

# A Simple Note



We were delighted to join our beloved friends and benefactors on August 30<sup>th</sup> for Holy Mass celebrated by our Bishop Barry C. Knestout and many other wonderful priests in celebration of 150 years of service to the elderly poor in the United States.

Written so many years ago, after becoming acquainted with the Little Sisters, the Superior of the Jesuit community in Boston declared, "What I admire is that these Sisters are such as people describe them. One sees that they have confidence not only in Providence, but that they have not a doubt of its protection. One sees that they do not calculate, they do not reckon, they do not ask what people will give them for the needs of their poor." Our tradition of dependence on Divine Providence was witnessed in those early years, and it is still part of our practice today.

As the season of Autumn is upon us once again, let me offer all the humble prayers of myself and the Sisters in grateful thanksgiving to each and every soul who has shared so much. We could never have begun to serve for one brief moment, much less 150 years, if it was not for the extraordinary kindness of so many! Ponder upon the words of Pope Leo XIII, "The family was before the Church, or rather the first form of the Church was the Family!" You are our family, as we are always yours. Our Lord's gifts are vast and we thank you for helping us to continue the good work Our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, began so many years ago.

In a special way, I implore you to pray with vigor for vocations. If God wills it, we may continue the work set before us. Jesus, we trust in you!

*Mother Marie Edward*

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Vist us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorVirginia.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorVirginia.org)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Birdies for Charity**  
 \*Donate through Birdies for Charity by October ? to have your gift matched at 10% by the PGA Tour. Details online at [www.littlesistersofthepoorVirginia.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorVirginia.org).
- **45<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner**  
 Thursday, February 7, 2018  
 \*If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Corinne Waldrop at 804-377-4629 or [ecrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:ecrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org).
- **11<sup>th</sup> Annual RVA French Food Festival**  
 Friday, April 26, 2019 4pm-8pm  
 Saturday, April 27, 2019 11am-8pm

*The Little Sisters of the Poor do not share or sell their donor information. The mailing list is strictly confidential.*

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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*



Mother and Bishop Barry share a moment of kindness and prayer with Resident Stal Epshteyn, who lost his son the morning of the Bishop's visit.

## 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 144 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.*

St. Joseph's Home for the Aged  
 1503 Michaels Road  
 Henrico, VA 23229

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## "From a Humble Heart, A Great Wave of Charity"

Celebrating 150 Years in America

When Jeanne Jugan carried that first poor, elderly woman into her home, humbling herself to go out begging daily to provide for her needs, could she have ever imagined what would come of her compassionate actions? Here in our Home, as we see Resident grin across the table at a new friend or raise a cheer as they meet a new milestone in physical therapy, we cannot help but think in awe of how one humble act transformed into a wave of charity that carried the Little Sisters from Europe to America 150 years ago.

Here in Virginia, the support we receive from people like you is like our own little tide—ebbing and flowing, but forever present. We have counted on the kindness

of our community from the day our first Home was established in downtown Richmond in 1874, and the same is true today at our current Home here in Henrico.

To commemorate this monumental anniversary, we Little Sisters of the Poor chose Jeanne Jugan's feast day as the launch for a yearlong celebration, and Homes all across the country took part. Bishop Barry Knestout gave us the honor of celebrating mass in our chapel, joined by our former Chaplain Father Paul Richardson, Father John Ramsey (son of Resident Irene Ramsey), and other priests from Richmond and beyond. With not an empty seat in sight, Residents and friends

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# Little Sisters of the Poor

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filled the chapel and spilled over into the lobby, watching the live broadcast on the TV from their wheelchairs or a spot on the sofa. It was truly a delight to see such quiet joy in the eyes of Residents as they met the Bishop when leaving the chapel, sharing a kind word, a smile, and a handshake with each one.

After mass, Residents made their way to the dining rooms where the festivities continued with a special meal, provided by a kind benefactor in honor of the occasion. Association Jeanne Jugan members helped with serving and pouring wine, and scoops of fresh made gelato finished off the meal. We could think

of no more fitting a celebration of the wave of charity begun by our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, all those years ago. As she always said, "Making the Residents happy, that is what counts!"

From the day the first Little Sisters arrived on U.S. soil in 1868, thousands have helped to carry on this wave, their kindness and generosity a buoy that keeps our Homes afloat. *You* are part of that, you are our family. Without your continued kindness and loving commitment to our Home, our mission, and most importantly, our Residents, we would not have been able to continue to serve America's elderly poor these 150 years.



Bishop Barry Knestout greets Resident Pauline Mills as she exits the chapel after mass with volunteer Karen Lucas, while Sr. Majella waits with Resident Esperanza Pascual for her turn.

## SHOP AMAZON? GIVE OUR RESIDENTS A 'SMILE!'

Looking for a fun, easy way to help our home? As we approach the Christmas season and you get started on your shopping, be sure to take advantage of AmazonSmile! If you're not familiar with the program, it allows Amazon shoppers to support their charity of choice just by making the purchases they normally make on the site.

Simply go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), sign in, select 'Little Sisters of the Poor in Richmond' as your designated charity, and get shopping! Amazon will donate 0.5% of every eligible purchase you make on the site, at no additional cost to you.

Sign up today for another easy way to make giving a hassle-free part of your everyday life!

## IRAs: A Practical Way to Give

With the changes to the tax laws this year, we've heard from some of donors looking for different ways to make their contributions. For donors 70 1/2 and older, one great way to donate is through a charitable distribution from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

As an IRA holder, you are required to withdraw a minimum distribution from your account each year once you reach 70 1/2 years old. Withdrawing funds directly yourself is a taxable event, however, meaning that you will pay taxes on that required distribution. Considered 'income,' this can also cause your total income to increase, potentially leading to higher taxation of Social Security benefits or reducing Schedule A deductions.

Luckily, if you're charitably-minded and want to avoid paying additional taxes on these funds you can instead make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), meaning instead of withdrawing the funds personally, you donate them to charity. To qualify as a QCD, the funds must be sent directly from the financial institution that holds the IRA to the charity of your choosing.

So, as we approach the Christmas season and you begin thinking of your end of year giving or even realize you haven't taken your required distribution from your IRA, this just might be the answer! Avoid additional taxes and support your favorite charities—what could be better? If you have questions about how to donate, please contact Christy Heinen in the Development Office at 804-377-4627. Always consult your accountant or a knowledge professional for specific tax related questions

# Around Our Home



Residents Joan Congable Mackay and Khieu Dhieu rehearse before the big show. Joan plays the Queen of England, while Khieu is Tinkerbell (Peter Pan was written by a Scot!).

## Our Scottish Jubilarian

In our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, here at the Home we have another important anniversary to celebrate: the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Majella, our Scottish sister! To commemorate her 50 years of service to the elderly poor, Residents, staff, and volunteers crafted a surprise for Sister—a play about her life, Scotland, and the Little Sisters. The script was a healthy blend of comedy and history, and Residents were in stitches while they practiced their Scottish brogues, donned kilts, and chased 'Nessie' (the Loch Ness monster) across the stage.

A resounding success, the play reminded the audience that God isn't finished with Sr. Majella yet, and if you've ever seen her out and about begging around town for our Residents, you'll know she's not slowing down anytime soon! Residents, family, and friends were so excited to share in honoring Sr. Majella, and we all look forward to many more years of her faithful service to the elderly.

## Say a Prayer With Us

As we celebrate 150 years of service to the elderly poor in the United States, our minds are also on the future. Each young woman who answers the call and discerns her spiritual vocation as a Little Sister of the Poor becomes a part of the great story of compassion and charity begun by Sr. Jeanne Jugan all those years ago.

Please join us in praying for vocations, so that we may continue the care of our dear elderly well into the future. A Holy Hour for Vocations is held in our chapel every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm. All are welcome.



Sr. Jeanne Emanuel and Resident Annabelle Seelye pray the rosary together.



Take a peek at Thrifty Sisters' new website!

## Thrifty Times Two

Thanks to all of you, Thrifty Sisters is expanding!

Yes, our friends at Thrifty Sisters – the volunteer-run thrift shop that benefits our elderly residents – have run out of space. So, they're knocking through some walls and adding 1,800 square feet from a just-vacated shop next door.

"We're so excited about the expansion," says Beverly Binns, the shop's executive director since it opened in December 2012. "Our supporters donate some really high-quality clothing, and this means we'll be able to add dressing rooms and concentrate our clothing sales in one area."

Thrifty Sisters is located at 8911 Patterson Avenue, in the Maybeury South Shopping Center, about a quarter-mile west of Parham Road. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beverly credits the shop's success to the commitment of its dedicated volunteers, the generosity of its donors and the loyalty of its shoppers.

"We've needed more space for some time now," she says. "Sometimes if you pray hard enough, your prayers seem to get answered."

The expansion comes at the same time that Thrifty Sisters is developing a new, engaging website ([www.thriftysistersrva.org](http://www.thriftysistersrva.org)). Check it out, and tell them what you think.

Please follow them on Facebook and Instagram. And while you're on the website, be sure to take the Thrifty Sisters survey and sign up for invitations to upcoming events.