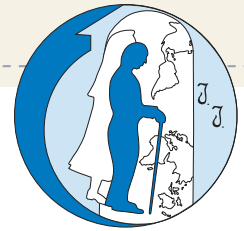




Serving the elderly poor in San Francisco since 1901.



A Reason for Celebration

by **Maria Cunningham**

A jubilee is commonly understood to be an occasion of rejoicing and festivity. This summer we rejoice in celebration of Sr. Mary Pascal's silver jubilee. It was 25 years ago that a young woman from the Ibo Tribe in Uga, Nigeria accepted the call to begin her service as a Little Sister of the Poor. Her interest in a religious vocation stemmed from her familial upbringing, and she recalls that it was very early in life that she began to ponder life as a professed religious.

Sr. Mary Pascal, the youngest of four children, lost her parents as a young child, but quickly became part of a family of nine surrounded by the love of cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Along with all of the children in her village, she was involved in the Block Rosary Crusade. She joined with villagers ranging from as young as four months to adulthood in praying the rosary on a daily basis. In her family, the devotion to the rosary meant praying it every morning before 6:30 a.m. Mass and then again at bedtime. When she was old enough, she became a member of the Children of Mary. In imitation of our Blessed Mother, the Children of Mary strive to be of cheerful service as they respond to the needs around

them. All young women in her community were a part of this organization until they married, and they were committed to helping each other stay true to the teachings of their Catholic faith.

It was not until after graduation from high school, when Sr. Mary Pascal moved to the city to live with her brother, that she began to explore dedicating herself to religious life. She remembers being at Mass with nieces and nephews one day and having to go outside to pacify her crying nephew. It was then that she saw a nun dressed all in white exit a big unidentified building across the street from the church. She was intrigued by the building and by the nun. Determined to find out what this nun did there, she returned the following day. With apprehension challenging her purpose, she quickly knocked on the door of the big building. To her surprise the door was answered by the nun she had seen the day before. She was welcomed, introduced to the mother superior, and oriented with the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor. It was not long after that encounter that she began to volunteer at that Home. About one year later, she left her home and her family and boarded a plane for the first time in her life



Sr. Mary Pascal

to enter the novitiate of the Little Sisters in Dublin, Ireland. She says, "The Blessed Mother never left my side, and God gave me the strength to know that this was my path." She jokingly explains, "I brought clothes that I thought were heavy, but I was wrong, the temperature change was more intense than I imagined. I also thought all of the trees in Dublin were dead because they had no leaves. I saw snow for the first time, and I couldn't believe how beautifully unusual it seemed. To this day, I am still fascinated by snow."

Continued on next page

Little Sisters of the Poor

Continued from previous page



Sr. Mary Pascal with Resident Meg Maehout

Beyond those initial adjustments on a new continent, Sr. Mary Pascal says she has loved everywhere that God has sent her. In 1993, she made her first vows as a Little Sister of the Poor in Dublin, Ireland. She made her final vows at the motherhouse in St. Pern, France in 1998. As is required of

all Little Sisters, she is comfortably conversant in French. She has done apostolic work in England and Scotland and returned for a short time to work at the Home in Nigeria where she initially volunteered. However, Sister has spent the last twenty years working in the United States serving the elderly in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and California. Reflecting, she says, "God has blessed me with extraordinary grace and the strength to never

look back, so that I would not be homesick or miss my family. I am happy in this life. I am happy to serve, my family is happy for me, and we are all healthy. I cannot ask for anything more."

Thank you for your service and God bless you Sr. Mary Pascal!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Auxiliary Fall Luncheon

Thursday, October 25
San Francisco Athletic Club
1630 Stockton Street
San Francisco, CA
11 a.m. Cocktails
12 p.m. Lunch.
Complimentary Valet Parking

St. Jeanne Jugan Award Dinner Honoring The Sanchez-Corea Family

Friday, September 28
5:30 p.m. Cocktails
6:30 p.m. Dinner
9 p.m. Dancing to David Martin's House Party
St. Mary's Cathedral Event Center
San Francisco

Carriage House Sale

Fall date to be determined

Donations for our Carriage House Sales are accepted every Tuesday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Please visit our website for information on the type of items we accept. For additional information please contact Kathleen Ryan at 415-751-6510.

A Swing and a Prayer

Our annual golf tournament, attended by a sell-out number of golfers, continues in the same tradition that it began 9 years ago – a fun day on the greens! Three years ago, we changed location from San Francisco to Marin and our committed following has embraced the opportunity to play in the sun. We are thankful to all of our volunteers for their hours of devotion dedicated to the success of this event. We are especially grateful to those who have been involved in the coordination of this event since its inception in 2009, in particular, our Co-chairs, Dan Burke, Pete Crudo, Tony Sanchez-Corea, and our Master of Cermonies, John Abendroth. To our Hole-In-One contest sponsor, San Francisco Toyota, and to all of our loyal sponsors, we have unending gratitude for their generosity and support.

We are already starting the plans for our very special 10th Annual Swing and a Prayer Tournament and hope that many more of you can join us for a day of golf or for the anniversary dinner celebration that will follow. We are happy to announce that approximately \$55,000 was raised from the tournament for the benefit of our emergency generator replacement campaign. Many, many thanks to all!



Mother Theresa and Sr. John with a few of the golfers

Celebrating the Special Women in our Lives



Special Ladies enjoying the Ladies Tea

We have all been blessed to know special women in our lives who in one way or another have contributed to the formation of who we have become. For many, it is the

unconditional love of a mother; for others it could be the nurturing love of a grandmother, the support of an aunt or the guidance of a mentor. Regardless of the titular designation, this past Mother's Day weekend, St. Anne's Home hosted a Ladies Tea in honor of the special women in the lives of our Residents. Our auditorium was filled with extraordinary women: daughters, nieces, sisters, students, and friends. There was love and laughter amid musings of the past and stories of the moment. Our kitchen staff outdid themselves with the delectable creations that included delightful cookies, cream puffs, eclairs and truffles to name a few of the confections that distinguished the menu. Our Jeanne Jugan Associates graciously served our guests of honor in one-of-a kind collectible tea cups and teapots received from Carriage House Sale donations. The beautifully adorned tables and the melodic background piano music enhanced the tasteful atmosphere that was outshined only by the joyful air in the room.



Pilgrimage at St. Anne's



IT Coordinator Kim Bemis and Resident Audrey Peal

By Maria Cunningham

In 1904, Edward Joseph LeBreton, a benefactor of the Little Sisters of the Poor, vowed to gift an exact replica of the Lourdes Grotto to St. Anne's Home if the Blessed Mother answered his prayers to spare the life of a Little Sister who had fallen gravely ill. Within days of his fervent prayers, the

Little Sister recovered, and within months a Lourdes Grotto became a part of St. Anne's Home. Over the last 114 years, this Grotto has been the site for everything from rosary processions to Easter Sunrise Masses and Easter Egg Hunts to serving as the annual recreation site of the Lourdes Pilgrimage for the Order of Malta.

This May, in honor of our Provincial Superior, Mother Maria Christine's Feast Day, St. Anne's Home held a very special day of pilgrimage to not only our Lourdes Grotto, but also to our contemplative prayer space for Our Lady of Fatima. Under beautifully blue skies with not a trace of fog, over 230 people, including Residents, staff, Jeanne Jugan



Scenes from the Pilgrimage



Associates, Auxiliary members, and children from St. Thomas the Apostle Elementary School joined the Little Sisters in prayerful procession from the main chapel, through the halls of our Home to the Fatima Shrine, ending at the Lourdes Grotto for Mass. It was not only the sounds of reflective hymns that struck a powerful presence, but also the vision of communal kindness that was exhibited among participants throughout the day. Our less mobile residents were tenderly escorted in wheelchairs and walkers, by those more able, through halls and paths allowing all to participate in the pilgrimage fully and equally. The special day concluded in the same fashion over a shared meal with the serenity of knowing that when it comes to prayer all are on the same page. There is no age, no physical limitation, national origin or religious affiliation, just FAITH.

A Simple Note By: Mother Superior



Dear Friends,

This year marks a very special milestone for the Little Sisters of the Poor. In 1868, the Little Sisters arrived in the United States and opened their first Home in Brooklyn, New York. On August 30th, the feast of our Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, we will begin the year-long commemoration inaugurating the sesquicentennial of the Little Sisters of the Poor arriving in America — a milestone indeed! Over the last 150 years, our Little Sisters have lived alongside the elderly through challenges and triumphs, and we look forward to sharing some of this history with you in the coming months.

Amidst sesquicentennial remembrances and celebrations, maintenance and repairs of our Home are a part of daily life. Thanks to the generosity of a kind donor, we have been able to have the peeling wallpaper from two of our Resident units replaced and had the corrosion on the frames of our skylights repaired. We expect that the replacement of our telephone system will take place very soon, and we thank you for your patience during our transition. We know that, with our current system, phone calls sometimes do not connect. We look forward to this no longer being an issue in the very near future.

On the last Friday of April, we held our 9th Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament, for the benefit of our Generator Replacement Campaign, and enjoyed a beautiful sold-out day at the Peacock Gap Golf Course. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a successful event and thank you to our loyal sponsors. We are very excited and look forward to celebrating our 10th annual golf tournament in 2019.

Our next event and our largest fundraiser of the year will be the St. Jeanne Jugan Award Dinner honoring the Sanchez-Corea family on September 28, 2018. We hope that you will be able to join us for this special event. Look for your invitations in the mail this coming August.

As we head into Summer, I wish you the blessing of special times spent with family and friends with many opportunities to make life-long memories. Thank you so very much for joining us in our journey of care for the elderly and may God bless you.

Mother Theresa

We Are Because You Are

Our motto at St. Anne's Home: We are because you are - is a testament to our ability to carry out our mission of care for the elderly because of the generosity of people in our community who understand the significance of lending a hand and who graciously share of their gifts for the benefit of those who no longer have neither the means nor the strength to care for themselves.

The needs of our work are multi-faceted, but as we have been sharing with you, our major focus this year continues on raising funds to replace our 35-year aging emergency generator. Since our last newsletter, we have raised an additional \$98,000, bringing our total fundraising to \$698,000. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has joined us in this effort. We are thankful for each and every donation regardless of the amount. Each gift has contributed to getting us closer to our goal and holds special significance.

Our fundraising efforts will continue until we reach the needed \$1.5 million. Our upcoming St. Jeanne Jugan Award Dinner in September is specifically intended to support this effort. We hope that you will be able to join us! If it is possible for you, another way to support our campaign is through an employer matching gift program or through a recurring monthly gift pledge that can be set-up on-line at www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org. Thank you so very much for everything that you do to help us and for being an angel in our midst.



DID YOU KNOW?

We Accept
Vehicle Donations



Whatever the shape of your vehicle it fits our
Vehicle Donation Program.

Help support our mission of care for the elderly and qualify for
a tax deduction.

We take care of the heavy lifting
and the paperwork too!

TO DONATE CALL - 855-500-7433

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