



# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

## Holy Family Residence

*Serving the elderly poor in St. Paul, Minnesota since 1883*

### Mission Statement

*Continuing the work of St. Jeanne Jugan, our MISSION is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they are welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.*



## Christmas Blessings 2013

*"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. (Matthew 2:10)*

As the Christmas season is upon us, it is a time to reflect on those many blessings which have brought great joy to Holy Family Residence this past year. As we close the beautiful "Year of Faith" it is with gratitude that we recall the many special events and highlights that were planned for us to experience the true meaning of our faith. In September, we Little Sisters of the Poor, celebrated 130 years of service in this wonderful and charitable Twin Cities community. It is the time of year of our Beloved Christ Child's birth that we especially give thanks for those kind and generous gifts that you, our benefactors, have bestowed upon us.

We have completed several projects during the past year, including the replacement of our therapeutic bathtubs, the floor in the main dining room and just recently, our Wellness Center which was dedicated on November 20. Next spring we shall begin a renovation of the area which now holds the Beauty Shop, the Resident Store, an outside patio and an open area. The proposed gathering space plan is to create a "mini mall" concept and public activity space for hosting small group

programs, entertaining friends and family or simply gathering for companionship and conversation. Our main goal, always, is to assure and enrich the quality of life for our Residents and to make their families and guests welcome in our spirit of hospitality.

I am humbled to assume the responsibility of Mother Superior of Holy Family Residence which has been my home for the past seven years. Please remember me in your prayers and I shall do the same for you. Pope Francis, in his message of love, states "Only the Commandment of love in all its simplicity – steady, humble, unassuming but firm in conviction and in commitment to others – can save us." Our heartfelt wish is that you experience that love and joy of this Christmas season as you remember your families, especially those who are no longer with us, those who live and have died in the devastating disaster in the Philippines and those who are serving our country in pursuit of peace and justice throughout our world.

Sr. Maria Francis

### Please watch for more information on upcoming events in 2014

- St. Jeanne Jugan Gala
- St. Jeanne Jugan Golf Classic
- 2014 Christmas Boutique

**Holy Family Residence**  
330 Exchange Street South  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
(651) 227-0336

Christmas 2013

# Little Sisters of the Poor



As Arthur Nasseff (right) looks on - John Nasseff, Helen Houle and artist, Merry DeCourcy unveil the portrait at the Blessing of the Arthur K. Nasseff Wellness Center.

## A Heaven-Sent Gift The Wellness Center

### BYLINE: Dorothy Salessess

Thanks to very generous benefactors, John Nasseff and Helene Houle, our long-awaited dream of upgrading the thirty-five year-old medical office area at Holy Family Residence has been granted! The small size and location of the area was a challenge for the medical staff and the visiting medical personnel to attend to the needs of our Residents. Privacy, dignity and safety were compromised when Residents with their wheelchairs and walkers had to wait for appointments in the hall. We are now able to provide health care from head to toe for our Residents in a very comfortable and private setting. The new clinic, complete with a waiting room, is very pleasant with wonderful windows overlooking our garden area. The new space allows for an improved work area for our staff and a better work environment for our visiting medical doctors

On November 20, Benefactors, renovators, Association Jeanne Jugan and Guild members, Residents, staff and friends gathered as Archbishop Emeritus, Harry Flynn, dedicated the

new Wellness Center. Mother Maria Francis introduced the visiting guests and made note that Mother Theresa Gertrude, who was called to be the Mother Superior in our Chicago Home, was unable to attend. She acknowledged that Mother Theresa was the master mind behind the creation of the Wellness Center and thanked her from afar for her insights and determination to see the project through to its completion. Mother Maria Francis also affirmed

that, "This Wellness Center allows us to live out the prophetic vision of our Mother Foundress Jeanne Jugan which is to contribute to the Culture of Life by nurturing communities where each person is valued, the solidarity of the human family and the wisdom of age are celebrated, and the compassionate love of Christ is shared with all."

After Mother's remarks, Resident, Lucille Porter, had the privilege of cutting the ribbon. At John's request, the new Center is named the Arthur K. Nasseff Wellness Center in honor of his son. The unveiling of Arthur's portrait by artist, Merry DeCourcy, John Nasseff and Helene Houle then took place followed by a reading (Matt:4:23-25) by Abouna (Father) Rodrigue Contantin. Archbishop Emeritus, Harry Flynn, dear friend and loyal supporter of the Little Sisters, thanked the Sisters for their long-time charitable works and John and Helene for their gracious generosity. He concluded with a beautiful blessing focused on the care, love and service to the elderly. A tour of the Center and a light supper completed the evening event.

The Little Sisters are most grateful for this wonderful gift and thank the Nasseffs, our very munificent benefactors, from the bottom of our hearts, for making our dream possible. In our Mother Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan's words, "Blessed be God!"



Lucille Porter cuts the ribbon with help from her daughter, Susan Nasseff as Mother Maria Francis, Archbishop Harry Flynn and invited guests share in the moment.

# Around Our Home

## A Look Back



From Time and Life November 1978. "Prowling through Holy Family's kitchen the week before Thanksgiving to see what might be needed for the big meal, Sr. Isabelle and Sr. Marie Cecile found several frozen turkeys had just been donated!"

## "Outskirts of HEAVEN"

We'd like to introduce you to Resident, Merle Stevens and his latest creation, "The Outskirts of Heaven." Merle, our "resident" singer/song writer, has lived in the Jeanne Jugan Apartments since October of 2007. A former over the road trucker, he is a Windom, MN native. At a recent party, Merle debuted his song, which he wrote from inspiration he felt about living here at Little Sisters of the Poor. The lyrics of his song follow.

"One step above earth, two steps below Heaven, that's why we call it the outskirts of Heaven."

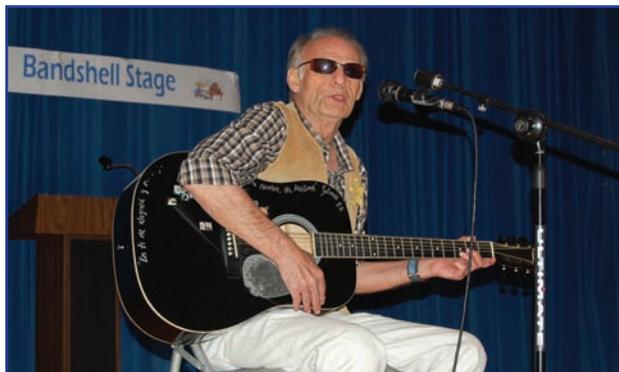
A long long time ago, a poor lady in black met a homeless blind woman lying in the streets. She couldn't walk. She took her home with her and gave up her bed. She had to go out begging every day to feed and care for her

new found friend. That day GOD gave her earth wings, his LOVE, SERVICE and PEACE and transformed her home into the OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN.

One step above earth, two steps below Heaven, that's why we call it the outskirts of Heaven.

There are homes all around the world today for people from all walks of life and when the nuns take their vows, GOD gives them earth wings. They still go begging every day to feed and care for men and women just like you and me. S I know I live at the OUTSKIRTS OF HEAVEN.

One step above earth, two steps below Heaven, that's why we call it the outskirts of Heaven."



Merle has performed his original music for Residents, Sisters and staff at different events held at Holy Family Residence.



Mother Maria Francis, Resident - Susie Meneely, AJJ Member Shirley Higginbotham and Sr. Dorothy pause in front of the Mother of the Unborn statue.

## Year of Faith Pilgrimage

BY: Sr. Dorothy

On November 7th, Little Sisters, Residents, Association Jeanne Jugan members and volunteers boarded a bus for a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Fr. Dennis Evenson joined us to assist in bringing a close to the Year of Faith.

Upon arrival we were greeted by Greg who was to be our guide for the day. He immediately detailed our agenda. We began by watching an "Orientation Video" which explained the beginnings of the Shrine and provided a re-enactment of the apparitions of Our Lady to Saint Juan Diego in 1531. The video also provided an overview of the different devotional sites on the Shrine grounds. Following the video, we enjoyed a beautifully prepared buffet meal.

Making our way up to the Shrine itself where Mass would be celebrated, we were able to visit more devotional areas on the way. There was a votive candle chapel where we lit candles for special intentions and for those who had asked for our prayers unable to come with us. There was a life-sized statue of St. Kateri Tekethwitha and one of the Holy Family. Further up the hill was a statue of Mary Mother of the Unborn which depicted Our Lady of Guadalupe holding 3 infants in her arms. Additionally there was a monument where some unborn children were buried. Our guide, Greg, gave us a tour of the church. After Mass, Father Evenson knelt at the altar and led us in prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father in order that we could take advantage of a Plenary Indulgence. Pope Benedict XVI put a stamp on the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe affiliating it to St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome that those visiting the Shrine and following the parameters for a Plenary Indulgence would be able to receive said indulgence directly from the Church of the Pope. It was a wonderful day spent with Our Lady of Guadalupe and with each other.

# Farewell and Welcome

We recently said good-bye, after 5 ½ years, to Mother Theresa Gertrude who left us to begin her new assignment as Mother Superior in our Chicago Home. We are most grateful to Mother Theresa for the many beautiful up-grades she oversaw through to completion during her stay here in St. Paul and thank her for her loving service to our Holy Family Residence. Our very best wishes and prayers are with her as she assumes her new assignment in Chicago.

Mother Maria Francis has replaced Mother Theresa. She is no stranger to us, since for the past seven years, she was in charge of the third floor here at Holy Family Residence. We look forward to working with Mother Maria Francis in her new capacity as Mother Superior.

We also are happy to welcome Sr. Mary Elizabeth, former administrator of Sacred Heart Home in Mobile, Alabama as our new administrator and Sister Coordinator of the third floor. Sr. Mary Elizabeth is no stranger to the area either as she is a native of Minneapolis. We are pleased that she is with us.



Sr. Mary Elizabeth and Mother Maria Francis with Resident Pat Erhman.

## “Where There’s a Will, There’s a Way” to help the elderly

“Sister, I wish my gift could be larger.” So many benefactors include this message with the gifts they send to the Little Sisters of the Poor. Please know that we have never considered any gift, however small, to be insignificant. Our work here in the Twin Cities has always been carried out by means of countless acts of kindness which, added together, have resulted in one hundred and thirty years of care, to thousands of elderly.

If you are able, one of the simplest ways to give is in the form of an estate gift naming the Little Sisters of the Poor-St. Paul in your Will.

Other options include creating a Charitable Remainder Trust, Life Insurance Beneficiary or a Retirement Plan Beneficiary.

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs for their employees or retirees and will match donations made to the Little Sisters of the Poor. Your employer will provide you with a form to complete and send to us.

Please contact our Development Office with any questions you may have at (651) 227-0336.

**Special Note** when making a donation through our website:

Any donation made by Credit or Debit Card, will appear on your statement as **‘WeShare’**. We Share is the provider that processes your transactions to the Little Sisters of the Poor-Holy Family Residence.

Thank you for your generosity to Holy Family Residence throughout the year.