

# Little Sisters of the Poor

ST. MARTIN'S HOME



Serving the elderly  
poor in Baltimore  
since 1869.

*Pope Francis greets Sr. Marie Mathilde,  
102 years old.*

## Walk with Francis, Share the Joy

From the moment of the announcement that Pope Francis would visit the United States, the Residents of St. Martin's Home were eager to share in the excited anticipation of this historic event. Many activities and projects facilitated their participation, and even though they could not be physically present at any of his scheduled appearances, everyone enthusiastically followed the TV coverage of each event.

Sister Mary Gerard gave a presentation on the role of the Holy Father as leader of the Catholic Church. "Welcome Pope Francis!" displays presented interesting information about our Holy Father, as well as pictures of the venues he would visit. Fun activities included a papal "wordsearch" and "Flat Francis." Months before the Pope's arrival, Father Stan DeBoe, O.S.S.T., chaplain at St. Martin's, introduced us to "Flat Francis," the Catholic Extension's

promotional cartoon rendering of the pope. With the help of the Activities Department and Hospitality Club, Residents and staff had the opportunity to cut and mount a "Flat Francis" and have their photo taken with it. "Flat Francis" even attended the Nun Run with the paper cutouts available for runners and walkers to carry during the 5K and 1 mile run.

Most importantly, many Residents joined the Archdiocese of Washington in their "Walk with Francis" program, pledging to pray for the Holy Father, serve others, and act to promote life, religious freedom, justice and peace.

Our community received 13 tickets for the Papal Mass of Canonization for St. Junipero Serra at the National Shrine. You can imagine the joy at the surprise visit of Pope Francis to our Home in Washington following Mass where he greeted each Little Sister with a personal greeting and prayer. The spiritual joy of those moments is still being shared with the St. Martin's family.

### 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.



*Sister Martha and "Flat Francis."*



Winter, 2015

# Little Sisters of the Poor



## A Simple Note from Mother Joseph

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that I share this winter 2015 newsletter with you. As we share the beauty and warmth of the holidays with our Residents, staff, benefactors, friends and AJJ, our hearts are filled with gratitude and daily we count our blessings.

There are so many beautiful things that have happened over these past months here in our home. First we recall the recent visit of our Holy Father, Pope Francis to the USA. This was our greatest joy to have met him personally

in our home in Washington, DC. We were the chosen few who represented the entire Congregation and each one of us had this precious moment of grace, as we welcomed the Holy Father and looked into his penetrating eyes and understanding face. His kindness and love seemed to bring peace and happiness to all of us. His words gave us encouragement in our mission of charity towards God's elderly poor, and calls us to see and find Christ in them as we live out our hospitaller duties each day. Our Holy Father *Continued on back page >>*

## St. Martin's Home Chapel Dedication

On October 15, after many months of demolition and reconstruction, Archbishop William E. Lori graciously presided at the Mass of Blessing of St. Martin's chapel with several of our priest friends concelebrating. Residents, benefactors, Little Sisters and AJJ members filled the chapel, overflowing into the gathering space. Thirty students from The Catholic High School of Baltimore enhanced the liturgy with their beautiful singing, accompanied by a small ensemble of woodwinds. Prior to the Mass the Archbishop blessed the convent and postulate.

In his homily, the archbishop spoke of the chapel as the heart of the home, which keeps the love and spirit of Jeanne Jugan alive. He said, "It occurred to me that while it is important to have a good electrical system, efficient heating and air-conditioning mechanisms, and a host of other systems that make this building work well, the chapel is the ultimate 'engine' that makes St. Martin's Home what St. Jeanne Jugan intended it to be and what it really is:



**Archbishop Lori celebrates Mass at the Chapel Dedication.**

a place of faith, a place of love, a place of hospitality." He concluded his homily with the words of St. Jeanne: "Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Go and find him when your strength and patience are giving out, when you feel lonely and helpless. Say to him: 'You know well what is happening, my dear Jesus. I have only you. Come to my aid...' And then go your way. Don't worry about knowing how you are going to manage. It is enough to

have told our good Lord. He has an excellent memory."

It is nearly impossible to describe the beauty of this new chapel where the presence of Jesus is felt so keenly. One Resident remarked, "I never thought I'd live so long to see something so beautiful!" Here, in this sacred space, prayers will be offered for the intentions confided to us and for our benefactors who made this dream a reality.

## Postulants Return to Baltimore

For many years, until 1979, young women beginning their formation as Little Sisters came to St. Martin's Home as postulants, that is, young women seeking to explore more deeply the life of a Little Sister of the Poor. After moving to Palatine, IL for almost 26 years and then to Washington D.C. for 8 years, the postulancy once again found its home in the newly renovated area at St. Martin's. Here three young women will spend the next six months learning about the life and spirituality of St. Jeanne Jugan and discovering the joys of our life of hospitality with the Residents here in our home.

Angela Conti is a familiar face at St. Martin's, as she worked as the Social Service

designee before discerning that the Lord was calling her to make this first step as a Little Sister of the Poor.

Andrea Hassink first met the Little Sisters when she was studying in Philadelphia, where she would bring a group of young adults to volunteer among the residents.

Courtney Moore first came to know the Little Sisters in St. Paul, MN, where she worked as a CNA with the Residents for the past four years.

The Little Sisters thank God for this promise of new life among us, and we look forward to sharing the joy of being a daughter of St. Jeanne Jugan, in the service of God and his eldest children!



**Mother Provincial Loraine, Postulants Andrea, Courtney, and Angela and Sister Maria Grace with Archbishop Lori.**



**St. Martin's Home welcomes Sister Maria Grace, Sister Amy and Sister Mary Gerard to Baltimore!**

## Phase III Construction Begins

As Archbishop William E. Lori officiated at our Mass of Dedication on October 15, Phase II of our capital campaign, *Caring Today, Building Tomorrow*, officially ended and Phase III began. To all of you who helped make the chapel, postulate and convent a reality, we thank you for your generosity and for your support of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Residents of St. Martin's Home.

Phase III includes a physical therapy and wellness area, along with renovated office space for our administration. Main Street will include a beauty parlor and coffee shop, together with relaxing gathering spaces which will make our home even more cheerful. Additionally, plans include a program where senior volunteers will have an opportunity to interact with others, making new friends and enjoying the activities in our home. The family atmosphere so prevalent at St. Martin's will extend to those participating in our Senior Volunteer Program.

Please plan on visiting us soon to witness first-hand the wonder of your donations. The Little Sisters cannot do this alone. As you graciously answer the call to walk with us – companions on life's journey – God will certainly bless you as a member of our family.

To all of you who helped make the chapel, postulate and convent a reality, we thank you for your generosity and for your support of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Residents of St. Martin's Home.



**The completion of our beautiful chapel marks the end of Phase II construction.**

## A Simple Note



*Continued from page 2 >>*

entered our lives and our hearts in a new way and we realize that our lives are now forever changed because of this brief and meaningful encounter.

October saw the fruition of many months work with the opening of our renovated chapel, new convent and postulate. Archbishop William E. Lori celebrated a Mass and blessed these newly renovated areas. It was truly an inspiring occasion and one filled with the deepest gratitude to our benefactors and friends who have so generously provided for our needs. It is so nice to have warm water and heat again. God Bless you abundantly!

Also in October, we had the great happiness of welcoming three postulants to our home. These young women study, work and pray here with us as they begin their formation as Little Sisters of the Poor. What a blessing it is to have them with us before they enter the novitiate in Queens, New York next summer.

I cannot conclude without expressing my sincere gratitude for who you are and all that you do for our home and our Residents. We Thank God for you each day! United to all the Little Sisters, we offer our prayers for you and your family, hoping that you have a Blessed Christmas season filled with God's many graces.

*Sister Joseph Caroline*



## Nun Run 2015

Our second annual **Nun Run** on Saturday, September 12 was a success! Congratulations to St. Joseph Church, Cockeysville, winner of the **Parish Pride** trophy for the parish with the most registered runners. Monsignor Slade Catholic School took home the 2015 **Flying Nun** trophy for the school with the most registered runners. 70 virtual runners ran "in spirit" as far away as New York, Texas and California. We thank our runners, walkers, virtual runners, sponsors, committee members, volunteers and friends! Mark your calendar for our 3rd run on Saturday, September 10, 2016!

Sincere thanks to the 2015 **Nun Run** sponsors: The Ravens, Saint Agnes Hospital, Saint Mary's Parish of Annapolis, Trinity School, The Seton Keough High School, Mount De Sales Academy, Mount Saint Joseph, The Cathedral of Mary our Queen School, Giant, Lancaster Produce, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Roto-Rooter, Coca-Cola and Walgreens.



## Celebrating the Gift 2015



Father Rick Hilgartner won the title of **Celebrity Chef, 2015** and received a gold medal for his winning recipe at our 2015 Gala! 360 guests enjoyed food stations featuring recipes by: Father Patrick Carrion (Crab Soup), Father Stan DeBoe (Cedar Planked Salmon with Brown Sugar Dijon Glaze), Monsignor Rick Hilgartner ("Baltimore-Style" Penne alla Vodka) and Father John Williamson (Chicken de Sorrento), while Father Mark Bialek entertained guests with his extraordinary musical talent. In addition to the Silent Auction, guests had the opportunity to take a chance on 50 Wine & Dine bags, which included a bottle of wine or champagne and a gift certificate to dine! Our

guests were especially generous during the Warming the Home auction which will defray the cost of heating St. Martin's Home through the winter months, and the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle will receive a check for over \$15,000! Thank you to the 2015 Gala Committee (Lidia Paz-Baker, Joanne Bauman, Kim David, Mary DiGiandomenico, Stephanie Hoyle, Cindy Jones, Shirley MacDonald, Amy Macko, Gat Meredith, Kellie MacDonald, Sharon Smith, and Julie D. Woods) for another successful event for the Little Sisters and Residents! Visit our website for a list of *Celebrating the Gift* sponsors, volunteers and generous donors.



**Msgr. Rick Hilgartner is 2015 Celebrity Chef Winner!**