



Summer, 2013

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



## ST. ANNE'S HOME

*Serving the elderly poor in San Francisco since 1901.*

# A Miracle in our Midst

BY: MARIA CUNNINGHAM

In 1989, Dr. Edward Gatz was diagnosed with invasive cancer of the esophagus and expected to live no more than six months. Today, Dr. Gatz is cancer free and he and his wife, Jeanne, passionately share the story that begins with a devastating diagnosis and ends in something that can only be described as miraculous. We were honored to have Dr. and Mrs. Jeanne Gatz recently visit San Francisco and share the details of their journey to the miracle that led to the canonization of St. Jeanne Jugan, the Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor.



**Dr. Edward Gatz and Mrs. Jeanne Gatz at the St. Anne's Chapel.**

Twenty-four years ago Dr. Gatz expected to die. He was depressed and not even interested in thinking about the next day. He declined to undergo conventional treatments as he was told that they would not cure him and likely not prolong his life. The first thing Mrs. Gatz wanted to do was to pray and to get everyone to pray with her. Seeking solace, she contacted her old friend, Fr. Richard McGloin, S.J., who had been not only her professor, but was also a former chaplain for the Little Sisters of the Poor. He immediately encouraged her to pray to Jeanne Jugan. Along with Mrs. Gatz, Fr. McGloin prayed to Jeanne Jugan every day. Dr. Gatz was given the sacrament of the anointing of the sick three times and he explains, "A most unexpected and powerful event took place for me after receiving the anointing. There was a sense of peace and joy, almost euphoria, and each time was more powerful than the one before." From that point, Dr. Gatz was ready to take it all on. Surgery was performed to remove the fist-sized tumor from his esophagus because if not removed, it would block his ability to swallow. The surgery, which removed most of his esophagus and stomach, had a very low success

rate, but time passed and Dr. Gatz was still alive.

In 2002, thirteen years post-surgery, Mrs. Gatz contacted the Little Sisters of the Poor in Kansas City to tell them that her husband had been cured of cancer through the intercession of Jeanne Jugan. The investigation into his cure was begun. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI signed the decree endorsing the validity of the miraculous cure of Dr. Gatz through the intercession of Blessed Jeanne Jugan. In October 2009, Jeanne Jugan was canonized.

Dr. Gatz is often referred to as the miracle doctor, but he fervently clarifies, "I am not a miracle, I am the recipient of a miracle." He goes on to further explain, "The miracle was not a snap of the fingers. It happened over time. To this day, functions continue to come back." When I asked Mrs. Gatz how long she prayed to St. Jeanne Jugan, she looked at me somewhat surprised and said, "Oh my, I've never stopped! The main thing is to have faith, and that is what has gotten us through."

The Gatz story is one that inspires faith, motivates hope and, much like the work of the Little Sisters, uplifts the spirit. It was a privilege to have had them in our midst.



**Dr. and Mrs. Gatz took a moment to enjoy our Lourdes Grotto replica with the Little Sisters. (Left to right, Jeanne Gatz, Sr. Maria, Sr. Mary Eva, Mother Margaret, Sr. Anthony, Sr. Geraldine and Edward Gatz)**

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

## Inspired Aging

BY: MARIA CUNNINGHAM

With lives as busy as they are for most of us, active aging is not something that is planned, but something that just happens. However, in community living and as people enter their later years, it does become more organized in order to yield the most fulfilling results. St. Anne's Home believes in inspired aging and prides



**Gold, Silver, Bronze! The lovingly handcrafted Olympic Medals are ready and waiting for the 2013 winners.**

itself in having a most enriching schedule of activities for Residents at all levels. Activities include everything from chair exercises and Wii Bowling to painting and music therapy, but every Summer we welcome the Summer Olympics. This event enters its 6th year this year and epitomizes community building for our Residents. The shyest of the shy come out to cheer on their fellow Residents or to compete themselves for the chance to bring home one of the medals that each year are so artfully designed and handcrafted by Tim Lobacz, St. Anne's Creative Arts Director, with the assistance of several Residents who relish the idea of utilizing their arts and crafts skills.

Resident Johnny Foley, who began participating in weekly Wii Bowling games, and although she started with low scores, she never gave up. She continued with the weekly activity trying her best each time and last year pre-qualified, competed in the Summer Olympics Wii Bowling Challenge, and won the gold medal in her division! With her boosted confidence she now looks forward to defending her title against spirited competition.

Preparations for the event are as therapeutic as the games themselves. The games opening ceremonies include the lighting of the Olympic Torch - a torch, which was made by Residents from a donated halogen lamp and completely transformed with donated baubles, beads, other discarded metals and topped off with an oversized, upside down red martini glass. However, best of all are the memories and the gratification realized by our Residents. A perfect example of this is Resident Mary Coyle, who began participating in weekly Wii Bowling games, and although she started with low scores, she never gave up. She continued with the weekly activity trying her best each time and last year pre-qualified, competed in the Summer Olympics Wii Bowling Challenge, and won the gold medal in her division! With her boosted confidence she now looks forward to defending her title against spirited competition.



**Resident, Johnny Foley, tests lighting the Olympic Torch in preparation for the St. Anne's Summer Olympics set to begin mid-summer.**

## Auxiliary News

BY MARIA CUNNINGHAM

Earlier this Spring, our Auxiliary hosted Celebrate HeART, an art sale, auction, and reception, which was met with a great deal of support and enthusiasm from the community. The event not only raised \$100,000, which has helped to close the gap on the funds needed for the installation of a much needed Nurse Call System, but also introduced many new friends to St. Anne's Home. Our most sincere thanks to all who helped contribute to the success of this event.

April 26th marked the date for our Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament at the Presidio Golf Course. The golf tournament, which originally started in the 1970's, was resurrected 4 years ago, and with the support of loyal sponsors, benefactors and volunteers has gained steam with each year. It was a sell-out event attended by people from all over the Bay Area and as far away as Reno, Nevada. Attendees included individuals who were new guests, as well as golfers who had been loyal supporters of the event in the '70's to golfers who had volunteered at St. Anne's Home as children. The common current for all is the firm belief in the mission of hospitality carried out by

the Little Sisters. The \$50,000 raised from this event will also go toward the new Nurse Call System. Many thanks to all who have worked tirelessly year after year to guarantee the vitality of our golf tournament.

Our Carriage House Rummage Sale, held annually each Spring and Fall, continues to be one of our best community building events, bringing together the combined efforts of not only our dedicated Rummage Sale Committee, but also volunteers at large, as well as Residents and staff. The work is year round with the inspection, sorting and categorizing of donations, culminating in a full week of set-up and pricing. The work is laborious and not at all glamorous, but the camaraderie among the volunteers devoted to this event is heartwarming. The income from the Spring Rummage Sale set a new record at \$26,000 for a two-day sale. Hat's off to all for our wonderful community event.

Our next event, our traditional biennial holiday boutique, Christmas Carnival, will be held on Thursday, November 21st and Saturday, November 23rd. Please mark your calendars and save that date! We look forward to seeing you all for the holidays.



**Celebrate HeART event committee members take a moment during the festivities of the evening to enjoy the backdrop of Light by Light, diptych created especially for St. Anne's Home. (Left to right, Joanne Murphy, Maria Cunningham, Diane Wilsey, Mother Margaret and Marisa Mizono)**



**2013 Swing and a Prayer golfers ready to take on the greens at the Presidio Golf Course.**



## Extraordinary Providence

Susan Schneider, a local Bay Area artist, created *Light by Light*, a powerful and captivating diptych painting that debuted at the 2010 Red Tie Launch Party and was later displayed at the Red Tie Gala. The 60" x 96" work of art symbolizes the roots of the Little Sisters of the Poor as well as their compassionate mission. It represents shelter and recalls the early years of the congregation in 19th century France through stylized French rooftops. The glowing lights emanating from the windows represent the love shining brightly in the hearts of the elderly poor who have received shelter and care. All is set to the background of a grand sunset, which symbolizes the help from the Little Sisters of the Poor to those in the sunset of their years.

Susan felt strongly that the paintings belonged at St. Anne's, but wanted to sell them in order to share the proceeds with the Little Sisters. That opportunity presented itself this year when an ad for our recent Celebrate HeART event caught the eye of Susan's mother. It was not long before

Susan arrived at St. Anne's with hammer and hardware, ready to hang the paintings herself. The paintings were prominently hung in the St. Anne's lobby ready for our first-ever art sale gala. "It brought such joy to my heart to see how positively those who were seeing the paintings for the first time responded to the imagery and symbolism. I even told my mom, it was alright if they never sold, because the paintings were home at St. Anne's - where they belonged," shares Susan.

At the Celebrate HeART event, the history behind the work of *Light by Light* inspired a miraculous outcome. Our gracious Honorary Event Chair, Diane Wilsey, purchased the work and immediately donated it back to the Home. "The paintings will never have to leave St. Anne's! I could never have imagined such a beautiful and perfect outcome. It is my hope that the paintings now living in the lobby of St. Anne's Home bring light into every heart that sees them for years to come," says Susan joyfully.



*"The title for this painting was inspired by the hand-to-hand generosity shown by Saint Jeanne Jugan and carried on by Little Sisters of the Poor. Each heart is helped one by one and so it goes that the lights in the hearts of many grow brighter."*  
- Susan Schneider



Sr. Christine, Susan Schneider and Mother Margaret immediately after the hanging of *Light by Light*.

## Our Library

BY LORRAINE O'HARA

The library at St. Anne's Home is a warm and cheerful room containing an impressive collection of approximately 200 books. There is good variety in the collection, ranging from histories, biographies and reference books, to literary classics and even current crime fiction.

Every book in the library was donated, and the ladies of the Auxiliary Library Committee (library ladies), who maintain and service the library, rely completely on donations for their inventory. A recent request put out by them for large-print books, resulted in the arrival of seventeen boxes of such books – all quite current, in very good condition, and across a wide range of subject matter. Those books were donated by St. Ignatius College Preparatory, from the estate of a recently deceased Jesuit priest. This donation was gratefully received, and the library

ladies have been happily working to incorporate this wonderful and timely gift into the library's collection.

Requests from bed-ridden or room-restricted Residents of the Home are promptly responded to by the library ladies. The library also provides daily newspapers and news magazines for the Residents. However, these publications are for perusal only in the library. Sonia Mares, chair of the Auxiliary's Library Committee is considering providing a reading service for those Residents with impaired vision.

In addition to maintaining inventory, re-stocking, and organizing the book shelves, the library ladies creatively decorate the library in seasonal themes. Their loving and



Resident, Henry Mendes, welcomes a quiet moment to read the paper in the library.

thoughtful efforts make the room a warm and inviting place for Residents to enjoy the magic of books.

## A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



Our lives as Little Sisters and our work to care for the elderly are based on faith in God's Divine Providence, influencing how we look at the world and how we carry out our mission. It is that faith that keeps us focused and the reason that our Home exists. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "Living faith opens the heart to the grace of God which frees us from pessimism." Appropriately, the last few months have given us the opportunity to truly appreciate the meaning of the Year of Faith, as intended by Pope Benedict XVI.

As our home ages, we have been faced with needs beyond our daily routine of caring for our elderly Residents, but God's Divine Providence has been manifested yet again through the generosity of the wonderful people in our community. Late last year, we began a drive to raise funds to replace our Nurse Call System, and it is with a most grateful heart that I announce that through the collaborative efforts of all those who share in our mission, we will soon be able to begin with Phase I of the Nurse Call System replacement project. Our Security Upgrade Project which includes the replacement of gates that have deteriorated beyond usefulness at our rear East and West entrances has begun and will provide us with a much better sense of security. Our efforts to address the repair and maintenance issues of our facility continue, but it is with deepest gratitude that I thank each and every one of you for your generosity.

We have also had a number of changes in our community of Little Sisters this year. We have said farewell to a few, but also welcomed a few new Little Sisters to our Home. Our biggest change has been the departure of Sr. Anthony, our Administrator for the last 10 years, who will be continuing her work at the St. Jeanne Jugan Residence in San Pedro. We welcome Sr. Clothilde back to the St. Anne's family as our new Administrator.



*"I am grateful to have been a part of the St. Anne's family for the last ten years and for having known everyone who is a part of that family. I extend my deepest gratitude to our benefactors, employees, and volunteers. You always inspired me by your commitment to the social, physical and spiritual well-being of our Residents - may God bless you all."*

- Sr. Anthony

## Little Sisters of the Poor present the 2013 Commemorative Brick Campaign



You are invited to become a permanent part of the St. Anne's Legacy and help us ensure the future of our mission by purchasing a commemorative brick. Bricks can commemorate a special event or be in memory or in honor of loved ones.

### For Ordering Information:

Visit our website [www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org)  
or call 415-751-6510, Ext. 115

## Upcoming Events

**Auxiliary Fall Luncheon**  
Monday, September 30, 2013  
Lake Merced Golf Club

**Carriage House Sale**  
Friday, October 25 and  
Saturday, October 26, 2013  
St. Anne's Home

**Holiday Boutique  
Christmas Carnival**  
Preview Party -  
Thursday, November 21, 2013  
Luncheons -  
Saturday, November 23, 2013