



Father Stan and Residents at the blessing of the gardens.

Rogation Day Blessings

BY FR. STAN DEBOE

St. Augustine, preaching on the First Letter of John, said, "Since love grows within you, so beauty grows." Recently we celebrated God's love as we experienced the beauty of spring in and around St. Martin's Home. The days before the solemnity of the Ascension are traditionally celebrated as "Rogation Days," set aside to pray that God will bless the newly planted crops and provide an abundant harvest. During the renovation of the Home, the gardens are receiving landscape facelifts and some are in full bloom already. The gardens provide space for our Residents to rest, meditate and enjoy the blessings of nature. During the Rogation Days, the Residents gathered in one of the gardens for a prayer service and blessing of the garden giving thanks to God for the beauty that surrounds us, mirroring the beauty we know lives within.

Several Residents and Sisters recalled their memories of Rogation Days when farm crops and backyard gardens were blessed. They shared memories of time spent gardening and enjoying the harvest. Little Sisters told stories

about the celebration of Rogation Days in La Tour when they processed in the fields praying for an abundant harvest and blessing the newly planted crops.

Keeping this tradition at St. Martin's Home is an opportunity to remind ourselves of God's goodness to us. Surrounded by the beauty of creation, the renovations at St. Martin's are creating a more beautiful home for our Residents. And that beauty is a reflection of the beauty God places in each one of us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Beauty grows at St. Martin's Home because love is growing and being shared in abundance.

In honor of Rogation Day, St. Martin's Residents received a baggie filled with seeds to plant and remind them:

1. Sow Seeds of **PRAISE**
2. Sow Seeds of **PRAYER**
3. Sow Seeds of **GOOD NEWS**
4. Sow Seeds of **LOVE**
5. Sow Seeds of **SERVICE**

Serving the elderly
poor in Baltimore
since 1869.



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.*

*Reverence for Life
Family Spirit
Humble Service
Compassion
Stewardship*

Little Sisters of the Poor

“What are you waiting for in your life?”

Looking back, Steve Samecki now understands that his call to explore being a deacon has been a consistent invitation over the course of many years. Some of the “road signs” the husband and father of seven (including triplets!) noticed along the way include a seed planted by a former pastor, Confirmation service projects, and a deacon saying to him “What are you waiting for in your life?”

Now, in his first year of candidacy for the permanent diaconate in the archdiocese of Baltimore, Steve is serving a pastoral assignment at St. Martin’s Home. He embraces the mission of the Little Sisters and has initiated some exciting programs here. Each Monday he leads a discussion on the many titles and apparitions of Mary in preparation for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima. He also has a group of Residents who make sandwiches each week for the homeless in Baltimore and he spends time visiting with the Residents.

Steve says that his ministry at St. Martin’s has been like a homecoming. He finds his devotion to Mary increasing and his understanding of the joys and hopes of the Residents enriching his own spiritual life.



Steve and Rose speak Italian during visits.

One of the most important things he learned is the openness to being in the right place at the right time. “You don’t have to understand what’s going on. You just go with it.”

Please keep Steve and his family in your prayers as they continue their vocation journey to the diaconate as a family.

It’s In The Bag!

The Little Sisters added a new event, *It’s In The Bag*, to the 2017 calendar. Our inaugural handbag auction was a great success with 75 friends bidding on new designer handbags and taking chances on fun accessories. With a beautiful view of the grounds of the Rolling Road Golf Club, our guests dined on a breakfast

buffet prepared by the Club and desserts by Sugar Bakers. Sister Lawrence Mary showed her black “bag” to the audience and explained the begging tradition of the Little Sisters. Save April 22, 2018 for our next *It’s In The Bag* handbag auction!



It’s In The Bag centerpieces and friends.



100th Anniversary of Fatima

The canonization Mass of Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco took place at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal on May 13. Pope Francis presided over the Mass, telling those gathered to follow the example of the new saints, offering their joys and sufferings as a gift for God.

At St. Martin's Home, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Fatima by responding to the question the Virgin Mary asked the shepherd children 100 years ago, "Do you want to offer yourselves to God?" Our answer was the same as theirs, "Yes, we do!" By responding this way, our Residents are able to understand and imitate the lives of the newly canonized Saints.

As our Lady's care extends to everyone, celebrating this event is an opportunity to reflect deeply on the messages of Our Lady of Fatima. The Little Sisters and Residents of St. Martin's will celebrate by praying for peace and giving thanks for the blessings we receive daily through your goodness and generosity.



Resident, Rita, shares a private moment with Our Lady.



Jane, Jim and friends

Friends Jane and Jim Wolfe

On Saturday, April 29, our good friends, Jane and Jim Wolfe, treated our Residents to a delicious, catered Italian dinner at St. Martin's. Not only were Jane and Jim here to oversee the meal, but they brought with them several of their friends and neighbors to serve and clean up.

The evening soon turned into a lively event filled with laughter, conversation, and camaraderie. It was brought to Jim's attention that our Resident, Sally, recently celebrated her 100th birthday so he arranged to get congratulatory letters from President Trump and Senator Cardin, along with a flag that flew over the Capitol. On Saturday, June 13, Jane and Jim returned to St. Martin's to present Sally with these birthday wishes and a birthday cake for all the Residents to enjoy.

The Residents want to make sure Jane and Jim know how much they appreciated that wonderful meal and birthday cake. It was a special evening — one we will be talking about for a long time! Thank you, Jane and Jim!

Volunteers of the Year



Howard County honored George and Janice Vanisko as Volunteers of the Year in the "Dynamic Duo" category. George and Janice volunteer for a number of organizations, including St. Martin's Home, where together (George as driver; Janice, a former RN, as assistant) they transport and assist Residents at medical appointments. Six years ago, George and Janice heard about St. Martin's Home and the volunteer opportunities at their church, St. Louis, Clarksville, and they continue to generously support our Residents today. Congratulations to this dynamic duo!

A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



Dear Friends,

Today we are in Phase III of our ambitious expansion effort and ask God to bless our capital campaign *Caring Today, Building Tomorrow*. Since its founding in Baltimore in 1869, St. Martin's has experienced tremendous growth. The Little Sisters of the Poor consider this growth a gift from God and an affirmation of their mission to care for God's most vulnerable children, the needy elderly.

Work is currently being done in Main Street, a central location for our Residents to socialize, participate in activities, visit the beauty salon, enjoy a cup of coffee in "Sip and Chat," enjoy a library book in front of the fireplace, or just sit and visit with one another, their families and their friends.

The Little Sisters recognize your past generosity and have always depended upon the goodness of benefactors to fulfill their mission. You recently received a request from us and are probably asking "How much should we give?" No one can tell you what your gift should be since each family's circumstances are unique. We only ask that you reflect on what God has given to you and prayerfully respond with great love and generosity. The Little Sisters and the Residents of St. Martin's continue to pray for you daily.

Sister Joseph Caroline

Mother Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.

In Prayerful Remembrance of William Cardinal Keeler

On March 23, 2017, Cardinal William H. Keeler peacefully passed away surrounded by the Little Sisters. The Cardinal was a quiet presence to all of us at St. Martin's – Sisters, Residents, staff and volunteers who were granted the blessing to know and care for him during his time here. He was an inspiration to all of us. Rest in Peace, Cardinal Keeler.

Please add the following 2017 events to your calendar and support the Little Sisters of the Poor and Residents of St. Martin's Home!



4th Annual NUN RUN

Saturday, September 9, 2017 • 8 a.m. start
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
5200 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210
Registration: www.charmcityrun.com.



13th Annual CELEBRATING THE GIFT Gala

Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 6 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Turf Valley Resort
2700 Turf Valley Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Sponsorship / Tables / Tickets at:
www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org
Raffle tickets included in the newsletter with proceeds going to the **Winter Fuel Fund** at St. Martin's. The winner last year received over \$15,000.



Annual TURKEY/HAM DROP

Saturday, November 18, 2017 • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
St. Martin's Home
601 Maiden Choice Lane, Baltimore, MD 21228
Please donate a turkey or ham for our Residents' holiday meals.

Contact 410.744.9367 ext.126 with questions.

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