

Mother's Musings

BY: MOTHER PAUL MARY



Here, as in every one of our Homes, it is not the outings, picnics, entertainment and events that make life so wonderful. It is the people. It is seeing the newly formed best-buddy relationship that has developed between a tiny Puerto Rican lady and a Resident from Greece. Although they scarcely talk, they have become inseparable. The link that has made them seek one another out, and help one another, is a love born of their

common thirst for God in prayer. They are always on their way to the chapel, in the chapel, or on the way back. They are always smiling.

As you know, the real purpose of our Home is to help every Resident, regardless of their beliefs, understand how much God loves them and wants them to be with Him forever in Heaven. Just as we've been reminded that it takes a whole village to raise a child, it takes everyone who is part of our work to give a consistent message of God's love.

Last month, a Resident of no specific church affiliation needed to be accompanied for the final part of her pilgrimage. When the time stretched from hours to days, Little Sisters, Staff, fellow Residents, Residents of our apartments, members of our Lay Association and Volunteers willingly replaced one another at her bedside. At the last moment, a Resident from our apartments was praying the 23rd Psalm out loud for her. As she prayed: "Though I pass through the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are there, at my side," the pilgrimage came to its conclusion. What a privileged life we share.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Sr. Teresa's Waffle & Omelet Breakfast**
Sunday, October 13, 2013
1503 Michaels Road
- **36th Annual Christmas Bazaar**
Saturday, November 9, 2013
1503 Michaels Road
- **40th Annual Benefit Dinner**
Thursday, February 6, 2014
The Commonwealth Club
- **6th Annual RVA French Food Festival**
Saturday, May 3, 2014
1503 Michaels Road

For more information about any of these events, please contact Caroline Steadman at (804) 377-4629 or email ecrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

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Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorVirginia.org

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Little Sisters of the Poor
St. Joseph's Home for the Aged
1503 Michaels Road
Henrico, Virginia 23229-4899



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

St. Joseph's Home

Serving the elderly poor in Virginia since 1874

Mission Statement

As Little Sisters of the Poor, our mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

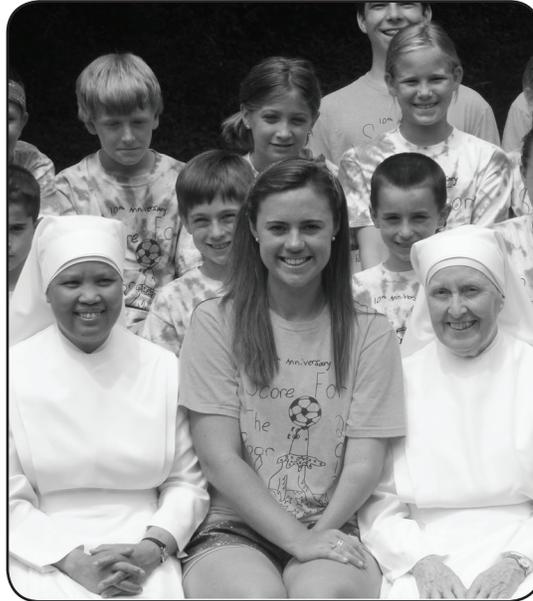
Our Home in Virginia

Following St. Jeanne Jugan's example throughout our 138 years in Virginia, the Little Sisters of the Poor have relied on God's Providence, manifested through the kindness of benefactors, to continue our work of caring for the elderly poor.

A financial statement is available upon request from the Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs.

**Little Sisters of the Poor
St. Joseph's Home for the Aged
1503 Michaels Road
Henrico, VA 23229**

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Left: Emily Lodge (center) and her campers smiled big with Sr. Ophelia and Sr. Mary Chantal before the last day of their soccer camp benefitting the Little Sisters of the Poor. Right: Development Director, Christy Heinen, Emily Lodge, and Sr. Ophelia hold up the camp's tie-dye t-shirt given to the Little Sisters.

Scoring Big in Hearts of Many

Score for the Poor Reaches Tenth Year

This summer marked the tenth anniversary of Score for the Poor, Emily Lodge's soccer camp benefitting the Residents at our Home. This year Emily had 55 campers participate during the week-long camp led by 15 counselors. The camp raised \$1,800, with more money still coming in.

Emily was only nine years old when she first heard the Little Sisters speak of their mission to the elderly at her parish in Northern Virginia. She wanted to help. Since she had just attended her first summer camp, she decided to organize a soccer camp for kids that would not only be fun but would raise money for the Little Sisters. There were 12 campers at her first camp in 2003, and thanks to Emily's perseverance, generous spirit and eagerness to help, the camp has raised \$16,000 over the past 10 years.

Traditionally, the Little Sisters visit the campers each year, and this year came

with homemade cookies and thank you cards from the Sisters and Residents, who have grown close to Emily over the years. Emily remarked that "the campers and I are extremely grateful for the gifts and the visit from the Little Sisters and would like to thank everyone involved."

On her passion for the camp and the Little Sisters, Emily says, "I love how my family and friends come together to support me and the camp. I could not ask for a better team of helpers and supporters and this camp reminds me how truly lucky I am to have them. I love seeing the campers running down the hill to camp and their smiles as they play the games I spend all summer planning. And finally, I love when the campers talk to me about the Little Sisters of the Poor and the history of the camp; because through those conversations I can see in their eyes the same love for the Little Sisters that I had when I was little." Thank you Emily!

Little Sisters of the Poor



Resident Lucille Kyle, Sr. MaryJo's sister Kathy, her son Taylor, Sr. MaryJo, Auxiliary Bishop Robert J. Brennan of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and Sr. MaryJo's mother Mary Lou smile for a photo after Sr. MaryJo's final vows.

Familiar Face Makes Vows

"I was surprised when they asked me if I would want to go, but I am so happy I went. It was great to see MaryJo and I know she was happy to see me because she had tears in her eyes," Resident Lucille Kyle recalled of her recent trip to the Little Sisters' Novitiate in Queens Village, New York.

Sr. MaryJo recently made her final vows and was one of the nineteen young women world wide who made their life long commitment as Little Sisters this year. She is originally from Spotsylvania, VA and came to volunteer at our Home

with a desire to serve. She eventually became a member of our lay collaborators, the Association Jeanne Jugan. She decided in 2005 to enter the Little Sisters and continue her discernment through the formal formation program at our Novitiate.

Typically all Little Sisters from around the globe spend their last year in formation in France and then they make their final vows at the Motherhouse in LaTour. After spending time at the Motherhouse and growing in a knowledge of the spirit, history, and international character of

our vocation, Mother General granted Sister the permission to complete her year in America, where the language challenge would not deter or limit Sister's spiritual growth. For this reason, several of our Little Sisters from Richmond, Association members who know her, and her friend Lucille, who now resides at the Home, were able to celebrate with her former parish friends and family. Lucille and Sr. MaryJo have been longtime friends and have a special bond, so it was very meaningful to both of them that Lucille was able to go to Sr. MaryJo's profession.

Of special note, Sr. MaryJo is the first Little Sister to have entered from our Virginia Home in at least forty five years! She has been assigned to the Holy Family Home in Philadelphia, PA and we are so very happy for, and proud of, Sr. MaryJo.

Supplemental Fund for Hair and Nail Care

Just because the Little Sisters have the luxury of wearing veils and never have to worry what their hair looks like, it doesn't mean they don't understand how important it is to their Residents to look like a *million bucks*.

In the past, when a Resident needed a permanent, hair set or professional cut, we had volunteers who faithfully provided the services in our beauty parlor. Now that those volunteers have "retired," there is a cost associated with

providing the hair and nail care that are so important to women of every age. For this reason we are trying to establish a special fund that will be reserved for professional hair and nail care when it is needed and desired.

If you are interested in helping us (for example as a Christmas gift given to honor a friend or family member), please contact Christy Heinen in the Development Office at devrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



Sr. MaryJo carried up the offertory escorted by her Mother, Mary Lou, and led by her nephew, Taylor, while attendees sang hymns.

Around Our Home



Celebrating 35 Years

Fr. J. Scott Duarte celebrated his 35th Anniversary of priesthood here at the Home. A special Mass was offered by Father and some priest friends, Rev. Msgr. William Carr, Fr. Brian Capuano, Fr. David Nott, and Fr. Donald Lemay. Afterward, all the visiting priests and friends were invited to join our Residents for a dinner in his honor, which was finished off with a beautiful cake made by Resident Chef Phillip Miserendino and his wife Rosemary. Fr. Duarte has a special connection to the Little Sisters since he said his very first Mass here at our Home 35 years ago. *Above:* Sr. Mary Chantal, Mr. Ed Hurley, Fr. Brian Capuano, Fr. J. Scott Duarte, Fr. David Nott, and Fr. Donald Lemay smile before sitting down to dinner.

In Honor of

St. Jeanne Jugan's Feast Day is August 30th and every year the day is marked by plenty of celebrations for the Residents, Little Sisters, Volunteers and Staff.

This year, a special Mass was offered followed by a delicious three-course lunch, featuring surf and turf, prepared as only the French could do in honor of the Sisters' foundress, and served to the Residents by the Sisters and Staff. Resident Chef Phillip, and his wife Rosemary, baked two beautiful cakes for the occasion and cut them for all to savor.

Following their meal, the Residents enjoyed a rousing game of 'Big Bucks Bingo' thanks

to the generosity of a benefactor who wanted to contribute to the festivities.

The afternoon was topped off with a visit from the ice cream truck with plenty of tasty, cold treats for all to enjoy. The large crowd basked in the beautiful late-summer afternoon sun listening to music and sharing each other's company. The Residents had a wide variety of choices, from old time favorites to the latest deluxe concoctions.



Residents Betty Wingo and Irene Ramsey revel in memories of eating Dreamsicles in years past.



Wine bottles and glasses handpainted by one of our very talented volunteers have been popular at the Christmas Bazaar the past couple of years, but look out for several new surprises!

Christmas Shoppers Rejoice!

The Volunteer Arts and Crafts Group is gearing up for its 36th Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 9th from 9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. in the Auditorium at 1503 Michaels Road.

These women, including several who were founding members of the group, work year round on their handmade arts and crafts that rival all of the big-name shows. Crowd favorites include the handmade, handpainted wooden angels, snowmen, Santa Clauses, and Grinches along with beautiful ornaments that would compliment any Christmas tree. The group always includes new surprise pieces every year as well to keep their shoppers coming back for more.

And don't forget about Sr. Angela and her team of Residents that work year round on their arts and crafts including beautiful wreaths and hand-knitted blankets, kitchen towels, and doll clothes.

Not only are there gifts for everyone on your list as well as decorations for your home, but you will also be able to find delicious homemade frozen dinners made by Chef Alain Vincey and tasty homemade sweets baked with love by Sr. Teresa.

Admission is free and there is free parking conveniently located in the Forest Office parking lots next door. In case you get hungry amidst your shopping frenzy, there will be breakfast and lunch items available for purchase as well. For more information, please call (804) 288-6245.