Hospitality Through the Eyes of a Victorian Painter

Hospitality, the hallmark vow of the Little Sisters of the Poor, is expressed beautifully on canvas in James Collinson’s *Ladies Hall*, circa 1868, a magnificent depiction of the early years of the congregation. Known for his prodigious attention to minute details, Collinson brings to life the core themes which have been integral to the spirit of the congregation since its beginning, namely the family spirit, hospitality, and the unity between contemplation and action.

This painting, so simple and so humble as to its activities, emanates a serene and tranquil joy. One immediately recognizes the family spirit so strikingly apparent in this depiction: a family spirit without fuss, without complications, but true, profound, with much kindness, charity, and union. The expressions and humble gestures of the Little Sisters reflect their attention to the aged, with great respect and kindness; one feels they are preoccupied with making their elderly women happy.

One can also see how central “collecting” or “begging” is in the hospitaller life of the congregation through the joy depicted by the collecting Little Sister. She has not even taken the time to take off her mantle as she kneels among the family showing the treasures that she has brought back for them.

Collinson perceptively captivates the thoughtfulness of the Little Sisters’ attention and respect for each other and each one of the aged though the tranquil and laborious activity in the painting. The simple but specific activities unite them as a family, define the collaboration of hospitaller life in their community, and show how the activities carry them toward their mission in the spirit originally impressed on the congregation by St. Jeanne Jugan: humility, gentleness, and simplicity of heart so that it gives itself to hospitality in joy.

This painting was discovered in a private collection in Carlisle England in 1973, and was generously donated to the Little Sisters of the Poor Mother House, in St. Pern, France, as a family treasure. A copy of the painting also beautifully graces the residence halls of St. Anne’s Home as a reminder to all who walk our halls that although much has changed since the 19th century the legacy started by St. Jeanne Jugan has flourished from caring for the elderly in one small village in France to helping the elderly in 30 countries around the world.
A Jubilee Year

By: Maria Cunningham

Fifty years is a remarkable milestone in any life, but for Sister Anna Marie of the Precious Blood, May 2, 2015, marked a legacy of immeasurable significance — 50 years of consecrated life devoted to the care of the elderly. Sr. Anna Marie was introduced to the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor as a young girl in Kansas City through her youth group involvement with the Legion of Mary. It was then that she began her volunteer service with the Little Sisters of the Poor helping in the dining room on a weekly basis. At that time, she was not certain if God’s call for her was to work with children or the elderly, but as she prayed for counsel and continued her work with the Little Sisters, her journey took definition and the joy of working with the elderly manifested itself clearly to her. Notably, Sr. Anna Marie took her first vows on April 26th, the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Since taking those first vows, Sr. Anna Marie has served the elderly from New York to California with love and compassion, from the moment they make their home with the Little Sisters to the moment they take their last breath.

The commemoration of Sr. Anna Marie’s commitment to religious life was a joyous gathering of the St. Anne’s community of Residents, staff, Association Jeanne Jugan members and volunteers, as well as family and friends from as far as Missouri and Indiana. Resident, Jonathan Curtis shared his creative photographic talents to create the photography for the invitation, Rev. Ted Temple, former chaplain from the home in Evansville, Indiana, where Sr. Anna Marie served for a number of years, concelebrated the Golden Jubilee Mass, and many others lovingly contributed to the many special touches throughout the day. “I feel so very blessed to have been able to share my Golden Jubilee with the many people who contributed to making the day so special for me, recalls Sr. Anna Marie fondly, especially the Association Jeanne Jugan members, who rendered invaluable service. I am very grateful for all of the love and effort put into making my jubilee a truly joyous day, and pray that God will give me the grace to continue to say with all truth, I have only you, Jesus.”

We extend our heartfelt congratulations not only to Sr. Anna Marie, but also to our Sr. Regina and Sr. Madeleine Marie, who this year celebrate 70 years of religious consecration.

Sr. Madeleine Marie du Sacre Coeur made her first vows in 1945, and since then spent her time caring for the elderly in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Baltimore. She spent many years as a “collecting” Sister and then as part of the communications team for the Little Sisters. She came to St. Anne’s Home from Evansville, Indiana in 2013, and in June of this year, Sr. Madeleine was joined by her niece and nephew from Canada to celebrate her 70th year of religious profession. Sr. Madeleine shares, “I enjoyed every minute of my celebration and my time with family and friends. It was a very special time for which I am grateful.”

Sr. Regina served as Mother Superior at St. Anne’s Home during the 1970’s when she was charged with the critical decision to demolish the “old” St. Anne’s Home in favor of a structurally and seismically safe alternative. She was known for explaining to the press that the decision to demolish the old home was a difficult one, but that people were more important than bricks. Mother Regina spent countless hours with city officials insuring that the new St. Anne’s, with its graceful interior malls and courtyards, would fulfill the Little Sisters’ promise to provide the needy aged with a home in which the atmosphere was love, care, and dignity. A job well done — thank you, Sr. Regina and many blessings to you!

Congratulations Sisters! We are honored to have you among us.
Swing and a Prayer 2015 Golf Tournament

By Marisa Mizono & Maria Cunningham

Our sixth annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament took place this past April at the Presidio Golf Course with a full roster of players enjoying a day filled with fun and camaraderie. John Abendroth, local golf celebrity and former PGA professional once again served as our Honorary Host and Master of Ceremonies. Most fittingly, this year’s honoree was Edward Milani, who was devoted to the Little Sisters of the Poor for many years and was the original founder of our golf tournament in the 1970s. The posthumously presented 2015 Catholic Service Award was accepted by his daughters, Carol Burco Connor, Marilyn Norton, and Linda Milani. Dan Burke, his grandson, resurrected the golf tournament tradition six years ago and has served as co-chair of the event since then with Peter Crudo and Bill Terheyden.

Our golf tournament has raised more than $250,000 to date for St. Anne’s Home. Our Fund-a-Need portion of the evening is the main fundraising component of the event each year, and through the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to fund several needs vital to the comfort and safety of our Residents. This year we raised $10,000, which has allowed us to purchase two senior computers and to set up a comfortable user-friendly area accessible to all our Residents. The computers are non-intimidating with simplified software that allows users with little or no computer experience to access the web, email, games, and much more with just a simple touch. This is a wonderfully exciting new resource that we can provide to our Residents through the generosity of our community. Many thanks to all who helped us provide this new channel of communication to keep our residents connected and current.

Auxiliary Corner

By Maria Cunningham

Our Ladies Auxiliary was established in 1981 by 8 ladies who were inspired by the Little Sisters’ devotion and kindness to the elderly. That inspiration led them to help with fundraising as well as hands-on service. The group has certainly grown in 34 years; collaboration with the Home’s Board of Advisors and Development Department has increased, and events have evolved. However, their original purpose to lend a hand wherever needed remains unchanged and alive today.

At the Auxiliary Spring Luncheon this May, the work and dedication of the three 2014-2015 co-presidents, Dee Dee Bovone, Sandra Gulli, and Eda McNulty, were gratefully acknowledged and the three 2015-2016 co-presidents, Diane Kardas, Vicky Potthoff, and Andrea Rago, were installed and welcomed to their term of office.

The new leadership is hard at work with the holiday boutique committee preparing for this year’s Holiday Boutique, Home for the Holidays — Christmas in the City. Boutique Chairs Celia Barbaccia, Gina Passanisi, and Jennifer Rosko have wonderful plans in store for this signature event that will honor the talented and hardworking ladies who work year round creating the extraordinary one of a kind hand crafted items sold during the two-day festivities.

Kick-off your holiday season with us and join us for the preview gala evening on Thursday, November 19th and then for brunch, lunch or shopping on Saturday, November 21st. Look for invitations in your mail soon.
Did you know ...

1. The Little Sisters of the Poor are a world-wide, self-supporting congregation not financed by any specific diocese;
2. The Little Sisters of the Poor have been caring for the elderly around the world since 1839;
3. The Little Sisters of the Poor came to San Francisco in 1901 and have welcomed over 21,000 elderly Residents through their doors since then;
4. The annual cost of running St. Anne’s Home is approximately $7 million, a portion of which is covered by governmental subsidies, and the remainder coming through Divine Providence as manifested through the generosity of the community;
5. You can make provisions to have the Little Sisters included in your will;
6. The Little Sisters can be named as beneficiaries in your life insurance policy;
7. Stocks and publicly traded securities are easy to donate to the Little Sisters;
8. The Little Sisters of the Poor need your help on an on-going basis and your donations bring direct comfort to our marginalized elderly;
9. You can easily donate on-line at any time by visiting www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org, you need to only CLICK on the TO DONATE button and follow the step-by-step prompts;
10. If you need additional information on how to help the Little Sisters of the Poor, you can contact our Development Office at 415-751-6510 or dvsanfran@littlesistersofthepoor.org;
11. The Little Sisters of the Poor pray for you, their loyal benefactors, every day because they are because you are!

We thank you deeply for taking the time to know us and for considering including us in your giving plans this summer.

Donate Your Vehicle

ALL CARS ARE ACCEPTED – RUNNING OR NOT - FREE PICK UP 7 DAYS A WEEK!

BOATS AND RV’S ALSO ACCEPTED

800-937-7837 or www.yes-svdp.com

All DMV and IRS paperwork is done for you.

Designate the Little Sisters of the Poor as the recipient of your donation, receive a tax deduction, and help support our mission.

Upcoming Events

Fall Carriage House Sale
Friday, September 18
Saturday, September 19
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
St. Anne’s Home, San Francisco

Fall into the Holidays Auxiliary Luncheon
Tuesday, October 13
Olympic Club – Lakeside
San Francisco

Christmas in the City – Home for the Holidays Christmas Boutique
Thursday, November 19
Saturday, November 21
St. Anne’s Home, San Francisco

Summer is always full of activity and tradition for us. It begins early with a wonderful Memorial Day Barbeque hosted for our Residents and their families by the Order of Malta. It is a traditional red, white, and blue celebration complete with hot dogs, apple pie and all-American musical entertainment. It has become a wonderful tradition for our home and one that our Residents look forward to as the opening of the summer season. This is followed by the ever-popular Summer Olympics, which bring together our residents at every level of ability to enjoy a little healthy competition. It is heartwarming to hear the cheering and laughter in our halls during our Olympic Games.

August is the month of our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, whose feast day we celebrate on the 30th. We enjoy spiritual preparations for the big day throughout the entire month, recalling the spirit of family, hospitality, and humility upon which our congregation was founded. Together with Residents, staff and any volunteers or visitors present, we pray a daily novena to St. Jeanne Jugan in the week leading up to her feast day on August 30th. It is activities as simple as these that make us a home — a home where we strive to continue to follow in the footsteps of our foundress in loving service to the elderly, with eternal gratitude to all who join us in our journey of hospitality and help us to keep our mission alive.

May God bless you,
Mother Theresa