



Serving the elderly
poor in Baltimore
since 1869.

"Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy." Pictured, Sister Marie Antoinette and Mary Fogarty.

2015 – Year of Consecrated Life

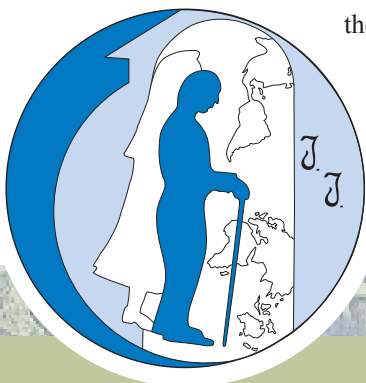
Our Holy Father Pope Francis proclaimed last year that 2015 would be a "Year of Consecrated Life." With great joy, we Little Sisters learned of this decision. As Pope Francis stated, this year is a time "to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion, and to embrace the future with hope."

We can look back as far as 1839, when St. Jeanne Jugan welcomed her first elderly guest, thus beginning so humbly the Little Sisters of the Poor. Here in Baltimore we can look back also to 1869 when the first Little Sisters moved into a small house on

Calvert Street. Later they moved to a large Home on Valley Street, and

finally to Catonsville in 1969. 146 years of serving Christ in the elderly! Each Little Sister can remember the moment she first heard and accepted God's call to follow Him in consecrated life as a Little Sister of the Poor and to those years of great love which followed.

Each Little Sister, no matter what her role or function at St. Martin's, tries to live each day with passion. Our long moments of prayer allow us to be intimately united with the One who has chosen us and who loves us so deeply. Then, we express this love by welcoming and serving our wonderful Residents. How could we not be happy? Pope Francis was so right when he said, "I want to say one word to you, and that word is joy. Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy." *Continued on page 2*



OUR MISSION

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, 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 VALUES

- Reverence
- Family Spirit
- Humble Service
- Compassion
- Stewardship

Little Sisters of the Poor



Angela Conti, BSW, and Helen Eyler share smiles and hugs.

Live each day with passion!

“From my early morning prayers in the chapel to the evening hours of the day, I find myself in an atmosphere of holiness despite all the usual aches and pains of growing old.” – Joe Thomas

As we celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, we asked several Residents, “What is it like to live among consecrated women religious who devote their lives to Christ?”

Mary Schuler loves feeling part of St. Martin’s Home. She said the community life of the Little Sisters is “so beautiful as each Sister practices

her vow of poverty and takes care of the infirm.” Living at St. Martin’s, Mary feels close to God. Mary Fortier said “she could not find a better place to live.” She feels welcomed by the Sisters and appreciates the opportunity to be part of their daily lives and to pray with them. Mary is also thankful for being able to join in daily Mass. Joe Thomas sums up the feelings of many, “the spirit of embracing all with open arms, hearts and minds lives within the Little Sisters and is shared with all who enter our Home.”

2015 – Year of Consecrated Life

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The Holy Father also encourages us to embrace the future with hope. We pray for an increase of vocations to the priestly and religious life so that the Lord’s Kingdom continues to spread to all peoples. Knowing that the work is His, we put our trust in the Lord. Jesus himself told us that “All things are possible to God” and “I am with you all days, even to the end of the world.” St. Jeanne Jugan is with us also. Our Constitutions state so beautifully, “Ever living among her daughters and one with them in their new tasks, she does not cease to transmit to them for the fulfillment of their vocation, the life which she draws for them from God.”

We ask you to join us in thanking God for this gift of consecrated life. Our chaplain, Fr. Stan DeBoe, O.S.S.T., said in a recent homily “each of us should be a pen with which God writes his letters of love to all people throughout the whole world.” Please pray for us that we become these pens.

Prayer for the

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE



Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Becoming a Sustaining Donor

Easy guidelines to follow

Sustaining donors are invaluable to us. They help maintain the Little Sisters of the Poor mission of caring for the needy elderly by their monthly, quarterly or annual gift and our heartfelt thanks goes to them for including our work among their personal commitments.

Please consider becoming a sustaining donor by following these easy guidelines:

- The amount and method of payment is completely up to you and you can change your preference or stop the program at any time.
- Each month, quarter or year, the amount

you choose is charged to your credit card or you may choose an electronic fund transfer (EFT) from your checking account.

- You will receive an annual statement acknowledging your gifts for the year.
- Sustaining donors automatically update each year, ensuring that you will continue to support the elderly cared for by the Little Sisters.
- You will feel positive knowing your gift is going where it is needed most, by the fastest, most cost-efficient means possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

If you have any questions about this program or would like to join those already helping the Sisters on a regular basis, please contact Sister Lawrence Mary at colbaltimore@littlesistersofthepoor.org or call Sister Lawrence Mary at 443-765-8774.

We thank you for considering this request.

A Simple Note from Mother Joseph Caroline

Dear Friends,

Lent is a special season to center our attention on conversion. This time invites us to focus more intensely on deepening our relationship with the Lord so as to cultivate a greater awareness of those in need – to hear the cry of the poor – especially the vulnerable elderly and those who share in the Lord's cross in their own lives. In his audience on March 4, 2015, our Holy Father Francis spoke about the elderly. He said,

“We should bring comfort and healing to those who are suffering, especially when death may be near.”

Pope Francis pointed to how the Church's Tradition has always placed great value on the elderly and devoted special attention to the final stage of life.



These words were addressed at a most opportune time. Legislation is being considered here in Maryland and in other states which would allow physician assisted suicide. In an article in the *Catholic Review* on March 5, 2015 Archbishop William E. Lori said, “Instead of finding ways of making it easier for people to

extinguish human life, we should be seeking ways to bring comfort and healing to those who are suffering, especially when death may be near.” He mentioned the work of the Little Sisters at St. Martin's as an example “of the way the Catholic Church here in our archdiocese seeks to alleviate the suffering *Continued on back page*”

A Simple Note Continued...



Continued from page 3 of individuals who are dying and to allow them to live their remaining days in comfort and with dignity.”

Let us pray for the wisdom and strength to let go of things that get in the way of our relationship with God and for the grace to see that the elderly poor are not strangers, but are our brothers and sisters. Pope Francis wrote, “During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: ‘*Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum*’: ‘Make our hearts like yours.’ In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.” We join our Holy Father’s wishes, that this Lent will be spiritually fruitful for each of you.

We are grateful to all of you who hear the cries of the poor and find creative ways to respond to the needs of others. May God continue to bless you and your families for your goodness; we pray for each of you every day.

Sister Joseph Caroline, Lsp

Sister Joseph Caroline
Mother Superior

Our Capital Campaign: Phase II

As spring nurtures new life, our Home is also blessed with new beginnings as Phase II of our capital campaign, *Caring Today, Building Tomorrow*, rapidly progresses. In the convent and postulate areas, many windows and walls are complete and the electrical work continues. In the main chapel, the sanctuary step is beginning to be installed, and a skilled local artist is making the colored-glass windows. Our beautiful, but simple, future chapel will be a joyous place to lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer. Our fundraising efforts continue as we look forward to the completion of this work. We thank St. Joseph for his powerful intercession in providing for the needs of our Home.



Save the Dates!

Nun Run

Saturday, September 12

Time: 8 a.m.

Our second annual *Nun Run* is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015. Start time is 8 a.m. for the 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk. We hope to exceed last year’s count of 836 runners, walkers and Virtual Runners! Details found on our website or at www.charmcityrun.com.

Celebrating the Gift

Saturday, November 14

Time: 7 p.m.

Plans are underway for our 11th gala, *Celebrating the Gift* headed by Kim David, Stephanie Hoyle and an enthusiastic committee! The popular **Celebrity Chef** event is Saturday, November 14, 2015, 7 p.m. at the newly renovated Sheraton Baltimore North. Father Patrick Carrion has agreed to defend his 2014 title of “**Celebrity Chef**.” Watch for future updates!

