

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The renovation of St. Martin's Home involves many "behind the scenes" stories – tales which aren't shared because they are mundane and don't invoke a lot of "oohs and aahs." One such story revolves around the cornerstone. This is the stone Lawrence Cardinal Shehan blessed in 1967 when the Little Sisters realized their home on Valley Street no longer met the needs of the elderly poor and construction on our new home in Catonsville was begun.

In ancient building practices, the cornerstone was the principal stone – the largest, the most solid, and most well-constructed of all the stones. Jesus describes himself as the Cornerstone his Church would be built on – a unified body of believers.

Next year, 2019, the Little Sisters of the Poor will celebrate the 150th anniversary of their arrival in Baltimore. Living in donated housing for a short time, the Sisters welcomed the elderly needy into their home and cared for them by begging for food, furniture, and anything else the Little Sisters felt would make their Residents feel loved, protected and at peace.

Eventually the Sisters moved to what would be their home for the next 100 years. The house on Valley Street was constructed with donated funds and bolstered by the cornerstone. Once again, "the largest, the most solid, and most well-constructed of all the stones" kept the Sisters and Residents together as a family until their move to



*Cardinal Shehan blesses the cornerstone, 1967.*

Catonsville in 1969.

With our renovations close to completion, we reflect on the Little Sisters' journey from France in 1869. From humble donated housing to our beautiful St. Martin's today, one thing remains constant—for 150 years, your goodness and kindness have bolstered the Sisters' resources, making it possible to continue their ministry to the elderly needy. You have kept them safe and you have protected them. You are their spiritual cornerstone!

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*

## Making the Leap of Faith to follow the Lord

Residents and Little Sisters at St. Martin's pray daily for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life. One visible sign that our prayers are answered was when a young woman from Glen Burnie responded to God's call in October 2015. Like so many other young people, Angela Conti was afraid of the commitment and hesitated to "make the leap of faith" to follow the Lord. Angela also worried that our ministry with the elderly would be too much for her.

However, after working with the elderly at St. Martin's and getting to know the Little Sisters and their spiritual, community and apostolic life, she entered the Congregation. At that time she remarked that "once I said 'yes', I was at home and unafraid. When I started telling friends my news, they'd scream and react in the



**Sister Angela Conti, who grew up in what is now Christ the King Parish, Glen Burnie, MD, sings at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church in Jamaica, NY during Mass on April 9. (Photo courtesy of Gregory A. Shemitz)**

same way as if I told them I was engaged. It's been really neat and humbling having everyone behind my back."

As a postulant here in Baltimore, Angela radiated peace and joy as she served the

elderly Residents. After six months she went to the novitiate in Queens, New York to continue her religious formation. Becoming a novice in July 2016, she received the white veil and uniform of a novice along with her religious name: Sister Angela Marie Clare. During this time, she has learned more deeply that religious consecration means "to make profession of having but one life, one heart, one soul and one will with Jesus." (Constitutions of Little Sisters of the Poor.) Soon, on July 28, Sr. Angela will pronounce the vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and hospitality as a Little Sister of the Poor. Please pray together with us that many other young women follow Sr. Angela's example of being totally committed to Christ and serving the elderly following in the footsteps of St. Jeanne Jugan!

## What Would Jesus Eat?

During Lent, the Residents enjoyed learning about the services provided by Catholic Relief Services to the poor around the world. Their favorite part was trying the food from the different countries that Father Stan DeBoe O.S.S.T. prepared and served. The Residents wanted to continue exploring different foods. So, in May, a new program started. "What Would Jesus Eat" explores the foods of the Bible and of the Middle East. More than just trying the foods, the activity explores the scriptural references and symbols of the ancient Jewish culture. Also, we are exploring the customs and traditions of meals in the first century. Our first meeting was about the Bible's mention of pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, hazelnuts, and almonds. We learned that pistachios were valued as currency and were used as gifts to the Pharaoh when Jacob and his sons traveled to Egypt. In future sessions we will



**Fr. Stan and Residents Angie, Anna and Josephine discuss "What Would Jesus Eat?"**

explore fruits, vegetables, dairy products, seeds, and beans. Our sessions include tasting the food, but there is something else special about setting aside time to be together. It's therapeutic – a chance to talk, to reflect on the day and discuss current

events. Our chats often lead to discussions of serious subjects – politics and death, memories and loss. Eating together is a small act – one hour away from our usual distractions. And yet it's become one of the happiest parts of the day for us.





Residents enjoy numerous activities during National Skilled Nursing Care Week

## Celebrating National Skilled Nursing Care Week

Residents, staff, volunteers and friends celebrated National Skilled Nursing Care Week at St. Martin's during the month of May. The annual week of special activities and events included an afternoon social, a happy hour, Mystery Bingo, sandwich making for the homeless, accordion music and entertainment, a Preakness party and a Senior Prom with supper.

Coordinated by the Activities Department director, Kitty Bowles, ADC and staff members Leanna Shelly and Samantha Klocko, CTRS, the activities focused on opportunities for our Residents at all skill levels and functional abilities to participate. Kitty said it is a tradition to highlight and try programs that are not normally a part of the monthly calendar. If successful, the programs are then added to the many regularly scheduled programming available for the Residents.

Kitty said Game Day was the highlight this year! The Residents tested their skills by playing ring toss and bean bag games, rolling large dice as part of a horse race game and participating in fast-paced bingo. Residents and staff enjoyed listening to and guessing theme songs from past television series at the happy hour. The All about Memories musical group brought back many memories as the Residents and staff dressed in "Sunday best" for their annual prom. Also included was a regular weekly activity which allows our Residents to make sandwiches for the homeless. Bread, peanut butter and jelly donations are coordinated by Deacon Steve Sarnicki with the help of many friends. The bagged sandwiches are then taken to a homeless shelter – an opportunity for our Residents to give back!

Reflecting on the annual celebration and special events, Kitty said, "It is rewarding to see the Residents find their "competitive side," sometimes stepping outside their comfort zone, while participating and enjoying the many activities with staff, Residents and Sisters!"

## HOME BUT NOT ALONE

As the morning sun rises and the sleepy birds sing,  
I wonder what this new day might bring.

An activity awaits - perhaps games and fun -  
joy and laughter for everyone!

Auctions and bingo, word games for your mind,  
trips with Miss Kitty...going out is divine!

"You are my sunshine" belts out in song  
for the senior sing along.

Parties are special, "Let the festivities begin,"  
especially when the staff and our Sisters join in!

What more could we ask for, each day we arise,  
feeling secure, and the gift of surprise.

Living here is never dull and we give our thanks  
to one and all!!

With gratitude and kindness  
|much contentment we feel,  
because stimulation helps our Residents heal.

These activities are given with care and love,  
from our Sisters, staff and volunteers,  
hence all the above.

With so many things to do, please visit our chapel  
– Jesus is waiting for you!

Our hearts beat with love for the Home we adore,  
so God Bless St. Martin's and  
**The Little Sisters of the Poor!**

*By Resident, Angie,  
for National Skilled Nursing Care Week, 2018*

## A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



*Mother Joseph Caroline and Mrs. Yumi Hogan, First Lady of the State of Maryland, wife of Governor Larry Hogan, and long-time friend of St. Martin's Home, during a recent visit to our Home.*

Dear Friends,

Summer is a wonderful time to be at St. Martin's Home. Our Residents enjoy adventures in the garden with our employees and volunteers, while at the same time our construction continues on the last phase of our capital campaign.

The campaign, "Caring Today, Building Tomorrow," is winding down with the construction of our last cottage for independent living. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the constant generosity and faith-filled commitment of so many over the years. Yes, God is good – and so are you!

St. Martin's has a proud and rich history. Residents and their families always feel at home here. This is a place of prayer, gatherings, and joy. Here the needy elderly create friendships and find happiness. We must continue the journey of faith begun by our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, whose love and sacrifice made possible the mission of the Little Sisters today.

Please be assured that the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Residents of St. Martin's Home pray for you daily. God bless you for your generosity and support.

*Sister Joseph Caroline*  
Sister Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.  
Superior

## SO MANY WAYS TO HELP!

Thank you for your continued support of our Activity Department and our Development Department's special events (Handbag Auction, Nun Run, Gala) which benefit our Residents! Our 2018 **wish list** is below if you would like to donate:

### DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

#### 2018 Gala Wish list:

Bottles of wine (\$40+ value)

Gift cards to:

Restaurants  
Sporting Events – Ravens, O's,  
Nationals – any local teams, any sport  
Concerts, movie theaters, plays  
Flower shops, jewelry stores,  
boutique venues

#### 2018 Nun Run Wish list:

Gift cards to grocery stores or BJ's, Sam's Club and Costco to purchase beverages and snacks (any value appreciated)

### ACTIVITY DEPARTMENT

#### 2018 Resident "Auction" Wish list:

Gift card to Walmart, Dollar Tree or McDonalds (\$10 value)  
Stamps (roll or small book)  
Ravens / Orioles gear (new scarves, hats, caps, t-shirts – in all sizes)

These items may be dropped off in the Development Department or left at the reception desk marked: **Attention Sister Lawrence Mary, 2018 WISH LIST** and include your name and information to acknowledge your donation. Contact Carol at 410.744.9367, ext. 126 with questions!

Please support the Little Sisters and Residents by attending/supporting our remaining 2018 events:



### 5th annual Nun Run

**Saturday, September 8, 8 a.m. start  
(on-site registration begins at 6:30 a.m.)**

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen,  
5200 N. Charles Street, Baltimore 21210  
Registration: [www.charmcityrun.com](http://www.charmcityrun.com)

### 14th annual Gala – Celebrating the Gift

**Saturday, November 10, 6 p.m.**

Sheraton Baltimore North  
903 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson 21204

This event culminates our Celebrity Chef events which started in 2014. The recipes of our 4 past winners (Fr. Patrick Carrion, Msgr. Rick Hilgartner, Friar Matt Foley, and Fr. Michael Carrion) are featured in this Celebrity Cook-Off!

Proceeds from the event go directly to pay our winter fuel costs at St. Martin's Home which in 2016 and 2017 averaged \$30,000 per month.

Visit our website: [www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org)  
for ticket/table/sponsor information.

### You shop. Amazon gives.

Remember Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Little Sisters of the Poor of Baltimore whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

**Designate Little Sisters of the Poor Baltimore as the recipient.**