



LITTLE SISTERS *of the* POOR

SPRING 2016

Dear Friends of St. Martin's,



Christ is risen! What a joy to share this miraculous time of the year with you as we watch the flowers all around us spring up to new life. Together we are living our faith through prayer and rejoice in the hope that we will enjoy the newness of life and one day be united with Him in the resurrection.

As proclaimed by Pope Francis, Catholics are observing a jubilee year devoted to the theme of Mercy. The theme of Mercy is always close to Pope Francis' heart and is often reflected in his homilies and writings. In this abbreviated Newsletter, please read Father Stan DeBoe's reflection on this extraordinary jubilee, often called a holy year.

Please enjoy the other news of St. Martin's Home. I am convinced that all of us will find the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, in which all of us are called to show forth the compassionate love of the heart of Jesus to one another. We entrust this Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy that she will watch over us in our daily journey, so as to witness to the beauty and respect for life from conception to natural death.

May this Easter season be one of great blessings and graces and, may the Peace of the Lord, given to his Apostles on that first Easter night, reign in your hearts, in your families, and in your homes.

United in prayer for all the special intentions confided to our prayers, God bless you.

Sister Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.

Superior

The Jubilee Year of Mercy

Father Stan DeBoe, O.S.S.T.

In December 2015, the Church initiated the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, a time Pope Francis says "when believers can grow stronger and more effective...in witnessing the mystery of the Trinity,...the way God encounters us,... and the law of love written in our hearts...A time to open our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

One of the great gifts St. Jeanne Jugan left us is a very practical guide to living mercy. When speaking to the Sisters, she reminded them, "put a little effort into doing the cooking well." How simple can that be? An everyday task that, when done with a little effort, a little love, is the one



thing we can do for another that will open their hearts to God's love.

In a society where fast food is the norm for some people, do we understand what it means to put a little effort into cooking? And that is just the beginning. Each simple act we perform every day is pregnant with the possibility of God's love pouring out to have an effect in someone's life. "Making the poor happy, that's what counts," is another of St. Jeanne's beautiful reminders of how easy it is to live mercy.

At St. Martin's, all are invited to participate in the Jubilee Year of Mercy by simple acts that can make a difference. Some suggestions include smiling – "You must always be cheerful.

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Our elderly do not like long faces”(who does?); assisting another Resident; not wasting food; being aware of how gossip hurts others; praying for the living and dead and for those who are persecuted.

These are simple acts requiring little time and energy – just a bit of effort. We invite you to join us in doing simple acts of mercy this year: Put a bit of effort into preparing your family meals, put a bit of effort into listening to your parents or children; let go of a resentment you carry; plant a garden that will bring joy to others; visit a person who is alone – maybe even when you are putting a little effort into that family meal you can make one extra plate to take with you.

This is how God encounters us – with little acts of love that are all around us. If we become more aware of what we are doing for others, how can we not become more aware of what God is doing for us?

A Combined 98 Years of Service to St. Martin’s Home & Residents

We believe all our employees are called by God Himself to serve the elderly, and we feel especially blessed when they stay their entire careers! Joining us recently for a special dinner and celebration in honor of their retirement from active service with the Little Sisters were **Joyce Smarr** (39 years, Residents’ needs), **Joyce Bowersox** (30 years, receptionist), **Elizabeth Duppins** (20 years, geriatric nursing assistant) and **Edmond Hargrove** (17 years, porter/floor technician).

Each retiree recalled with fondness their careers with the Little Sisters. All in attendance listened in astonishment and quiet confirmation as stories were relayed about the reasons they returned to their jobs day after day, despite enduring personal hardships and other obstacles. Those in attendance were visibly moved by the sentiments shared by our retirees; it became quite evident to those who listened that our retirees always live the LSP Values of Reverence, Compassion, Humble Service, Family Spirit and Stewardship.

Caring Today, Building Tomorrow

With Phases 1 and 2 of our capital campaign complete, we are gratefully looking forward to our next phases. Our Residents now live in beautiful new cottages, the Little Sisters safely reside in their new convent, and our wonderful new chapel provides us the space to lift our hearts and voices in thanks for our benefactors

who made all this possible. Won’t you visit with us to see firsthand what your generosity has accomplished?

In order to provide our Residents with even more avenues for socialization, our next phases will include Main Street complete



with shops and activities, a new medical and physical therapy area, and offices for our administration. Future plans then include an additional independent living cottage. But the Little Sisters need your help. Won’t you join us in our mission of caring for the elderly needy by making a donation to *Caring Today, Building Tomorrow*? We are so grateful for your continued generous support.

Save the Dates!



Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016

3rd Annual Nun Run

(5K and 1 mile run/walk)
Cathedral of Mary our Queen, 5200 N. Charles Street, 8:00 am start.

Join the 700+ runners/walkers supporting the Little Sisters of the Poor and Residents! Race details and registration found at: www.charmcityrun.com.



Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016

12th Annual Celebrating the Gift

Baltimore Sheraton North, 903 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson, 6:00 pm.

Our third Celebrity Chef “competition” features returning “champion” Msgr. Rick Hilgartner (St. Joseph, Cockeysville) and fellow priests: Fr. Matthew Foley, OFM Conv. (Archbishop Curley High School), Fr. Michael Foppiano (St. Agnes and St. William of York) and Fr. Steven Roth (St. Isaac Jogues). Their recipes are prepared by the Sheraton with the winner determined by the recipe receiving the most tips! Details found on our website: www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org.

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