

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor in San Francisco since 1901.

Spring, 2012

ST. ANNE'S HOME
300 Lake Street
San Francisco, CA



ST. ANNE'S HOME

Why we do what we do

BY: MARIA CUNNINGHAM

It is usually when we are at crossroads that we contemplate the question of why we do what we do. However, when working at St. Anne's Home the question arises not out of reflection due to crisis, but out of simple admiration for the people who have made caring for the elderly their life's work. First, we have the Little Sisters who set the standard as to the true meaning of commitment, love and humility. In the words of Advisory Board and Association Jeanne Jugan member, Barbara Anderson, "The example of hospitality to others is an inspiration that is immediately apparent to all who come in contact with the Little Sisters." We then have employees and volunteers who bring their specific training and skill sets to the community, but more importantly all encompass the same common denominator – a special kindness of heart.

Many of us have chosen to support the mission of the Little Sisters because of our deep respect for their work, but also perhaps because of our ties to a parent or grandparent. For me, the importance of care for the elderly was something that started because of my close relationship with my maternal grandmother, who lived to the age of 104. She was

"It still brings me great fulfillment and happiness to share in the lives of the elderly and make them happy."

a wonderfully strong and kind woman with an abundance of wisdom to share. She gave all the love she could to her children and grandchildren, and would have willingly given her life for their happiness. There was never a question that she deserved the same or better as her body began to fatigue and as her mind began to tire. Sadly, I witnessed many professionals charged with her care assume the attitude that only limited efforts were warranted because of her advanced age. My interest in advocating for the rights of the elderly began at that moment, and my union with the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor has been a blessing of Divine intervention.

Sister Anthony, currently the home's administrator, recalls that her vocation to serve the elderly started very innocently when as a young girl she found herself in detention and was required to memorize the Corporal Works of Mercy. She was not happy about detention, but



Sr. Anthony, Resident Gladys Chandler, and Mother Margaret discussing photography at one of the many Resident gatherings in our auditorium.



Marisa Mizono and her mother, Resident Guadalupe Robbins enjoying time together at one of the Auxiliary luncheons.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Claire Casabonne



San Francisco's Lombard Street is Claire's latest work of art

Resident Spotlight Claire Casabonne

Claire Casabonne, a native San Franciscan, has lived in the neighborhood all her life, and was born just a few blocks from St. Anne's Home. She moved into St. Anne's with her husband, 10 years ago. At the time, Claire was caring for her husband, who had taken ill, but a fall down the stairs slowed her down and made it difficult for her to care for herself, let alone her husband too. Unbeknownst to her or her husband, one of their sons started looking into St. Anne's Home, as he was concerned about his parents' limited options, especially with the family spread all over the country. Before long, the Casabonnes were an integral part of the St. Anne's family. Claire remembers, "Even though community living can take some adjustment, I have always felt comfortable here. I used to sing in the "old" St. Anne's, so I was very familiar with the home and the Little Sisters."

Claire's husband, Fern, passed away two years after they moved in and that required considerable adjustment for Claire. "We met at Notre Dame Des Victoires, when I was in first grade," she shares. "I asked him to my Senior Prom, and we were married for 57 years, so living without him was not easy. I

was very glad to be in this community then and now. I love everything about this home, especially the Sisters. In the last 10 years, many Sisters have come through, and they are all wonderful. I also feel very lucky that

my friends are not only Residents, but also members of the staff – some of them even call me, Mommy Claire."

Claire's favorite spot is the craft room and she spends a lot of time there. "There's a good, happy feeling in there, and I do my favorite things – cross stitch, needlepoint, embroidery, you name it," she shares. Claire has created several remarkable pieces over the years, but has kept very few. She has donated some of her works of art to the Home's Christmas Boutique, given them as gifts and certainly has created special pieces for her three great-granddaughters. She talks of her cross-stitching and needlepoint with passion and is clearly fascinated by the challenge of finishing one project so that she can move on to the next. Her skill is obvious and her attention to detail is impressive. At 91, I don't know of many people half her age who can say, "I spent 300 hours completing an image of Notre Dame Des Victoires Church and then gave it to them as a gift."

La Festa di Natale Holiday Boutique

The fundraising efforts of the Little Sisters of the Poor Auxiliary culminated in 2011 with the Festa di Natale holiday boutique. The months of dedication to hand-made crafts, home-baked gourmet items, and the creation of a colonial doll house all contributed to the festivities and the "winter wonderland" that St. Anne's Home became. The two-day event started with a cocktail reception and preview shopping night, treating guests to a buffet of Italian delicacies while they enjoyed the delights of the new Sweet Shoppe and an abundance of surprises in the variety of gift baskets and silent auction items. We can not thank our dedicated ladies of the Auxiliary enough for their extraordinary talents and tireless work. Your generosity of spirit is deeply appreciated and you are all in the prayers of the Little Sisters and the Residents. A very special note of thanks goes to Event Chair, Susan Mallen, for going above and beyond. Grazie Mille!!



Susan Mallen and Mother Margaret at the Festa di Natale.



Why we do what we do (cont.)

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felt the message was directed specifically to her. "I felt it was my duty to help feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and care for the sick. I remember giving away my coat and then my lunch to someone who needed them more than me. I figured that was the only way to get to heaven. I started volunteering at one of the homes of the Little Sisters of the Poor because they did exactly what I had learned was needed to get to heaven. While volunteering, I saw how happy everyone was, and it made me happy too." Several decades later, she shares, "It still brings me great fulfillment and happiness to share in the lives of the elderly and make them happy."

"I originally became acquainted with the Little Sisters of the Poor as a volunteer," explains Marisa Mizono, incoming President of the Little Sisters of

the Poor Auxiliary, "but I became more intimately acquainted with their work because my mother was blessed to call St. Anne's her home. My mother's life at St. Anne's was a wonderful experience both for her and for me. As a matter of fact, my mother considered herself very lucky to be there, she called it heaven on earth. The work I do for them now is my way of supporting the mission of the Little Sisters, and a way to show my eternal gratitude for their care, their concern and their love for my mother and me.

Whether our work with the elderly is in response to a call to serve, an expression of gratitude or as a means for livelihood, we have all chosen to do this work, and we aim to contribute to the happiness of the man or woman whose energy shows signs of waning, but whose experiences speak to us and whose wisdom consistently enriches our lives.



On the day of her retirement, Mary Maher, our Social Worker for the past 12 years, shares a bittersweet moment with Resident, Mary Coyle. "My biggest joy has been knowing that the work I have done here has made a difference in the lives of the elderly, that our Residents step into a loving and nurturing environment, and that they never have to worry about being alone," reveals Mary.

Transportation Angels

Our Chaplain, Fr. Martin, joined in gratitude by the Little Sisters and Residents blessed our new vehicles, which came to us through the generosity of a \$25,000 Matching Gift Challenge, started by our Advisory Board Member Sandy Otellini and supported by several generous benefactors, including San Francisco Toyota. San Francisco Toyota graciously facilitated the retro-fit process required for a wheelchair van as well as accommodated our financial limitations, allowing us to obtain two vehicles with the funds raised. Our

wheelchair van is in constant use, getting Residents to and from doctors' appointments. The additional vehicle has been an added blessing as this van can comfortably accommodate several Residents at one time, while the wheelchair van is in use and has been a source of great pleasure and joy for the Residents who eagerly look forward to their weekly shopping trips to the supermarket and nearby malls. We thank all of our "transportation angels" for their generosity and for the smiles they brought to the faces of our Residents.



Fr. Martin blesses our new wheelchair van.

Residents for Rosaries

"God gave me extra life to age 76," says Agnes Nar, "so that I can still teach people to make clever things." Agnes is in San Francisco visiting from Malaysia and is a volunteer at the Little Sisters of the Poor St. Francis Xavier Home in Kuala Lumpur. "I was so happy when I came to San Francisco and learned there was a Little Sisters home here, and that I could teach the Residents to make rosaries," she says cheerily. A Resident group has formed and meets weekly to make rosaries from beautiful beads that have been donated to the Home for craft projects. The group is not only enjoying learning how to make the unique rosaries, but has also designated all of the hand-made rosaries as a gift for the Tambach Parish in Iten, Kenya.

Our Chaplain, Fr. Martin Maruli will be traveling to Kenya this spring to visit his family and plans to personally deliver these very special rosaries. "The people in this area are poor peasants, who have great faith, hence my desire to share the gift of the rosaries

from our Residents with them. The parish in Iten has about 11,000 Christians, spread over 14 mission centers, and they will love them," explains Fr. Martin. Fr. Martin is especially pleased to have two special rosaries from the Residents for his parents, who are not Catholics, but he is certain that the rosaries will speak directly to their hearts.



Visiting Volunteer, Agnes Nar, sets up rosary work area for Residents with Activities Aide, Cristina Taniguchi

A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



The glories of Spring are upon us here in San Francisco, adding to the wonder and beauty of our Easter celebrations here at St. Anne's Home.

Our hearts are full of joy as we greet our risen Lord and accept again His sparkling invitation to live in Him, to pray in Him, and to rise again in Him.

Our community of Little Sisters journeyed through Lent and Holy Week hand in hand with our extended family, our dear Residents, their families and friends, our dedicated lay staff, our volunteers, and our many benefactors and supporters. We have been enriched by the support and friendship of many as we commemorated our 110 year history in San Francisco, and we are deeply grateful to all those who continue to stand beside us.

Our annual tradition of Easter Sunrise Mass in our Lourdes Grotto, as always, continues to inspire us and brings us together in community with family and friends. We are happy to say that each year more and more guests join us at dawn to celebrate the beginning of the Season of Easter and proclaim: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it, Alleluia."

The Little Sisters and Residents wish you joy in the risen Jesus and a very blessed Easter Season!

Gratefully,
Sr. Margaret Isp

Our Needs Time for Change

As we reflect on the charism of our Congregation to live from donation to donation without an endowment of any kind, we consider the power of divine providence and the generosity of all who help support our work. All of our friends support us in the way that is most meaningful to them, and each and every expression of support is meaningful to us and to our Residents. Our needs are many and ongoing, but of most significance is that we are united as one family, and we help each other the best way that we can. This Easter Season we ask if you can share with us your spare change. Your change and the spirit of kindness in which it is given can help bring about many positive changes in the lives of our elderly and help us to meet the day to day needs of our Home.



Resident, Michele Musumeci, enjoys cake pops, one of his favorite things, along with greeting visitors to the Home.

Upcoming Events

Golf Tournament

Friday, April 27, 2012

The Little Sisters of the Poor and many of their loyal supporters will once again take to the fairways of the Presidio Golf Club in San Francisco to raise funds for St. Anne's Home. The 3rd Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament has now become a favorite annual "fun" raising event that promises a day of golf, camaraderie and the spirit of giving. Pete Crudo, Bill Terheyden and Dan Burke, whose grandfather, Ed Milani, started this tournament in the 1970's, are co-chairing once more.



Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament

Dedication of St. Jeanne Jugan Legacy Plaza

Saturday, June 9, 2012

Our Commemorative Brick Campaign in celebration of our 110 years of work with the elderly poor of San Francisco came to a close on January 15th, and we are eternally grateful for the enthusiastic support received from so many in our community. We look forward to joining with the many friends who purchased a commemorative brick at the Dedication Ceremony. The festivities will begin with a Mass at 4:00 p.m., followed by a blessing of the St. Jeanne Jugan Legacy Plaza and close with an intimate celebratory reception.



The first commemorative brick was blessed by Bishop Daniel Walsh on October 25, 2011 and placed in the St. Jeanne Jugan Legacy Plaza.