of Residents under the care of the Little Sisters. Through her visits, Sr. Cecilia came to recognize how happy she was in the midst of the elderly, and this eventually led her to become a volunteer for the Little Sisters. Sister's love of service to the elderly and her positive energy endured. She ultimately entered the novitiate with the Little Sisters of the Poor in Malaysia.

After serving in several Homes in Asia, Sr. Cecilia came to the United States to study nursing. At the completion of nursing school, she went back to China, but returned to the United States in 2014. Since then and before coming to St. Anne's, she has served in Denver; Kansas City, Missouri; and San Pedro. Of the differences between serving in Asia and the United States, Sister explains that despite the obvious differences of climate, language or nationality, she finds it easy to settle down in each Home because her relationship with Residents is universal and the



Sr. Cecilia was gifted with the visit of her family from the Jeanne Jugan Residence in San Pedro. Sisters and staff traveled to San Francisco to celebrate her special day.

We are grateful to celebrate your very special occasion as we also commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Founding Little Sisters' arrival in America.

spirit of the Little Sisters is the same throughout the world. The Residents are her family, regardless of where they are. Her greatest joy as a Little Sister is being with the Residents and making them happy. She believes that God will give her the grace she needs to accomplish whatever she is asked to do and to go wherever she is asked to go.

Sr. Cecilia, we congratulate you on your Silver Jubilee as a Little Sister! We are grateful to celebrate your very special occasion as we also commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Founding Little Sisters' arrival in America. We appreciate your dedication to the elderly and your faithfulness to your vocation.



Sr. Cecilia with Residents Mary Jardine and Maggie Wong, presenting her with a Jubilee gift.



Sr. Cecilia with Bishop Wang and Fr. Strange at her Jubilee Mass

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

We are so gratified to have been able to share the journey of our beginnings in America with you. It has been meaningful for us to relive the early days of our Congregation, not only because it reminds us of how much has changed in our society, but also — and most importantly — because 150 years later the elderly have the same needs and our work continues because of the collaboration and support of the communities around us and the angels in our midst. We thank you for walking beside us and for providing us with the shoulders from which to propel into the next 150 years.

This year as we gratefully celebrated our sesquicentennial, we also celebrated Sr. Cecilia's Silver Jubilee, recalling her first introduction to the Little Sisters and her 25-year journey of service before joining us in San Francisco. We also celebrated the feast of our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan inspired by her legacy, compelled by her timeless vision, and eager to pass on her charism to future generations of Little Sisters. We culminate our year-long celebration with our Sesquicentennial Gala Non-Event. As our gift to you, we are not asking you to attend another gala, but instead asking you to support us while enjoying an evening for yourselves.

This fall we hope to see you at our two highly anticipated events of the season — our Carriage House Sale in October and our Holiday Boutique in November. Thank you for all that you do to join us in support of our work and may God bless you always.

Mother Theresa

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL GALA NON-EVENT

AN EVENT WE INVITE YOU NOT TO ATTEND
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT OUR WORK
WITHOUT GETTING DRESSED UP OR
LEAVING THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME
INSTEAD ENJOY TIME FOR YOURSELF
AS OUR GIFT TO YOU
YOUR DONATION FOR THE PLEASURE OF
MAKING A DIFFERENCE WILL BE
GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

*Without the overhead costs of a gala,
your full donation will go directly to support
the work of the Little Sisters at St. Anne's Home*

Thank you for joining us as we look toward the next 150 years!

Please visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org to donate

Holiday Boutique Special Request

A wonderful Holiday Boutique is in the works, and we would be so grateful for your help with donations of Homemade Goodies or Special Family Recipe items for the Gourmet/Candy Booth.

We would love:

Candies/Sweets,
Loaf Breads, Pies, Cakes, Cookies,
Scones,
Savory Spreads
Jams & Jellies
Mulling Spices
Fresh Herb Mixes/Rubs
Pickled goods
Flavored Vinegars/Olive Oils
Spiced/Seasoned Nuts

Store bought items from small batch, local, artisanal or gourmet bakers are also gratefully accepted.

For more information and to coordinate donations, please contact:
Celia Barbaccia at 415-713-7689 or
Diane Kardas at 650-279-1705.
Thank you so much!

UPCOMING EVENTS

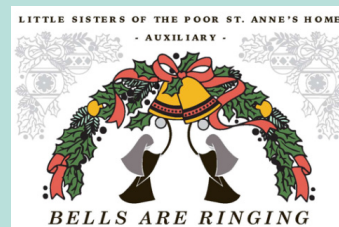
Fall Carriage House Sale

Friday, October 18 and
Saturday, October 19

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Anne's Home

San Francisco



2019 Holiday Boutique

Preview

Thursday, November 21

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

\$150/per person

Boutique

Saturday, November 23

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Open to the public and free of charge

Tickets available
for seated lunch
at 11 a.m. or at 1 p.m.

\$65/per person.

Invitations forthcoming

For more information visit
www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org