



## *Merry Christmas!*

On our first pandemic Christmas Pope Francis proclaimed to the whole world:

“Thanks to this Child, all of us can speak to God and call him “Father.” Jesus is the only-begotten Son; no one but he knows the Father. Yet he came into the world for this very reason: to show us the face of the Father. Thanks to this Child, we can all call one another brothers and sisters, for so we truly are. We come from every continent, from every language and culture, with our own identities and differences, yet we are all brothers and sisters.”

*Even in the midst of the pandemic may this Christmas season be filled with hope, love and joy for you and your loved ones.*

*The Little Sisters and Residents of Holy Family Home wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

# I am in need of an upgrade!

## Will you be a Christmas Angel?



Some people refer to me as a dwelling for the elderly, an address on Wilkin Street, or an establishment for the needy, but those who really know me, call me Home. I have been a shelter against the harsh winters and respite from the hot summers for hundreds of people in 32 apartments for the last 36 years. I have served them well for those many years, but I am now in need of an upgrade. Buildings, whether homes, businesses, or places of worship, all need repairs, replacement, and revitalization after many years of service. That time has come for me.

I have welcomed grandchildren and great-grandchildren through my doors, and have watched as lifelong partners lovingly cared for each other as mobility issues became increasingly difficult. My walls have resounded with the music of the big bands, late night television shows, daytime game shows, and the laughter of family. They have also absorbed the silent nighttime tears after the loss of a spouse, sibling or friend. My walls offer rest, relaxation, reassurance and independent living for seniors in St. Paul. People who share a birthplace with Charles Schultz of "Snoopy" fame have tread on my carpets. Through my windows, the beauty of the changing of the leaves, and the first snowfall of winter have been viewed and appreciated.

My friends who live here come from all walks of life and have contributed to society in various ways. Here they are embraced as the face of Christ,

accompanied with dignity, and loved as family. Sometimes it is necessary for these friends to accept the fact that independent living is no longer a viable option, and then they are welcomed into the adjacent building where they receive the additional care they need from the Little Sisters.

Providing for the safety and security of my friends is very important, but time takes a toll on the a building. Lighting, windows, energy efficient appliances, safe and accessible sinks and showers - as well as a facelift of painting and wallpaper - are now being completed. The upgraded Nurse-Call System will bring a greater sense of security to all who inhabit my hallways.

I am an integral part of the Holy Family Residence. I am proud of how I have served this community for over three decades. Now I need your help so that I can continue to be a dependable, safe and secure Home. I am hoping that you will consider being a Christmas Angel to help with this very important project. Like St. Joseph, who was very protective of Mary and Jesus, you can help to provide peace of mind and shelter for my Residents. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated.



### St. Joseph, Our Intercessor



The Year of St. Joseph proclaimed by Pope Francis came to a close on December 7th, 2021. During this year we were asked to reflect on the life of the husband of our Blessed Mother and the foster father of Jesus. He was known as a beloved father who was tender, loving, obedient, accepting, courageous, creative, hard-working, and often in the shadows of others. Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, had a great devotion to St. Joseph, and chose him as Protector of the Little Sisters. Just as he took great care of the Holy Family, she knew he would take care of her elderly. The Little Sisters have always depended on St. Joseph, and continually go to him in prayer with the needs of the Home. Through his intercession many benefactors are inspired to come to our aid.

The tenderness and love of St. Joseph show through the eyes of compassionate caregivers who take the extra time to calm the fears of a confused senior. A thoughtful word, a tender touch of the hand, a silent prayer, and a gentle push of the wheelchair are other ways in which we see the hands of St. Joseph at work in our everyday lives. The spirit of St. Joseph is also

alive in the hearts of the Residents who rest easier knowing they are cared for and loved as part of the family of each Home.

We witness the kind intercession of St. Joseph when we receive a stimulus relief check from a widow who wants to be able to lend support, and when someone buys a case of sanitizer or a box of apples to donate just because it will come in handy. St. Joseph's faith filled spirit is also manifest in all who offer prayers each day for the benefactors who support our mission.



The creativity of St. Joseph shows through the neighborhood children who work a lemonade and cookie stand to raise funds to help our Residents, or create holiday cards with their classmates to bring cheer to the elderly. Friends at home who crochet or quilt blankets to donate are creatively using their time and talents. Business owners who share their culinary specialties, and florists who send special arrangements to brighten the days of our Residents also exemplify creativity.

During this season of Advent, as we continue to move through the uncertainty of the pandemic, we can look to St. Joseph for guidance in ways to live out the Gospel message. Pope Francis wrote in *Patris Corde*, "Each of us can discover in St. Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."

***Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.***

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

We are very thankful for your support of our mission throughout the year. It is truly a blessing! Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, wanted to enlist the help of people from many walks of life to assist her in the care of the elderly when she began her work in 1839. That still holds true today. Her legacy lives on in the love and support we receive from all who recognize the dignity and value of the elderly, and who embrace the need to provide them with the love and care they deserve.

Thank you for your part in our journey during this challenging year of COVID. Whether it was in person, on-site, at home, or from your business, your contributions have touched our hearts. Divine Providence is at work through the generosity of people like you who are angels in our midst, making such a difference in our lives. We are so grateful to our friends who graciously chose to lend a hand, share a talent, or provide financial assistance, as well as for those who sustain us with their prayers.

May God bless you and your family with many blessings during this Christmas season.

Gratefully yours,

Mother Theresa, lsp



## LIVE A THANKFUL LIFE QUILT

Ruth Knable, a 12-year Resident of the Jeanne Jugan Apartments, is a mom, grandmother, and a quilter. She has been sewing since she was 15, but did not begin quilting until the 1990s. Quilting provided Ruth a new way of using her fabrics, as well as a chance to cultivate another talent.

A friend sent her an email about a 2020 summer "Block of the Week" wool appliqué project, and convinced Ruth to sign up, even though this style was new to her. She would receive a weekly packet of wool and a pattern to follow. She worked each day for 2-6 hours beginning in July of 2020, and finishing the project in March of 2021. Ruth is grateful that her work kept her safe and sane during the unforeseen isolation brought on by COVID-19, of the summer, fall and winter months.

Ruth photographed her progress on the quilt and shared photos with a good friend who finally convinced her that she needed to enter in the Minnesota State Fair. The friend's hunch was correct because Ruth was awarded Second Place for her beautiful creation! The quilt is now being prominently displayed and admired by her larger family of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Holy Family Residence. **Congratulations Ruth!**