



Little Sisters of the Poor

St. Anne's Home

Winter 2019

Merry Christmas



Joy, prayer and gratitude are three ways that prepare us to experience Christmas in an authentic way.
Pope Francis

May you be blessed with the joys of the season and gratefully join with family and friends to celebrate the warmth of an authentic Christmas.

*Very best wishes for a blessed Christmas from the
Little Sisters and Residents of St. Anne's Home*



A Notable Year

By Maria Cunningham

This past October was an especially significant month for the Little Sisters. It was the 10th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan and the close of the year-long commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Little Sisters' arrival in America. If you stop to give thought to the significance of these events, they are truly remarkable markers in the life of the congregation.

One hundred and eighty years ago in France, one woman from very humble beginnings, took it upon herself to help another woman in need. She did not have a business plan or even a personal plan at the time. She simply knew that she needed to help the elderly blind woman in the street who had been ignored by many. That single act of kindness became the nucleus for the unique business plan that has been at the core of the Little Sisters' charitable works around the world since 1839 — caring for the elderly without an endowment, relying on Divine Providence and the goodness of their communities, with their investments being only the care they give to the people whom they serve. For some, this may be a hard business model to comprehend, but one that has transcended continents and lovingly endured in the

world of caring for fellow humans.

Ages ranged from nine to ninety and then some at the October commemorative celebrations at St. Anne's. Residents, family, friends, volunteers, staff and Little Sisters came together to remember the one woman, who started it all, and who inspired many to carry out her vision and keep it alive. We were led in procession and song by Bishop William Justice through the halls of St. Anne's as each Resident room was blessed. We indulged in the prayerful innocence filtered through eyes of the children of St. Thomas the Apostle, who carried banners honoring the holy foundress and the work of the Little Sisters. The St. Anne's chapel was filled to capacity for the special Mass where Fr. Strange and Resident, Fr. Labib, concelebrated with Bishop Justice. The sense of unity and the common purpose of kindness and love that is present in all of the Little Sisters' Homes was especially evident on this day at St. Anne's. It was true testament to the fact that one act of kindness can help one, but that it can also create a great wave of charity that journeys through generations as well as continents to make us all one family.



The Spirit of Giving

By Maria Cunningham

Our volunteers give true meaning to the volunteer standard of performing duties without monetary compensation. We are blessed with a range of talents gifted to us by special people who share of themselves freely to help make a difference — one hour, one day, or one month at a time. The time shared by the diligent accountant, the hard-working banker, or the devoted retiree all merits the same priceless value and our unending gratitude.

One special volunteer, who has been a long time member of the St. Anne's family is Eddie Taniguchi. Eddie started volunteering at St. Anne's during the Summer of 2015, after his retirement. He started by helping us refurbish furniture. From there, he moved on to helping us paint our no parking curbs and our handicapped parking spaces, but this past spring and summer he took on the more sizeable job of painting our front gates. Eddie patiently devoted two days per week for five months to the refreshing of our seriously weathered gates. The heavy rains this year definitely slowed down the process, but never dampened his spirit or hindered his quality workmanship. Thanks to Eddie our gates have been beautifully restored to their original vibrancy!

Volunteering at St. Anne's is a family affair for the Taniguchi family. Eddie is married to our Activities Assistant, Cristina, who has been with St. Anne's for 21 years. She is immeasurably capable when it comes to setting up a room for a special event, always tastefully and precisely capturing the essence of the theme for her Residents. On any given day, Cristina can be found leading Residents in early morning exercise, a mid-day game of bingo or sharing laughs with them while she does their weekly manicures. Residents comfortably identify her as a friend with whom they look forward to sharing their day. The bond she has with the Residents is a gift appreciated by everyone. But Cristina and Eddie's devotion does not stop there. They are also members of the Association Jeanne Jugan, and for the last four years they have freely given of their time to support the Little Sisters in their mission of hospitality to the elderly.

Our volunteers come as individuals or as members of a larger group, be it a company or a school. This year our corporate volunteer, Union Bank, went beyond the role of benefactor for our Giants game celebration at Oracle Park. Employees from Union Bank assisted with much of preparation for the day, including set-up on the day of the game, and selling raffle tickets during the event. That assistance, however, was preceded by a full day of hands on work in our garden earlier in the year. The bank volunteers came from all over the Bay Area to share of their time to help maintain our grounds. The work was not easy — they pulled weeds, trimmed hedges and traipsed through our thickets, but the smiles never left their faces.

We thank you all for sharing of yourselves to help us maintain a special home for our Residents.

Volunteers are one the special gifts for which we are most thankful at St. Anne's.



MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Merry Christmas Friends,

Our year of looking back to our early beginnings in America allowed us to reflect on how much has changed in the life of our congregation and yet how much has remained the same in the last 150 years. One thing is certain, and that is that St. Jeanne Jugan was quite the visionary, knowing 180 years ago that our work could only be done in collaboration with the people in the community that we serve. For her vision and for your support keeping her legacy alive, we are eternally grateful.

We were happy to be able to share our sesquicentennial celebrations with many of you this year. Our day at Oracle Park was a delightful sold-out event enjoyed by everyone in attendance. We are thankful to all of our sponsors, especially Union Bank, for contributing to the success of the day. Our main sesquicentennial celebration was our Non-Event Gala, and we were moved by the support as well as the personal messages and good wishes that many of you sent our way. You shared stories of your special connection to our Home or to our work, whether it was about volunteering at our home as a youngster or visiting a relative or friend who was a Resident. It was heartwarming and gratifying to hear that our presence here has positively impacted people beyond the daily scope of our work. We cannot thank you enough for your generous support of this event, which to date has brought in approximately \$135,000.

Our year-end event, the Auxiliary's Holiday Boutique — Bells are Ringing — was brought to you wrapped in love and hard work. An amazing group of women worked year-round to create special handcrafted items. Skilled leaders, organizers, and helpers came together to transform our Home into a holiday wonderland. We were very happy to welcome family, friends, and neighbors to the cheerful festivities — a wonderful kick-off to the season of thankfulness.

Our gratitude abounds for all that you do to help us in so many ways. You are an extension of our hearts and hands, and we are deeply grateful for each and every gesture of support.

May the spirit of Christmas remain in your hearts throughout the coming year and may you be richly rewarded with an authentic Christmas Season filled with joy. I am joined by all of the Little Sisters at St. Anne's Home in wishing you a very blessed Christmas.

May God bless you,
Mother Theresa



Dear Friends,

When I first came to St. Anne's I was concerned about how it would go for me in this new place. I wondered about how I would fit in and how well I would be able to cope with the new transition. At the same time, I was taken by the kindness of the people and the loveliness of the surroundings — the finely polished floors, the quaint community rooms, and the beautiful outdoor gardens. It all promoted a special kind of simple beauty — welcoming and peaceful.

What I did not know then is that the income the Little Sisters receive covers only about 75% of their costs to keep this 24-hour home running 365 days a year. The remaining 25% and all repairs and upgrades are funded strictly through their fundraising and through the generosity of the community. They continually rely on angels and benefactors to help them keep this place that I call home, in the well-manicured state that it's in. My memory is not what it used to be, but I do remember that it takes a lot to support a family. I can't imagine having to rely on the community to support this very large family at St. Anne's!

What I do know now is that the Little Sisters believe in miracles and trust in Christmas Angels year after year. They believe that Divine Providence comes in many forms. Often their prayers are answered through the goodness and generosity of people who take us on as part of their family and help us make it through. I hope that this year will be no different for the Little Sisters who are there to shepherd us when the body wears out, the soul gives in, and we are no longer able to shepherd ourselves. I hope you can be their Christmas Angel miracle and support them with a donation of any amount to aid them in replacing the peeling and cracked wallpaper in our residence halls. The existing wallpaper has protected and covered the walls for over 20 years. The time has come to revitalize the walls that give light to our days and warmth to our nights. Please consider being a Christmas Angel and help the Little Sisters renew the façade that for some of us is our only view in this peaceful oasis.

Your friend,
A grateful St. Anne's Resident