

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor
in Denver since 1917.*

Spring 2019

MULLEN HOME
FOR THE AGED
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150 Years of our Congregation Come Alive

January 15, 2019 was the day we greeted the “Pilgrim Tapestry” of Jeanne Jugan at Mullen Home. This tapestry portrays Jeanne Jugan on her collecting rounds in the Breton countryside, with Little Sisters and Residents in the background. On the horizon the sea evokes the great wave of charity to which Jeanne Jugan gave birth. The tapestry, created in Belgium, was sent to our motherhouse in France and then made a pilgrimage to “visit” the central places in the early history of our Congregation, before departing for America. These places included Cancale, where Jeanne was born, and Saint-Servan where the first modest apartment that accommodated the first old woman that Jeanne took in still exists, and where the first Home of the Congregation was situated. Each of our homes in the United States has been given the privilege of receiving the Tapestry and displaying it for a month, alongside a set of posters and podcasts telling the story of the first thirteen Homes in America.

We placed the posters and podcasts all along the long hallway on the ground floor. Residents, staff, and Little Sisters processed with the Pilgrim Tapestry down the hall singing the Song of the Beatitudes. We arrived at the chapel, where our newly installed statue of Saint Jeanne Jugan welcomed us. Together, we prayed the rosary using the words of Saint Jeanne Jugan at the beginning of each decade.

The following day we began reenacting the beginnings of our Homes in the USA, with staff and Residents participating and using the podcasts to simulate a live broadcast. Our audience appreciated learning of the beginnings, the hardships, the generosity and kindness of the people who came to assist the Little Sisters. These newly established foundations stretched from Brooklyn to Pittsburgh - thirteen



The Traveling Tapestry comes to Mullen Home.

Homes for the elderly across America in just four years. Yes, a “great wave of charity” was established on the shores of America!

All too soon the beautiful Tapestry needed to travel to its next destination, our provincial house in Palatine, Illinois. We met in the chapel before the statue of Saint Jeanne Jugan and the Pilgrim Tapestry to pray the rosary one last time. Once again, we processed - this time out of the chapel, following the Pilgrim Tapestry - Residents, Sisters, staff, and many of those who participated in the reenactments wore their costumes, a witness of beginnings - we were led down the hall displaying the history of our first foundations in America - some waved good bye as they passed, some had tears. These days of reminiscence and time shared together were good for all. May the “great wave of charity” continue at Mullen Home!

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Evy's Prayer Shawl

It started with a knit and a prayer....

Evy Graziano began working at Mullen Home nine years ago as an activity assistant. She was loved by the Residents and retired last June with a plan to return as a regular volunteer. A few weeks later her life changed forever. Evy was diagnosed with Lymphoma — her retirement plans changed to doctor appointments, chemotherapy treatments and rest. With this news she was supported with love and prayer by Residents, staff, volunteers and Little Sisters. However, Debbie Williams thought Mullen Home could be even more involved. She invited everyone - and we mean everyone who is a part of the Mullen Home Family - to help make a prayer shawl for Evy to wrap her in our love during this journey. Sisters, Residents, staff and volunteers spent weeks adding two, three, several stitches, or a bead to this beautiful work of art, love, and prayer for someone special in our lives.

Evy received her prayer shawl. She was overwhelmed with happiness and joy, exclaiming, "I don't know what to say. The abundance of love I've been receiving from this home ... My nine years working for the Little Sisters of the Poor are some of the best years of my life. Every time I walk through that front door, God's light is shining

through all of you. It's so beautiful. I feel so happy when I'm coming to Mullen Home and even a couple of days before, I just begin smiling."

Evy did not expect nor know about our secret for her. She believes that Saint Jeanne Jugan is answering our prayer for her. In February, she returned to volunteer and be among her precious benefactors. We thank God with her and for her!



The "Science Gals" of Mullen Home

Meet Mel and Elaine – Mullen Home's passionate volunteers! They met for the first time in 1982 when they taught students at Ken Caryl Middle School in Littleton, Colorado. Mel was a biology teacher and Elaine taught chemistry.

About fifteen years ago they decided to join together and volunteer at Mullen Home. They helped out wherever needed. It didn't take long for them to find a purpose! They teach, share and offer a wealth of knowledge, interests, and ideas that touch the lives and memories of Residents. With their easel in hand on a Tuesday morning you can find a large group of Residents gathered to listen to their offering of an "Educational Coffee

Club" or "Science Corner." Of course there are many discussions too. They are quick to note that no tests or final exams are ever given – only the facts and good old conversation!

They make "dual presentations" but often enough one of them is the presenter and the other is a cook who may get help from one of the Residents. Elaine remembers making a key lime pie with Anita D. who was thrilled to help. When the pie went into the refrigerator to eat later, Anita insisted on putting her own name on it!

Mel and Elaine are happy to continue volunteering because they make a difference and are so appreciated. Ask Resident Pauline about them and she

says, "Mel and Elaine's educational programs are fantastic! They take you to places in your mind and you feel like you're there with them! Don't miss these two. There is always something different to learn about and the snacks are delicious!" Guy C. tells us, "I enjoy being with them and you can't beat the treats." Maria M. adds, "I like the excitement." Thank you Mel & Elaine!



Mel and Elaine bring science and fun to Mullen Home.





MULLEN HOME FOR THE AGED



Following Mass, the Sisters enjoyed a delicious and fraternal brunch.

World Day of Consecrated Life

On February 2, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 23rd World Day for Consecrated Life, the Little Sisters welcomed Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodriguez and several communities of sisters from the Archdiocese of Denver. A Mass in thanksgiving, for the gift of their vocation to religious life was celebrated by Bishop Jorge. Consecrated life, deeply rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord, is a gift of God the Father to His Church through the Holy Spirit.

In Memoriam



Theresita Polzin

Readers of the newsletter received a "Christmas Thank you" including a card with a reflection by Theresita Polzin, 103 year old Resident of Mullen Home. She wrote of a "gift" that lasts the longest, is most precious. "Jesus is the gift."

This learned woman was a prolific writer, an avid proponent of the faith, a spiritual director, a devoted teacher and a sweet friend. She touched many lives with her wisdom, simple grace, wit, prayer, poetry, and a life that spread His fragrance and showed His love.

After many years of giving herself completely to Jesus as a Consecrated Virgin, her Bridegroom called her home on January 21, 2019, feast of St. Agnes Virgin and Martyr. It was a perfect day for her to die- St. Agnes is the patron saint of chastity and virgins. "What I longed for, I now see; what I hoped for, I now possess; in Heaven I am espoused to Him whom on earth I loved with all of my heart." This was the canticle from the Divine Office of that day and truly celebrated the promise of such a life faithfully lived.

This is the source of all Christian joy - to see Him face to face. We can imagine Theresita, in Heaven's intimacy, presenting Christ a golden gift that took a lifetime to prepare.

By Catherine V.

From the Archives... Celebrating St. Joseph's Day



DENVER POST HISTORICAL COLLECTION
Colorado Historical Society

St. Joseph's Day - March 19, 1936: Resident Rose Cramer (Mohan) receiving special attention from Bishop Vehr and two benefactors: Jane Carroll and Catherine Lewis.

A Simple Note

By: Sister Patricia Mary



Dear Friends,

As noted on the front page of our newsletter, this year the homes of the Little Sisters of the Poor throughout the United States are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Congregation's arrival in our country. This journey, which began in 1868 lives on today. It has been interesting to retrace the steps of our pioneering Little Sisters who came to America and to learn the details of the beginnings taken from the 'foundation books', a recorded local history in each Home.

It is striking that St. Joseph's name is mentioned in each foundation. And why shouldn't he be? After all, he is our Congregation's patron and protector, taking care of every need from chairs for the men and women, food for the tables, or money for acquisition of land and the building of Homes for the elderly in the many foundations. There are many stories about St. Joseph! Thank you St. Joseph for the many blessings we receive through you, and you our benefactors, his intermediaries!

We ask for you, our readers, St. Joseph's intercession in all of your needs and desires. The Little Sisters of the Poor and our Residents pray for you daily, confiding to him your many intentions.

Happy Feast Day of St. Joseph March 19th!

May God bless you,

Sr. Patricia Mary

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Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoordenver.org

Recent Happenings at Mullen Home

Spring Hasn't Sprung; We're Still Having Winter Fun!



Square Dancing Entertainment



Watercolor paintings with Regis University Students.



Snowball fun!



Making Valentines for Valentine's Day



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