



Celebrating 150 Years of Service in America

Looking Back at Some Incredible Women

By Sr. Constance Carolyn, I.s.p.

As we have endured a difficult period in the life of our church, I've been thinking about the potential for committed Catholic women to bind wounds and buoy up the spirits of the faithful. St. John Paul II once commended women for helping to make "political and economic structures ever more worthy of humanity" and at the close of the Second Vatican Council Pope Paul VI called on women "impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel" to aid humanity and "save the peace of the world."

In celebrating the 150th anniversary of our Congregation's arrival in the United States, I've been deeply moved by the extraordinary women who made the expansion of our religious family in America possible. First, of course is our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, who went out into the deep with little education and few resources – but with great audaciousness – to establish a new work of mercy in the Church.

Then, there are the courageous Little Sisters who implanted our congregation in America. Many of them had never ventured beyond their homeland until they boarded a ship bound for the New World. Most of them spoke no English when they arrived, but they were full of fervor and indomitable charity.

As they set down roots in America our Little Sisters were supported by a host of women who devoted themselves to building up the Kingdom and healing society's wounds in the wake of the Civil War. The most prominent among them was Mrs. Sarah Peter, the daughter of the sixth governor and first U.S. senator from Ohio. After being widowed twice, she undertook a life of philanthropy. Raised as a Protestant, Mrs. Peter was



The first person to request the Little Sisters to come to America, Sarah Peter



A Mother to the Motherless, Margaret Haughery

impressed by the fervent Catholics she encountered during visits abroad. She embraced Catholicism and turned her attention to bringing religious communities from Europe to Cincinnati.

In 1857, her first request for a foundation of Little Sisters in the Queen City was declined by Mother General, who felt that the congregation was still too young for such an undertaking. She would have to wait eleven years, but in October 1868, Mrs. Peter was on hand to welcome the Little Sisters to Cincinnati and lend her wholehearted support to their mission.

Another notable woman who showed herself an early benefactor of our congregation was Emma Drexel, the second wife of prominent banker Francis Anthony Drexel. Mrs. Drexel and her three daughters opened the family home to the poor of Philadelphia twice a week to distribute food, clothing, and rent assistance to the poor. In 1869, her middle child Katherine, the

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An Ode to the Little Sisters

by Resident Zella Kotala

Tempered by age, we live here in community
Honed by the passing of time, we are blessed to have its availability
Elderly we are, and grateful for its dependability
Resilient we have to be to exist
Inured by life's lessons, we persist
Slings and arrows from past experiences, hopefully we've been taught
Inspiring each other, sharing our lot
Devotion to the old, the Little Sisters have promised
Experienced in sacrificing, much they have accomplished
Nurtured by them, blessed and sheltered are we
True to their vows, our lives they have altered
Shining examples of God's love, our cups are filled
Forever grateful are we for 150 years of devotion to our care



The Incredible Women

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future saint, led her sisters in selling all their Christmas gifts and giving the proceeds to the Little Sisters.

The women mentioned so far were from wealthy, prominent families, but the poor also made their contribution. Margaret Haughey of New Orleans was an illiterate Irish immigrant who lost both her husband and her only child at the age of 23. Rather than bury herself in sorrow, Margaret devoted herself to the care of orphans at the New Orleans Female Orphan Asylum. She purchased two cows to provide the children with milk, and then acquired a whole herd, which she developed into a prosperous dairy business. Margaret also purchased and ran a hugely successful bakery, from which she supplied numerous orphanages and old age homes in New Orleans, including our own.

Our history is dotted with stories of women who assisted the Little Sisters in extending our mission to the elderly poor across America. Many remain nameless – from the schoolgirls who donated a loaf of bread and a few dishes, to the maids in Boston who gave the shawls off their backs and the countless women religious women who offered our Little Sisters hospitality and invaluable assistance upon their arrival in each new city.

Whether known or unknown, all of these women gave the best of themselves for the building up of the Kingdom of God in America. At this moment when our hearts have been broken and our faith tested, may they bolster your hope and inspire you to do all you can to contribute to the uplifting of the Church.

Remembering an Incredible Little Sister

By: Maria Cunningham

Sr. Regina de Marie Immaculée was the extraordinary Little Sister in San Francisco, who against all odds, but always with the grace of God, made it possible for life to continue for our Residents at the St. Anne's Home that we see standing today.

About 70 years after the building of the original St. Anne's Home on Lake Street, the Little Sisters received devastating news about their three California Homes. It was determined that age, along with the wooden and brick designs of the Oakland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles Homes, did not allow for renovations that could meet the new fire and life safety codes.

In 1975, the Department of Health Education and Welfare decertified the old Home on Lake Street. The building was deemed unsafe in the event of fire or earthquake, and orders were given to vacate the premises by 1980. In the interim, preservationists and neighborhood groups fought to prevent the destruction of the old Home by placing St. Anne's on the National Register of Historic Landmarks. This

long fight was unsuccessful and by 1978, the San Francisco Planning Commission approved the Little Sister's plan to demolish the old building.

The building of a new Home was an immense undertaking and was fraught with difficulties that the Little Sisters, with Mother Regina at the helm, encountered with implacable confidence. They found assurance in the words of their foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, "That seems impossible. . . but if God is with us, it will be accomplished." Through her central role on the rebuilding project, dealing with the day-to-day decisions, as well as with the bureaucracies associated with a project of this magnitude, Mother Regina made many new friends at City Hall. But that was not all, she was integral in the decisions that would impact the long-term footprint of the Home. She was intent on insuring that what worked for Residents in 1980 would continue to work for Residents through to the new millennium. Not to be forgotten was the ever present and fundamental need for funding. Many heard and understood the needs. An

Advisory Board was started and was followed by the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary. The community came together and on April 25, 1979, ground was broken and work on the new Home began. The new St. Anne's was built in front of the old Home so that Residents would not be disturbed or moved until their new Home was completed.

Although beset with delays, including a Northern California carpenter and plumber's strike in 1980, Residents moved into their new Home on October 5, 1981. Two weeks later, a huge rummage sale was held, selling everything that could be sold from the old Home, before the start of demolition. The tradition of the Little Sisters of the Poor – St. Anne's Rummage Sale, renamed the Carriage House Sale, lives on to this day, holding the honor of being one of the best in the Bay Area.

In 1982, St. Anne's Home won the California Building Official's Award of Excellence for a building project that exemplified excellence in composition, despite the constraints of the day's limited resources and restrictive building codes. In 2019, we celebrate the life of Mother

Regina, the woman who with gentle grit and tenacity advocated for the Residents that she loved; facing myriad obstacles, ranging from well-intentioned historical conservation interests to bureaucratic hurdles and economic woes that threatened the viability of the project's completion, but through it all prevailed with serene confidence in the Providence of God. St. Anne's Home as we know it today is the result of this Little Sisters' unwavering commitment to the care of the elderly. As she said to the press at the completion of construction in 1981, "Our decision to demolish the old Home was a difficult one, but people are more important than bricks. The new St. Anne's, with its graceful interior malls and courtyards fulfills our promise to provide the needy aged with a home in which the atmosphere is love, care, and dignity." Her conviction transcends time, and what a legacy she has left to all who enter the doors of St. Anne's Home!

SR. REGINA DE MARIE IMMACULATE –
MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Born to Life: October 13, 1925

Entered into Eternal Life: April 9, 2019

Source: Working for God Alone by John H. McGuckin, Jr.



Archbishop John R. Quinn, Mother Provincial Marguerite, Mother Regina, Sister Etienne, who had been at St. Anne's for 50 years and Resident, John Kirk, 93, representing the Residents turned the first shovel of earth at the groundbreaking of the new Home on April 25, 1979



Mother Regina welcoming gifts received from the Little Sisters begging rounds



Archbishop McGucken, Mother Regina, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, Archbishop John Quinn and the model of the new Home.



Mother Regina accompanying a resident on a walk through the Grotto

Serving the elderly poor in San Francisco since 1901.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

This year as we celebrate 150 years of service to the elderly in America, we at St. Anne's also celebrate milestones. We have been in San Francisco for 118 years and in our current Home for almost 38 years. Over the last few years, the normal aging process of our Home has generated many maintenance issues and upgrade requirements, but thanks to the vision of Mother Regina in the 1970's and the generosity of our benefactors, our projects have had a strong foundation from which to move forward. Our heartfelt gratitude and prayers remain constant for these blessings and our ability to continue serving the elderly in need of our care.

In April, we held our 10th Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament at the Peacock Golf Course to a record number of players and honored the McNulty Family for embracing the importance of care for the elderly through their years of dedicated volunteerism at St. Anne's Home. It was a beautiful day enjoyed by all.

In May, we celebrated one of our most treasured traditions, a lovely afternoon tea for our Residents and the special women in their lives. For some, it could be a daughter, a daughter-in-law or a sister; for others, it could be a cousin, a niece or a special friend; but in all cases it was a remarkable woman who holds a special place in their heart. With that recipe, there is no doubt why this celebration makes for a memorable afternoon.

As we enter the fog days of summer, we look forward to creating more memories together. Perhaps many of you will be able to join us for our Giants Day celebration at Oracle Park in September, or for our Christmas Boutique in November! It is a wonderful way to kick-off the holiday season. Until then our prayers of thanksgiving for your support and generosity live on.

May God bless you,
Mother Theresa

SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, September 15, 2019

Mark your calendars and join the Little Sisters of the Poor at Oracle Park to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of their arrival in America and their dedicated service to the elderly!

Miami Marlins vs. San Francisco Giants

Game at 1:05 p.m. Oracle Park

Pregame Fun at 11 a.m.

Club King Virgin America Club Level

Tickets \$125 each Includes Club Level Seating and Pregame Festivities

Tickets available online now at www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE

For more information, please contact the St. Anne's Home Development Office at 415-751-7510 or dvsanfran@littlesisterofthepoor.org



Auxiliary Fall Luncheon

La Vie en Rose

Thursday, September 19, 2019

11 a.m. – Cocktails

Noon – Luncheon

McCormick & Kuleto

900 North Point

San Francisco

Discounted parking available with validation

Christmas Boutique

Bells are Ringing

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Preview Party 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday, November 23, 2019

Boutique Luncheons and Shopping

Shopping 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Luncheon Seating 1 – 11 a.m.

Luncheon Seating 2 – 1 p.m.

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!

TO DONATE CALL: 844-422-4483
or visit www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org



Donate your vehicle
— Receive a tax deduction —