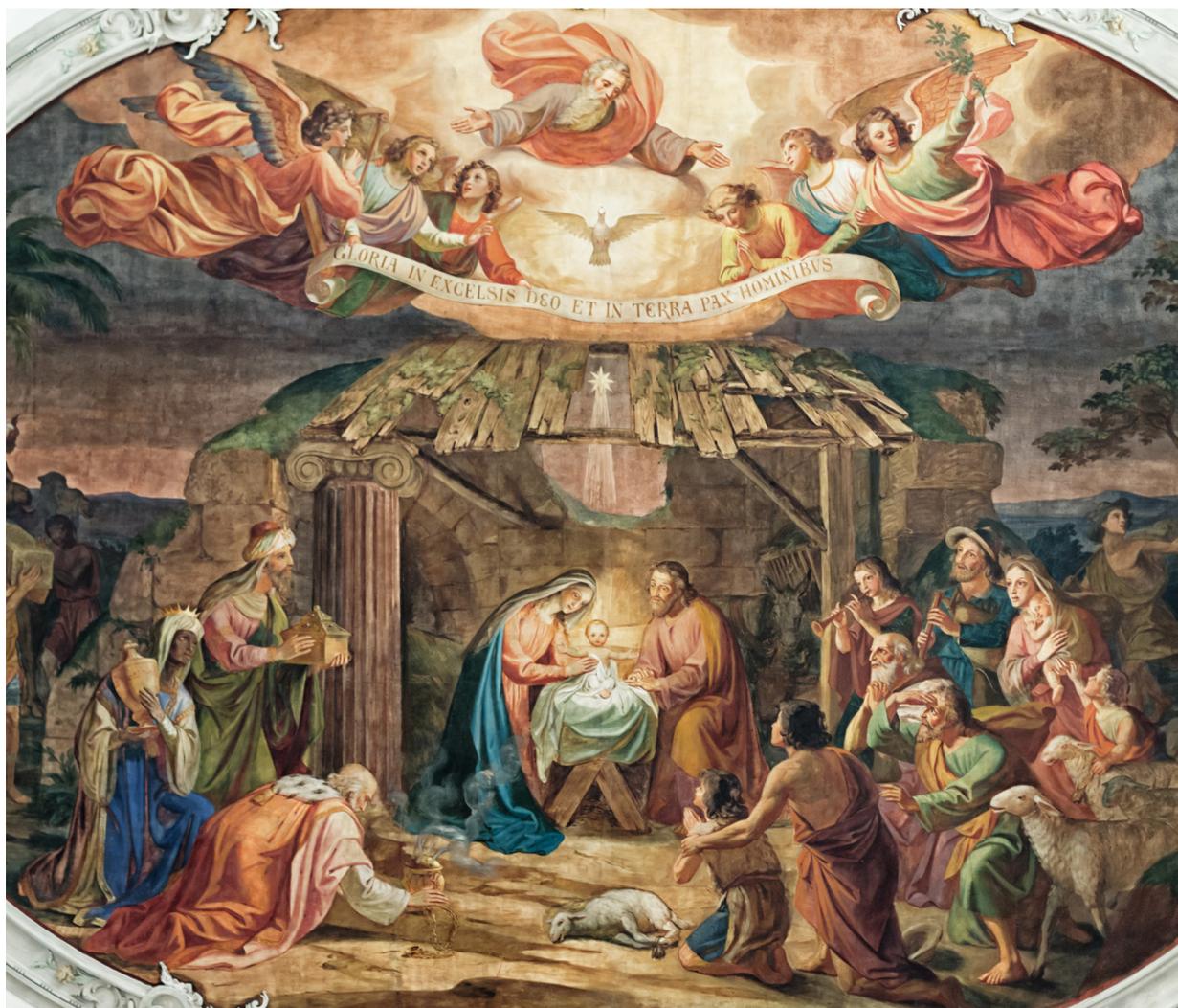




Merry Christmas



“May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women.”

POPE FRANCIS

May your Christmas Season bring peace to your heart, hope to your soul and love and joy to you and your loved ones.

*Our very best wishes to you for a blessed Christmas and healthy New Year.
Little Sisters and Residents of St. Anne's Home*

Welcome Home Raymond, Lucy and Helen!

By Maria Cunningham

Quarantine or not, St. Anne's is still an oasis for the elderly. Our three latest admissions to the Home are proof of that. The pandemic has put a halt to many things in our lives, including new admissions to St. Anne's Home. It was not until recent weeks that health and safety requirements allowed for the admission of new Residents. Despite the mandatory quarantine to their rooms for 14 days and the open-ended no visitor policy, we have three very thankful new Residents. The common thread in their stories is a familiar refrain, "I don't know where I would be living, if I were not at St. Anne's." We have a former lawyer, school principal, and laboratory manager for molecular neuro-oncology.

Raymond Burke, endearingly known to his friends as "Ray-the-Beret" because of his love of the French and his Beret was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, studied law in Boston and after a few years of practice on the East Coast, he made his way out West. He realized San Francisco was a city like no other and he settled in the city he continues to love. He always cherished the independence of living alone, but as years passed,

he knew in his heart that it was not a long-term option for him. St. Anne's was where he needed to be. Although living in quarantine is not easy, he knows it will end and that until life can be safely and freely enjoyed once again, he is grateful for his haven at St. Anne's.

Lucy Avila is originally from the Philippines but has lived in the United States for the last 33 years. She completed her undergraduate studies in the Philippines. She received her Master's in human resources and organizational development from the University of San Francisco, while working at UCSF and raising her three daughters. She is no stranger to the adversities of life and is a true survivor. With deep faith and a buoyant personality, she has overcome loss and multiple health challenges. Her motto: Life must go on. Sink or swim? She has chosen to swim every time. She grew up living with nuns and says "I am truly thankful to have found my way to St. Anne's. I feel like I have come home. I am here to serve God's will by being happy, and I am."

Helen Ting has been a visiting Chinese dance performer at St. Anne's

Home for the last 15 years. She was born in Shanghai, China, but has lived in San Francisco's Richmond District for 42 years. She was the Chinese School Principal at St. Monica's for 20 years and also had an English-Mandarin translation service. After retiring, she turned her focus to Chinese dance instruction and costume design for the Golden Gate Park and Chinatown Senior Centers. She shares, "Having lived or taught in a Catholic environment for most of my life, being at St. Anne's now feels like God has brought me back to where I belong. I was quarantined for six months living alone before coming to St. Anne's. I am thankful to not be alone and to see people around me who are friendly and interested in caring for my needs." She enthusiastically states, "When this health crisis is behind us, I will be ready to rock and roll! I am ready to lead exercise groups for the Residents and to start recruiting dancers to come back and entertain."

The St. Anne's family welcomes you all to your new home!



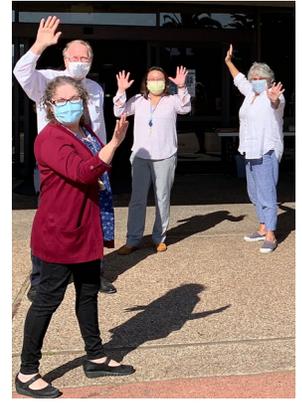
❖ *A Special Note of Thanks* ❖

The St. Anne's Chapel is the heart of our Home. It is a place where we have come for reflective meditation and worship since our opening in 1902. Our chapel holds decades of cherished memories ensconced in its history. It is a parish for many. Little Sisters and Residents are often joined in the chapel by family and friends not just for Sunday Mass, but also for Easter, Christmas, and for solemnity of life celebrations. In recent years, this place, where many have shared joy and solace, has been in need of more fitting accommodations for our aging population, but it has not been something that we could address at a time when we face many other maintenance demands.

The appreciation for our sacred space and its importance to all who live and

worship at St. Anne's Home has been well understood by friends and benefactors, Yvonne and Angelo Sangiacomo. Thanks to their vision and generosity, the Sangiacomo Foundation has kindly undertaken the project to provide us with a chapel that includes enhanced space for wheelchairs and walkers, improved visibility, and pews that safely and comfortably allow access to our less mobile Residents. These important enhancements will ease the challenges faced by our elderly for decades to come, and the St. Anne's Chapel will gratefully stand as a lasting tribute to the love and support bestowed on the Little Sisters of the Poor by Yvonne and Angelo Sangiacomo.

With our deepest thanks, we look forward to when the chapel can again welcome everyone through its doors.



Our Shinning Stars!



By Maria Cunningham

They are friends, they are family, and they are essential to our operation – they are our valued staff! It has not been an easy nine months since our Home went into quarantine. There are more requirements, protocols, and regulations in the name of health and safety. There are no team building gatherings, but there is no absence of unity for the common goal, and no one has lost sight of what that is. That is what has always set the St. Anne's community apart. Our employees, who come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures and cover a wide span of ages, all share the same fundamental characteristic, a devotion to the care of the elderly. Their dedication to the well-being of our Residents is foremost, regardless of their role in the organizational chart. They have always been integral to the mission of the Little Sisters, but they are unequivocal shining stars during these unprecedented times. Many staff members have taken on cross-over duties to ensure that all needs are met and that tasks are covered. The stress of the times is inescapable, but the commitment of our staff is steadfast and something for which the Little Sisters, Residents, and Resident families are

profoundly grateful.

The sensitivity of our staff is a gift for which simple gratitude is not enough. We have the facilities staff that is attentive to such things as boilers, heaters, and air handlers, but will reset a clock for the Resident who missed the time change. There are the employees who ensure that all laundry is washed, folded and delivered; employees who pay special attention to cleaning and disinfecting all areas of the Home, but who also come to the aid of the Resident who has trouble getting to the object that has fallen under the bed. There are the employees who visit and entertain Residents in the absence of visitors and instruct them on the virtual activities that might interest them. Then there is the kitchen team that coordinates the preparation of healthy and nutritious meals for our Residents, taking into account all dietary needs while also providing personal in room delivery. We also have the constancy of our administrative staff that makes sure bills are paid, payroll is funded, appeals are made, donors are thanked, news are shared, and social service needs are met. What an amazing team we have!

Thank you to all for everything you do to help keep us going.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

It has been a year full of unanticipated challenges, but with the grace of God we have made it through, knowing that angels come in many forms and often live in the hearts of friends. We are thankful for our many friends who have not only stood beside us through these unusual times but have also rescued us along the way. Our gratitude for your support is never ending. We cannot say it enough and do not tire of finding new ways to express it because it is thanks to your partnership in our mission that we are able to continue to provide the best possible care for the elderly. In the words of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you ... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with us throughout the years and most especially this year!

We look toward this Christmas season with the candle of faith shining bright and with hope in our hearts that the true meaning of Christmas will bless you and your loved ones in a very special way.

May your Christmas be filled with good health, love and joy

God bless you,
Mother Theresa



A Message for our Christmas Angels



We are the faces of St. Anne's Home who gratefully thank you for being the angels at our side. We have not been able to spend much time with you in the last nine months, but we feel your care. Your calls, your cards, and your thoughtful gifts remind us that we are not alone. Living in community we know about helping each other to get through the highs and lows, but this time we must do it all from a distance. We have made it through a tough 2020 on the wings of your support. We move forward drawing strength from your acts of kindness on our behalf. We are blessed to have the Sisters and staff doing everything they can to ensure our safety and comfort, and we are thankful for all of it.

Although we have centenarians among us, none of us here ever experienced a global

pandemic. We all heard the 1918 stories from parents and grandparents, but at this point those stories are a little fuzzy. The one thing we all remember and that continues to resonate with us today is that people got through it by being there for each other. They got through the fear, the loss, and the grief the same way we do it today, by coming together in kindness. Regardless of your age, it is that kindness in people that makes each day worthwhile. We thank you for making our days worthwhile, for appreciating us and what we bring life's table. We are thankful for you and for the support that you give in whatever form you are able to give. It is your interest in our well-being and having you as a part of our lives that makes the difference.

Christmas Angels, thank you for caring!

All donations received from Christmas Angels will go toward helping to offset the increased costs at our Home due to Covid-19.