



St. Anne's Home

Fall 2023



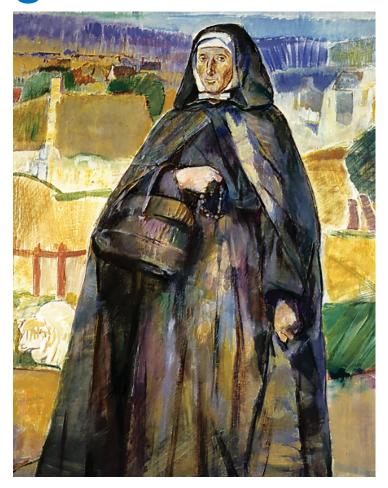


Remembering our Roots

The feast of St. Jeanne Jugan is an important day for us to reflect on the roots of our Congregation and on the teachings of our foundress, which have transcended oceans, cultures and the test of time. She was unknowingly a visionary who would impact lives around the world through her humble kindness and love for the poor. What a powerful legacy!

After founding the Little Sisters of the Poor by welcoming the needy elderly into her home and caring for them with extraordinary love and dignity, Jeanne Jugan disappeared into the shadows. She spent her last years in forced retirement among the novices and young Sisters at the community's motherhouse in France, quietly instilling generations of her daughters with her spirit of humility and charity.

We joyfully honored her feast day with Residents and staff by starting the day with a special liturgy, followed by a delicious lunch, prepared by our talented kitchen staff, and concluded with a slideshow of Jeanne Jugan's life, pictorial bingo and ice cream treats for all. Our celebration was filled with history and inspiration as we continue to walk in the path that she created for us to lovingly care for the elderly.



Little Sisters of the Poor

Honoring our Elders

Intended as an opportunity for all Catholics to celebrate the bond between the young and the elderly, Pope Francis established World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be observed each year on the fourth Sunday of July.

The theme for the day this year, His mercy is from age to age, was beautifully addressed at our Sunday Mass by Fr. Strange. He emphasized to our Residents how valuable they were to the generations following them and what a difference their prayers make. He reminded them that they have valuable experience, time, and love to pass on to those around them.

The Grandparents Day celebration that followed was a fun-filled family picnic with barbeque delights, games, and laughter. Families, including many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, were able to come together in honor of their elders with everyone sharing in the joy of the day. Residents who did not have family members joining them were adopted by Sisters, staff or volunteers. Love was in the air with everyone fully engaged in the time spent together. The celebration was living proof that His mercy really is from age to age.

Many people worked diligently for several weeks to make this day a reality, and we are truly grateful to them - our volunteers, staff, and benefactors. Thank you all for your love and support.

> The "best sale in town" is back! Join us for the St. Anne's Carriage House Sale



Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Anne's Home, 300 Lake Street, San Francisco



"The elderly remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between different generations, to pass on to the young the experiences of life." — Pope Francis





A Remarkable Partnership

A native of Portugal, our extraordinary volunteer, Maria Dalia Gomes, arrived in the U.S. 64 years ago and has been devoted to service at St. Anne's Home for 41 years.

She started as one of five volunteers, who she recalls were happy to be on call 24 hours a day and seven days a week to help the Little Sisters wherever assistance was needed. Her initial duties were to assist in the dining room during Resident meals. Since that time, she has been available, under the leadership of 11 Mother Superiors, to continue helping wherever she is needed.

Maria remembers working at Luso-American Financial, the leading Portuguese fraternal benefit life insurance society in the United States, when IBM computers took up entire rooms. She knew early on that she wanted to do more. She sought out a number of volunteer opportunities, but she shares, "The moment I stepped through the doors of St. Anne's Home I knew I found the place where I wanted to devote my free time."

She immediately committed to a variety of service activities while also being introduced to crafting. She was happy to be of service and was often at the Home as many as six days a week.



"Under the direction of the Little Sister in charge of crafts and in the company of Residents, I learned to knit and embroider. I found my calling," she explains with a smile. "We made a variety of items, including Christmas decorations, all of which were sold to raise money for the Home. We even sold our crafts at the San Mateo County Fair." Maria's specialty items were her intricately embroidered Barbie ensembles which enjoyed tremendous popularity, long before the current resurgence in celebrity. The craft sales later evolved into what is now known as the Home's Biennial Christmas Boutique.

In addition to creating and selling crafts, Maria started sorting and organizing donated clothing, and that is what gave birth to the St. Anne's Home Carriage House Sale. Thirty years later, the tradition continues as a much larger bi-annual fundraiser, handled by our Auxiliary but maintains the original premise of featuring a selection of only the best items for sale.

Maria is our longest serving volunteer in the history of St. Anne's Home with dedication beyond compare. Today, she continues to come into the Home three times per week and expertly manages the Home's storeroom that houses donated supplies. She also coordinates all Christmas and birthday gifts for Residents and Christmas gifts for all employees. She is meticulously organized and no one is ever forgotten on their birthday or for Christmas.

As an associate with the Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) Maria renews her promise of service and dedication to the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor annually each May. She gives of her time and of herself fully. She has truly fulfilled the description of being an "extension of the Little Sisters' hands." When asked what she cherishes most about being at St. Anne's Home, she replies, ". . .knowing that I belong here, it is home for me."

Thank you, Maria, for the gift that you are to the Little Sisters and Residents of St. Anne's Home.







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MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends, Summer came and went quickly, but not without leaving us with great memories and gratitude for our ability to share time together more freely. Our



summer highlight was our celebration for Grandparents Day. It was wonderful to have Sisters, Residents, Resident families and staff come together in honor of our elders and have so much fun doing it.

We are also very happy to have welcomed many of our loyal volunteers back into the Home. We've had Sunday Happy Hour and special bingo social hours hosted by the Order of Malta, as well as Saturday afternoon soirees hosted by our Auxiliary. Our Auxiliary ladies have also returned to enthusiastically plan for the return of our Carriage House Sale in October and our Home for the Holidays 2023 Boutique in November. All of this adds up to activity filling our Home with voices and laughter that are always welcomed by our Residents. We also had lovely festivities in honor of St. Jeanne Jugan for her feast day. It was a well celebrated day for our very special St. Anne's family.

We hope to see you at our upcoming events and thank you for your support of our RAISE US UP – Elevator Modernization project. Proceeds from all of our events will go toward helping us fund this very necessary upgrade to our elevators.

May you be richly blessed as we enter the season of harvest, when we are thankful for our many blessings and the special time of year that leads us into the warmth of the holidays. You are, of course, among our many blessings, and we are deeply thankful for your partnership in our mission of caring for the elderly.

May God bless you, Mother Marguerite



RAISE US UP Elevator Modernization Campaign

Our quest to secure funds for our RAISE US UP Elevator Modernization Campaign continues in full force. Repairs to our failing 40-year-old elevators also continue.

With faith in Divine Providence, as manifested through the generosity of our community, we pray that the needed funds will be raised to enable us to begin the full scope of the project, as planned, in 2024.

Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, often said, "Our benefactors! Where would we be without them?" These words are as applicable today as they were during her life in 19th century France.

It is through the kindness and generosity of benefactors that St. Anne's has been able to offer the needy elderly a place of honor at life's table since 1901.

Thank you for helping us, for spreading the word of our need, and for your continued support to RAISE US UP and help keep us and our elevators running.

Scan the QR Code to donate online to our RAISE US UP **Elevator Modernization Campaign.**



To donate by mail, please use the enclosed envelope.



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