



Serving the elderly  
poor in Delaware  
since 1903.

## From a humble heart, a great wave of charity Little Sisters of the Poor Celebrate 150th Anniversary

By happenstance, the 150th anniversary year of the Little Sisters coincides with the Diocese of Wilmington sesquicentennial anniversary in the Delaware and Eastern Shore communities. And, we too share in our vocation of caring for those less fortunate as noted in the Diocese mission statement: "To serve all our brothers and sisters as Jesus taught us." Our Jubilee year began on August 30, the Feast Day of our Foundress,

Saint Jeanne Jugan with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Malooly. It will continue until August 30, 2019.



The Little Sisters of the Poor arrived in the United States during a difficult time, just after the conclusion of the Civil War. At that time, homes for the elderly were just starting to emerge, but they were founded by different ethnic or religious groups to take care of their own population. Before that, those who couldn't care for themselves were sent to poorhouses, which had terrible conditions.



When our Sisters came, they took in any old person in need—no matter their race or religion; how handicapped or disadvantaged. This is what the Sisters continue to do, taking in people of all backgrounds, only requiring that they are poor and above the age of 65. We believe that it is God who inspires people to come to our aid in many ways. We, the Little Sisters of the Poor experience it in our daily lives. It is indeed a miracle to witness our Homes functioning uniquely by the support of generous hearted people who are instruments of God's Providence.



Living conditions and religious garb/habits may have changed throughout the years, but continuous loving care remains the same from decade to decade and now century to century.





# Little Sisters of the Poor

## Theresa's Journey

Theresa's journey began in 1972 at the first Little Sisters Home on Bancroft Parkway in Wilmington. After dropping her mother off at the Home, Theresa learned that Sr. Eleanor needed a driver for her begging that day. What was supposed to be a quick trip throughout the community became an 8-hour excursion and the beginning of Theresa's life of service with the Little Sisters of the Poor.

After working in various positions with the Little Sisters (driver, nurse assistant and activities coordinator), Theresa entered the Little Sisters community as a Postulant in 1978 in the Baltimore Home. Unfortunately, due to an injury in the early 70's, she was unable to continue her journey as a Little Sister. But her commitment to serve the elderly reactivated her skills as an activities coordinator, where she returned to the Newark Home until 1980. Alongside her various positions, Theresa became the first layperson to be inducted into the Association Jeanne Jugan, where she has committed her life to participating in the Little Sisters' mission to the elderly.

Theresa left her position as an activities coordinator but continued volunteering her driving skills for the Little Sisters as well as Marydel, Friends School, West Center City Senior Center and News Journal Company. Her driving expertise has assisted the Little Sisters all over our Baltimore providence region.

Theresa's life has come full circle as she is now a Resident of our Home. She has shared many memories, not only with the Residents who have lived at both Home, but also the many Little Sisters who have been assigned to share in God's work in our little state of Delaware.

Theresa has become an icon of Hope for our family at Jeanne Jugan as she overcomes the struggles of a recent stroke to regain her independence.



*The beginning of Theresa's journey at the first Little Sisters Delaware Home (1975)*



*Theresa and Sr. Charles*

## Volunteer Spotlight

Congratulations to Cindy Gilfillan, one of our treasured Jeanne Jugan Associates and loyal volunteers.

Cindy received the 2018 Order of Merit Award as a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. She was nominated by her Pastor, Father Roger DiBuo and was bestowed this honor by Bishop W. Francis Malooly.

**We are so proud of you!**



*Bishop Malooly, Cindy Gilfillan and Father Roger DiBuo*



## “On two legs or three wheels, everyone crosses the finish line at an Inclusion race”

Pushed by club members from Fusion Racing, Volunteers and Sister Charles, the adaptable running chairs (Inclusion chairs) made it possible for seven of our Residents to experience the thrill and satisfaction of crossing the finish line while making memories that will last a lifetime.

Whether you were a participant in the race or cheering from the sidelines, the countless smiles, pure joy and happiness expressed by each of the Residents was such a heartwarming experience for everyone.

Marlene Maxwell and Karen Malzone were two of the Residents who not only participated in the race but tied for first – boy were

they excited! Marlene was ecstatic that she was able to partake in the race but also loved the camaraderie among everyone at the event, even those who didn't run in the race. “It was a true joy being able to ride in the race, especially since I would never be able to experience something so wonderful like this on my own. This made a big difference and I can't wait to ride again!”

Karen was overjoyed that she and Marlene were able to finish together, especially since they came in first. “It was so incredibly exhilarating being an actual participant in the race and finishing first with one of my dear friends. The day was filled with memories that will truly last a lifetime!



Runners at the starting line waiting anxiously for the race to start.



Marlene (left) and Karen reach for each other right before they cross the finish line together.

## The Centenarian Club



Catherine, 101 years (left) welcomes Lucy to the Centenarian Club.



Lucy (right) welcomes Dot to the Centenarian Club.



## Mother's Message



Our Family here at 185 Salem Church Road send our warmest wishes for a very Blessed Christmas Day and Season. We know that preparing for Christmas isn't always so peaceful with the last minute preparations. However, the Residents remind us to slow down, as they pass us in the halls with their walkers or wheelchairs. Along with their more moderate pace they give us a ready smile and a wave, and suddenly a mysterious calm comes over us, and we slow down a bit. Where are we going that we need to go so fast? It makes me think of our foundress, St. Jeanne who would say, "Jesus never walked so fast, and you don't want to leave Him behind!"

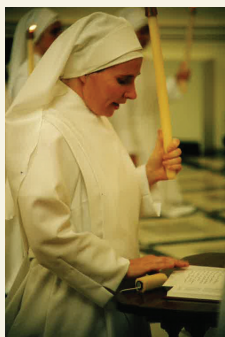
This brings me to share with you a reflection by Father Maurice Zundel. He said, "the greatest power on earth is a smile, and that we live from the presence of a smile as we die from its absence." Another said, "Smiling at anyone is to awe at the face of God, and the beauty of the world is Christ's tender smile coming to us through others. That it is a small gift of grace creating a love quake that has no logical end. It will go to the ends of the earth and change the world, and then it will break through time and run on into eternity."

I believe that Christmas is that kind of a special Gift. Yes, the smile of "Emmanuel" has come to this earth. He came, and continues to dwell among us with a gentle pace. They didn't recognize Him at his first coming, and now it's our chance in our everyday life. He has created a love quake and we Little Sisters are aware of it. We have recognized His Presence through our Residents, our Staff, Benefactors, Associates and Friends over these 150 years!! We want to express our gratitude in grateful prayer by the Christmas Crib. Our prayer is that His smile will always bring sunshine into your minds and hearts at this holy season of Christmas and into this NEW YEAR of 2019. Blessed Christmas peace abide with you and your loved ones!

*Mother Margaret Regina Halloran*

## A Year of Jubilees

### Sister Francis, 25 years



*Sr. Francis' First Profession  
July 29, 1993*

The Reynolds family of Elsmere were overjoyed with the most recent family reunion with their "home again" sister, Sr. Frances Catherine. On September 8, both families (the Little Sisters and the Reynolds) celebrated Sr. Frances' Silver Jubilee (25 years) with Residents, staff and local friends.

### Sister Cecile, 60 years

"What happiness it is to be a Little Sister of the Poor and to be of service in many areas of need for 60 years," said Sr. Cecile. She was blessed with the opportunity to serve the elderly in her first assignment at the Home in Delaware on Bancroft Parkway in 1959 and to return to Jeanne Jugan Residence in Newark in 2012.



*First Profession December  
10, 1958*



*Sr. Cecile sharing a secret with Resident, Kathleen*

### Sister Edith, 70 years

Sr. Edith was joined by her Irish family in June as she celebrated her 70th year as a Little Sister. After Mass, friends, Residents and Little Sisters from Baltimore were treated to a commemorative luncheon in honor of Sr. Edith's joyous journey as a servant of God and the aged.



*Father Kirk, Sr. Edith and her family*

***Congratulations and God bless!***