



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Holy Family Residence

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

Celebrating 150 Years of Service in the United States

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.*

Looking Back at Some Incredible Women



**Mrs. Sarah Peter -
the first person to request the Little
Sisters come to the United States.**

Save the Date:

- Christmas Boutique
Saturday and
Sunday, November
17th and 18th
- 2019 St. Jeanne
Jugan Golf Classic
- to be announced

BY: Sister Constance Veit

As we endure these difficult days in the life of our Church, I've been thinking about the potential for committed Catholic women to bind wounds and buoy up the spirits of the faithful. Saint John Paul II once commended women for helping to make "political and economic structures ever more worthy of humanity" and at the close of the Second Vatican Council Pope Paul VI called on women "impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel" to aid humanity and "save the peace of the world."

In celebrating the 150th anniversary of our congregation's arrival in the United States, I've been deeply moved by the extraordinary women who made the expansion of our religious family in America possible. First, of course is our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, who put out into the deep with little education and few

resources – but with great audaciousness – to establish a new work of mercy in the Church.

Then, there are the courageous Little Sisters who implanted our congregation in America. Many of them had never ventured beyond their homeland until they boarded a ship bound for the New World. Most of them spoke no English when they arrived, but they were full of fervor and indomitable charity.

As they set down roots in America, our Little Sisters were supported by a host of women who devoted themselves to building up the Kingdom and healing society's wounds in the wake of the Civil War. The most prominent among them was Mrs. Sarah Peter, the daughter of the sixth governor and first U.S. senator from Ohio. After being widowed twice, she undertook a life of philanthropy.

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Holy Family Residence

330 Exchange Street South
St. Paul, MN 55102
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Fall 2018

Little Sisters of the Poor

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Raised as a Protestant, Mrs. Peter was impressed by the fervent Catholics she encountered during visits abroad.

She embraced Catholicism and turned her attention to bringing religious communities from Europe to Cincinnati.

In 1857 her first request for a foundation of Little Sisters in the Queen City was declined by Mother General, who felt that the congregation was still too young for such an undertaking. She would have to wait eleven years, but in October 1868 Mrs. Peter was on hand to welcome the Little Sisters to Cincinnati and lend her wholehearted support to their mission.

Another notable woman who showed herself an early benefactor of our congregation was Emma Drexel, the second wife of prominent banker Francis Anthony Drexel. Mrs. Drexel and her three daughters opened the family home to the poor of Philadelphia twice a week to distribute food, clothing and rent assistance to the poor. In 1869 her middle child Katharine, the future saint, led her sisters in selling all their Christmas gifts and giving the proceeds to the Little Sisters.

The women mentioned so far were from wealthy, prominent families, but the poor also made their contribution. Margaret Haughery of New Orleans was an illiterate Irish immigrant who lost both her husband and her only child at the age of 23. Rather than bury herself in sorrow, Margaret devoted herself to the care of orphans at the New Orleans Female Orphan Asylum. She purchased two cows to provide the children with

milk, and then acquired a whole herd, which she developed into a prosperous dairy business. Margaret also purchased and ran a hugely successful bakery, from which she supplied numerous orphanages and old age homes in New Orleans, including our own.



Margaret Haughery - best known as Margaret, "a mother to the motherless..."

Our history is dotted with stories of women who assisted the Little Sisters in extending our mission to the elderly poor across America. Many remain nameless – from the schoolgirls who donated a loaf of bread and a few dishes, to the maids in Boston who gave the shawls off their backs and the countless women religious who offered our

Little Sisters hospitality and invaluable assistance upon their arrival in each new city.

Whether known or unknown, all of these women gave the best of themselves for the building up of the Kingdom of God in America. At this moment when our hearts have been broken and our faith tested, may they bolster your hope and inspire you to do all you can to contribute to the uplifting of the Church.

A Pilgrimage 150 years in the making



Our tapestries at the main entrance to the motherhouse, La Tour Saint Joseph, with Mother General and American little sisters including Mother Assistant Celine and Minnesotan, Sr. Maria Grace

Celebrating 150 years of service is an exhilarating experience! The planning for this wonderful milestone has been on going for many months here in the United States and in France. The idea came about for a tapestry that could travel from Home to Home; linking the living presence of St. Jeanne Jugan and experiences of the first Little Sisters to set out from the motherhouse bound for America.

In all, three tapestries were obtained, one for each province in the US. Before the tapestries were sent to the United States, an idea blossomed at the motherhouse and the tapestries were taken on pilgrimage, visiting the places so important in the history of the congregation. A group of young people from Belgium, Dinan and St. Malo took up the task of carrying the tapestries.



The apartment in Saint-Servan where Jeanne Jugan took in her first Resident.



At the tomb of Jeanne Jugan in the chapel crypt at La Tour.

Pilgrimage to the Mississippi

We were the first Home in the Chicago Province to host the Jeanne Jugan tapestry.

As we Little Sisters' had been listening to the audio book of Fr. Lelievre in the refectory, we came upon the idea to take the traveling tapestry for a trip on the Mississippi - we were reminded that some of our first Little Sisters to set foot on US soil had to travel down the Mississippi to reach New Orleans. Even though we are closer to the Headwaters of the Mississippi than New Orleans, we felt drawn to this idea. A group of 8 gathered to make this little pilgrimage down the Mississippi: Residents, AJJ members, a young woman who is discerning and three Little Sisters. Before leaving for the short drive to Harriet Island, we prayed our novena prayer to St Jeanne



Jugan. It was a beautiful September day; there were many people onboard the paddle wheeler, including a group of elderly people. Everyone enjoyed the breeze, the beautiful sun and blue sky. Cindy Staggs, AJJ opened the bag and put up the tapestry. Jeanne Jugan looks so good on the water! We were very careful not to drop her in the river! Everybody was watching us as we put up the tapestry. We prayed the Novena prayer again. As we were exiting the boat, Cindy whispered that we need to go the site of the first church in St Paul. It is very close by, just across the river. We arrived at this place, it was a small park. A big boulder is there with a plaque commemorating the first church named St. Paul. "Chapel of St Paul: In 1841 Father Lucien Galtier built a small log chapel about a mile down river from Pig's Eye (approximately where Robert Street meets the river). He named it the Chapel of St. Paul and urged its members to refer to the area as St. Paul. Before it had been known as Pig's Eye. That's how St. Paul came to be. We placed the tapestry right next to the boulder and prayed the novena prayer and admired the simplicity of the place.

We continued on with our pilgrimage, packing up and heading to the Cathedral. When we arrived at the Cathedral, there were only a few people praying inside, we noticed a group of elderly praying the rosary in the chapel of our Lady. We placed the tapestry in front



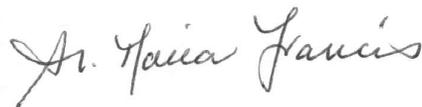
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A Simple Note

Dear Friends,

On August 30, 2018, the feast of our Mother, Saint Jeanne Jugan kicked off our celebration of the sesquicentennial of the Little Sisters of the Poor arrival in the United States. The highlight of the day was a celebration of the Mass with Archbishop Bernard Hebda as our main celebrant with twelve more priests concelebrating. Our chapel was bursting at the seams with friends, benefactors, various religious and of course, our wonderful Residents, all of whom enjoyed the event immensely. After Mass, our entire Resident family joined together in the main dining room to enjoy a delicious dinner. To keep with the traditions of our origins, we opted for a French-style meal which was greatly appreciated by all. Many hands were involved in the creation of the culinary masterpiece: the kitchen staff outdid themselves to serve more than one hundred and eighty appreciative diners. In the quest for the perfect presentation, two of our apartment Residents took upon themselves the task of steaming all of the tablecloths. It took them three days and they wore out the poor steamer in the process!

As Little Sisters, we celebrate life! Recently I asked our Resident centenarians and one who is now one hundred two, what is the secret to their longevity - They responded with "living a good life and hard work," "keeping the faith" and "enjoying a beer every day." Great advice, I am sure everything in moderation! As we enjoy the glorious fall colors, our prayers and gratitude for your continuous generosity in supporting our home live on. God bless each one of you and your families.



Sr. Maria Francis



Mother Maria Francis



A Pilgrimage 150 years in the making

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the altar rail. Of course we prayed our Novena prayer and felt very good to have made this pilgrimage to take the traveling tapestry around the city. And finally we stood with the tapestry outside the Cathedral facing the Capital. The following week we were able to again take the tapestry on pilgrimage to visit the gravesites of the Little Sisters in both St. Paul and Minneapolis. At Calvary Cemetery our Sisters are buried very close by to that of the bishops of the Archdiocese. We were able to pray at the gravesite of Bishop Thomas Grace, who invited the Little Sisters to establish a Home in St Paul.

Calvary Cemetery at the gravesite of Bishop Thomas Grace

