



Tribute to our Frontline Workers

By Maria Cunningham

Our nurses and nurses' aides are principal characters in the 2020 St. Anne's story. At a time when many might reject the idea of working in a nursing home due to the vulnerability it poses, our nurses and nurses' aides have been a devoted extension of not only hands, but also hearts for the Little Sisters and for Resident families. Our frontline team understands the risks inherent to community living during the age of COVID-19, and despite the personal threat potential they faithfully carry out their daily duties of care with love and compassion. Many have established deep personal bonds with the Residents. They appreciate the voids our elderly are experiencing because of the quarantine restrictions, especially the "no visitor" rules in place since early March. Their

friendships with the Residents are a source of joy and comfort in days that could otherwise be overcome with feelings of negativity and emptiness. This is a precious gift that comes in addition to their already valued service.

The jobs of our essential workers are traditionally demanding in nature. The pandemic has made their daily responsibilities more complex with safety requirements and regulations adding a myriad of new layers to daily functions, including the need for personal protective equipment at all times, twice daily temperature and oxygen checks, and in-room tray service for three meals each day since community meals were halted at the beginning of the quarantine. Yet they dutifully stand beside the Little Sisters, helping them carry out their value of reverence for the sacredness of human life in a spirit of



joyful hospitality.

Resident families join the Little Sisters at St. Anne's Home in paying tribute to these very special people for their courage and for their devotion to the humble mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor to care for the elderly and in the words of St. Jeanne Jugan, "Making the elderly happy . . . that's what counts!"

A MILLION FAMILIES **A MILLION ROSARIES**

During Portugal's 1974 Carnation Revolution
Our Lady said to Sister Lucia,
"When a million families pray the rosary,
the revolution will end."

What if a million families joined hands
NOW to pray the rosary
for a cure to the coronavirus?

**PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING THE ROSARY
EVERYDAY FOR AN END TO THIS PANDEMIC!**

Sign up NOW at www.LittleSistersofthePoor.org to join us and
commit yourself and/or your family to imploring Our Lady to
intercede on behalf of all humanity at this moment of crisis.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
www.LittleSistersofthePoor.org

Thank you to our wonderful nurses and the nurses' aides!



The Little Sisters of the Poor recognize that all employees are essential to our mission of care and we are able to do what we do because of everyone who partners with us. This is Part 1 of our salute to our valuable staff.

CAUSES FOR CELEBRATION

Feast Days



Each year since 1901, when St. Anne's Home opened its doors on Lake Street, Residents and Little Sisters alike celebrate the feast of St. Anne on July 26th, with a variety of commemorative celebrations. This year, a mid-afternoon parlor style ice cream social was held in honor of St. Anne. An ice cream cart full of treats and toppings made its rounds up and down the Resident halls with a Little Sister delivering made to order ice cream delights to each resident. Later that day, Resident, Fr. D'Auby, lead a Eucharistic Procession, bringing the

Blessed Sacrament to each Resident while they waited in their doorways for a special eucharistic blessing. All Residents received the special blessing, even those confined to bed. It was a socially distant, simple, but solemn and moving experience for our Residents, especially in light of the fact that they have been limited to virtual Mass attendance for quite some time.

The feast of St. Jeanne Jugan, the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, is celebrated annually on August 30th with equal fervor and remembrance, however

on a much larger scale. Each Home throughout the world devotes much of the month of August to remembering the life of their Foundress. Recalling that their Congregation began with a single profound act of charity in Brittany, France in 1839, the Little Sisters and Residents honor the vision of their humble Foundress that has transcended continents and endured through the casualties of life for over 180 years.

Both of these feast day celebrations

are very special days at St. Anne's and looked to with anticipation. In the words of one Resident, "These are happy days!" The celebrations include special meals and activities as well as meaningful community prayer. This year the Residents and Little Sisters are living a "new normal." Celebrations were different, but still festive with special treats and more individualized activities in honor of their patron, St. Anne and their foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan.



A Moveable Fruit Feast

By Maria Cunningham

All who know the Little Sisters are familiar with their tradition of going to local produce markets and other places of business on daily begging rounds. St. Jeanne Jugan gave birth to this tradition. She sought to involve people from many walks of life in her mission of hospitality as she believed that we are all members of one family and thus responsible for one another. This tradition has, of course, been curbed this year since the Little Sisters remain under quarantine, along with the Residents. Their collecting pursuits have had to take on new methods, utilizing all forms of alternative communications, while also being mindful of the struggles currently faced by many business owners.

Gratitude abounds for long-time produce donors who have been able to continue their donations to St. Anne's during these difficult times. Likewise, the word of mouth bids from friends, Resident families, and even neighbors has been most helpful in bringing in unexpected new donations. A Resident family has been particularly kind in supplying the Home with seasonal fruits. Another kind individual, who gets her

fresh produce from a farm, decided to add St. Anne's to her farm shopping list, thereby helping both.

Thanks to these donations, St. Anne's has added a Moveable Fruit Feast to their daily Resident care program. In the past, fruits were placed in a fruit bowl in community rooms for Residents to enjoy as they wanted. Today, Sr. John Elise, the Home's Collecting Sister, cheerfully steers a cart of fresh fruits through the halls of St. Anne's for Residents to select their choices for the day. "But this is no ordinary delivery, she explains, "it is a fun time for all of us. We even sing songs as I make my way to their rooms. Bananas are a favorite for many Residents and when I don't have any to give out, the refrain, 'Yes, we have no bananas today,' is heard throughout." Sister enjoys the laughter they share as they try to figure out if there are bananas or not. She is happy to have learned the Residents' likes and dislikes and to be part of their daily visitor list. She says with great satisfaction, "Residents are always happy to see me and just the smiles on their faces make my day!"

Thank you to the generous donors who



Sr. John distributing fruit to Residents from mobile cart.

help us make the simple things in life a special opportunity to uplift the spirit and keep our Residents happy.

A Golden Jubilee

A jubilee fittingly calls for the celebration of a significant milestone. For Mother Theresa, this August 22nd marked the remarkable fulfillment of 50 years of consecrated life as a Little Sister of the Poor. Although in modified form, as called for in 2020, the St. Anne's community recently rejoiced in celebration for Mother Theresa's Golden Jubilee.

As a native San Franciscan, Mother's introduction to the Little Sisters of the Poor took place when she was in the fifth grade and she volunteered at St. Anne's Home during the Star of the Sea School Vocation Month. Her volunteering at St. Anne's continued off and on for many years following that initial introduction. She shares, "I got busy with school and activities, but something always brought me back to the Little Sisters of the Poor. I enjoyed Resident care, and I was impressed by the simplicity of life and the joyful spirit of the Little Sisters." This never changed, and in 1970 she took her vows as a Little Sister of the Poor. Since that time, she has served in different capacities as a Little Sister caring for the elderly in 13 Homes across the country. After serving as Director of Nursing at Homes for Aged for the Little Sisters in Wisconsin,

Colorado, and New York, she served as Assistant Nursing Home Administrator in Pennsylvania. From there, she moved on to serve as both Mother Superior and Nursing Home Administrator in Rhode Island and Minnesota.

In 2014, Mother Theresa nostalgically returned to her childhood neighborhood, where it all started for her, the Richmond District in San Francisco, to serve as Administrator and Mother Superior at St. Anne's Home. Much has changed in San Francisco since her early days as a Little Sister and she comments, "The main change I have noticed is in health care regulations, but even with the marked increase in regulations, all of our Homes share the same common spirit of hospitality and love and care of Residents. That remains constant in every Home. Admittedly, after being gone from San Francisco for over 40 years, I was happy to return home and for the gift of living near my large family."

This year, this Golden Jubilee celebration took on a different but very special quality. Mother's celebration started with a beautiful Mass and renewal of vows that took place in the convent. A delicious and carefully prepared



midday meal for her and the Sisters followed with many other unexpected highlights. She was surprised with a virtual presentation of well wishes and heartfelt messages from Sisters, Residents, and staff. Greetings that included a Spiritual Bouquet of Masses, rosaries and prayers said on her behalf came from family, friends and from members of the Association Jeanne Jugan and the Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor. She also enjoyed sharing fudge gift boxes, made by Sr. Cecilia, with the Sisters and Residents. She gratefully relates, "My jubilee was celebrated simply in community, and it was uplifting, joyful and very memorable. I am grateful to everyone for their part in contributing to a lovely day."

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Gratitude! As Little Sisters gratitude is a most common sentiment for us. We feel gratitude for the ability to be able to care for the elderly when family members cannot. We feel gratitude for our caregivers, who are an extension of our hands, and for our benefactors who understand our ongoing needs and generously open their hearts to us. We are grateful for the kindness of the members of our community who support us, in many different ways, through the good times and the not so good times. This is how our Congregation has survived, and this is how we have been able to make a difference in the care of the elderly of San Francisco for close to 120 years. Thank you all! Our gratitude continues as we can once again report to you that as of this writing, St. Anne's Home remains COVID-19 free. We are thankful for that blessing, but we are not unguarded. We wholly realize that our work fighting the pandemic is not over and our diligence to protect the safety of our Residents and staff continues in full force. At the same time, we continue to have modified celebrations and activities with and for our Residents in an effort to address the issues of isolation and loneliness that have become a product of this time. Because we are not yet allowed to have visitors in the Home, balcony visits are working well, providing Residents with a means of contact with their loved ones, even if it is from a distance.

Thank you so very much for your support and care, it means the world to us. At the risk of using a most common phrase, but one that is applicable to us: It takes a Village! We know we would not be able to continue doing what we do if it were not for the collaborative efforts of our community. Thank you for being our village. Our prayers for your health and safety remain constant, praying that God will continue to protect you and your loved ones.

May God bless you,
Mother Theresa



THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
AT ST. ANNE'S HOME PRESENT

THE SHELTER IN GRACE GALA NON-EVENT

An event we invite you not to attend but encourage you to support from the comfort and safety of your home free to relax from the constraints of social distancing and to safely enjoy doing something for yourself as you Shelter in Grace.

We invite you to partner with us during this trying time in history as we strive to protect the lives of our elderly and the safety of our home.

Your donation honoring the legacy of our elderly will be most gratefully accepted as we remain socially distant, but we shelter in grace together looking toward the horizon of universal healing.

Thank you most sincerely for rising to help us offset the increased costs incurred due to COVID-19. We understand this a challenging financial time for many, and we are deeply grateful for your support in any amount that is meaningful to you. Donations can be made by mail in the envelope provided or online by visiting www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org



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