

# Mother's Musings

BY: MOTHER PAUL MARY



Our Virginia bishops recently travelled to Rome for their regularly scheduled Ad Limina meeting with the Pope. Their visit was a working pilgrimage in the heart of the Church. During their encounter with Benedict XVI, evangelization was very much on his mind. Pope Benedict, who sees the global reality of the secularization of society, reminded them of some of the pressing issues we face in our service to the Gospel, and their significance for the evangelization of American culture. Each of us has a part in this mission.

We are all called to let God use us as He desires to draw others to Himself.

What part does our Home play in this mission? As Little Sisters, we are not called to achieve anything. We are not focused on running a five-star facility, having the newest technology or the best strategic plan for the next century. We are called to accompany others during the final phase of their journey of life. We are called to a compassion that is willing to be one with our Residents; a compassion that does not seek to shorten or simplify the journey so that we are free to do what would make life easier or less painful. A loving and joyful sharing of the "every days" and the "final days" reminds those whose lives we share that "God exists, He loves you very much, and His only desire is that you be with Him forever in heaven." Ours is an evangelization of the heart.

There will always be enough work for us to do, enough challenges to meet, and better ways to do things. But if we remember that we are God's instruments, we will become, with His grace, real Little Sisters of the Poor, which is the humble task of evangelization Our Lord confided to us.

## UPCOMING EVENTS Mark Your Calendars!

- **4th Annual French Food Festival**  
April 21, 2012  
11:00a.m.-7:00p.m.  
1503 Michaels Road, Henrico, VA
- **4th Annual Golf Tournament**  
September 17, 2012  
Shotgun Start: 1:00p.m.  
Jefferson Lakeside Country Club

## Volunteers Needed!

The Little Sisters are committed to opening an offsite thrift shop and are looking for a volunteer management team. If you want to help, please e-mail or call Christy Heinen at [devrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:devrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org) or 804-377-4627.

We are blessed with the generous support of Printing Services Inc., who helped us with the printing of this newsletter; xpedx, who donated the paper; and ColorTree Inc., who donated the printed envelopes. This newsletter would not be possible without them!

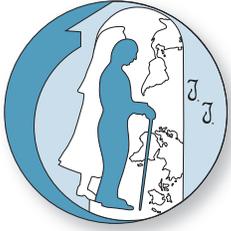
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**Little Sisters of the Poor**  
St. Joseph's Home for the Aged  
1503 Michaels Road  
Henrico, Virginia 23229-4899



# 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, we care for the elderly poor in the spirit of humble service which we have received from Jeanne Jugan.*

*We welcome the elderly as we would Jesus Christ himself and serve them with love and respect until death.*

## Our Home in Virginia

*Following St. Jeanne Jugan's example throughout our 137 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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Cathy and Frank Stumpf celebrate with Maurine Antonelli at the 38th Annual Benefit Dinner.

## 38th Celebration of a Classic

### Dinner Met With Great Success

The 38th Annual Benefit Dinner was held on Thursday, February 9 at the Commonwealth Club in downtown Richmond. Thanks to the efforts of co-chairs, Lisa and Christopher Brennan, Katherine and Chris Nott, and Beth and Michael Siewers, more than 230 generous benefactors (a record high for this event!) enjoyed a delicious three-course meal and a delightful evening with friends.

While dining on tortilla-crust chicken and chocolate espresso cake, dinner guests bid on fabulous auction items, such as trips to St. Thomas and Hilton Head, first-class tickets to Paris, and dinners by Chef Paul.

The evening's entertainment was provided by the Little Sisters themselves. Having put their own humorous lyrics to familiar tunes, they serenaded the

dinner guests accompanied by Sr. Jeanne Emmanuel's guitar. Their performances were met with rounds of applause and roars of laughter.

The night concluded with a challenge posed by Mother Paul Mary to raise additional funds for some specific needs. The Home is in need of very basic, but expensive, repairs and renovations that are not glamorous, but could pose more problems if not addressed.

As the much-anticipated night drew to an end, the co-chairs were able to announce that the dinner, auction, and challenge raised almost \$169,000. A special thank you to this year's Seraphim and Cherubim event sponsors:



# Little Sisters of the Poor



Resident Catherine Banks and Sister Jeanne Emmanuel enrich each other's lives with laughter.

## Begging in Faith for God's Eldest Children

St. Jeanne Jugan did not like seeing God's eldest children on the streets of France begging for their daily needs. She was filled with compassion and love for them and took these poor old people in, one by one. She gave them not only food and shelter, but also provided them with a loving home and a sense of God's peace.

It was very important to Jeanne that each member of her growing family be treated with dignity and respect. As a result, she went door to door begging on their behalf, enabling them to find useful and enjoyable ways to occupy their days at Home. In addition to asking for money, Jeanne also sought gifts in kind, such as food, blankets, wood, and other household items. She did

not relish the role of "beggar," and in fact, in her own old age she recalled: "It cost me a lot to do this, but I did it for God and for our dear poor...."

By taking the begging upon herself, Jeanne became one with the poor and identified herself with them. From the very beginning, she wanted to live with the poor and, together with them, depended solely on charity, surrendering her "little family" to the loving care of God. This faith in the miracle of Divine Providence was evidenced in her begging, which she turned into a form of evangelization. One man who knew her described that "she collected by praising God."

## E-Sisters

When St. Jeanne Jugan began her work, she was a familiar sight traversing the French countryside - begging basket in hand - as she invited the community to share in her mission. Through the years this tradition has continued, and it is not uncommon to see the Little Sisters' begging van out and about or hear the Sisters speak at church.

Today's technology has taken our begging activities to a new level enabling us to reach more people in a new and exciting way. Our e-community is a great place for us to share exciting news and events that occur around our Home every day. We can't possibly fit everything that we want to share with you in this newsletter, so we invite you to become part of our ever-growing community of online followers.

If you are interested in joining our e-community and would like to receive e-blasts to stay connected with the Home, please send an email to [ecrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:ecrichmond@littlesistersofthepoor.org) with your name and email address.



Resident Irene Ramsey enjoys the unseasonably warm weather we've had this winter.



### Join Us!

The 4th Annual Little Sisters of the Poor French Food Festival is generously sponsored this year by Bon Secours Virginia Health System and will be held on Saturday April 21, 2012. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available, and we are in need of many volunteers to make this event possible. For more information, visit [www.lspfrenchfoodfestival.com](http://www.lspfrenchfoodfestival.com).

# Around Our Home



## A Welcome Visit

Bishop Loverde's recent visit brought smiles to our Residents' faces. Every year the Bishop of the Arlington Diocese (pictured above with Resident Gloria Rodgers) makes a special trip from Northern Virginia to say Mass in our chapel and chat with the Residents during their lunch in the dining rooms. The Residents look forward to Bishop Loverde's lively visits and we are grateful for the precious time that he shares with our Family.

## You've Got a Baby Face

This year, the activities department came up with a fun game to celebrate Valentine's Day that kept everyone challenged and guessing for more than 2 weeks.

Little Sisters and Employees were invited to bring in a baby photo, which was then scanned to black and white, and displayed on a heart-adorned tree on the first floor.

Day after day, Residents tried to determine who they believed to be the baby pictured in each of the photos.

During the contest there was much strat-

egizing and collaboration amongst participants. Some of the photos were obvious, but quite a few stumped just about everyone.

Finally on February 24, the winners were announced, with prizes going to the Resident and Staff member who identified the most photos correctly and to the "baby" who was least identified.

Of course a key to identifying all of the photos was posted in order to satisfy everyone's curiosity.



Resident Geraldene Prothero tries her hand at guessing which baby photo belongs to our new Director of Nursing, Lisa Thweatt.



Employee Tuyet Phan shows off the beautiful decorations from her native Vietnam which she brought in to share with the Residents.

## Employees Share Culture with Family of Residents

The Lunar New Year is a very popular holiday among many Asian countries throughout the world. This tradition has become popular in the U.S. as well. Here at our Home, almost one quarter of the Employees are of Asian descent and they enjoy sharing their culture and customs with the Residents.

Several of our Employees worked together to throw a special Lunar New Year party for the Residents. Phuong Nguyen specially prepared many favorite cultural dishes for the Residents to enjoy, including fried rice and egg rolls.

Tuyet Phan brought in many items from her home to turn the auditorium into an Asian paradise complete with bamboo Bonzai trees and brightly colored dolls and parasols.

A crowd-favorite of this yearly tradition is the passing out of Tuyet's New Year envelopes. Every envelope contains a one dollar bill, and each Resident receives one. The traditional Asian custom is intended so that "one will never be without" in the coming year.

The party is always a huge hit with the Residents. They love getting to share in these fun, festive occasions and learn about different customs from around the world. The employees, who work so hard in putting this together, love spending time with the Residents and making them happy. The smiles on their faces make it all worthwhile.

This is what makes the Little Sisters of the Poor so special. The family of Residents, Staff, Sisters, and Volunteers working together, living together, and loving one another. If you have never been to visit our Home, please consider scheduling a tour. We would be happy to show you around and let you experience the joy yourself.