



Finding the silver lining: Residents and staff enjoy an afternoon of Bingo while masked (with smiles underneath) and socially distanced.

Finding The Silver Lining

A silver lining is a sign of hope or a positive aspect in an otherwise negative situation. The phrase is often seen as part of the proverb “Every cloud has a silver lining”... meaning there is hope or something good to be found in every bad situation. COVID-19 has certainly tested this phrase for everyone on a personal and professional level. While our Sisters and staff at St. Martin's have always provided exceptional care, the pandemic has brought out the best in them in keeping everyone safe.

The Little Sisters acknowledge and applaud the hard work provided by all employees since the pandemic began, and they know there is still more hard work ahead before this pandemic ends. In a letter to family members of our Residents, Mother Joseph wrote, “We are so fortunate to have a very dedicated staff who are working tirelessly to promote the well-being and safety of all those we care for here in the Home. We continue with social distancing, wearing masks, hand hygiene and good housekeeping to try

to fight off this invisible enemy that has changed the lives of everyone.”

One of the ways our social worker helped our Residents was assisting them in sending Christmas cards to their loved ones. Many of our Residents simply needed a brief cue to write “I love and miss you! Love, Mom,” or help in guiding a hand to write “With love, Dad.” This small silver lining helped lift Residents' spirits, and hopefully, the spirit of the recipient of that special Christmas card. While we continue with window visits and zoom calls, sometimes something as simple as seeing “mom's handwriting” in a Christmas Card helps bring back the nostalgia of Christmases past with love, joy, comfort, and peace.

Liana, Volunteer Coordinator and Geriatric Nursing Assistant, says the pandemic is challenging but the nursing assistants try to stay positive while making sure the needs of our Residents are met in these unprecedented, challenging times. She finds satisfaction

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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*



Family window visits and spending time with the Little Sisters mean so much to our Residents!

Keeping In Touch

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Residents' family members, volunteers, school groups, entertainment groups, Mass attendees and Board Members were regulars in and out of St. Martin's Home to share their gifts and friendship with the Little Sisters and Residents. These visits, unfortunately, stopped and will continue to

be curtailed as the pandemic continues in our area.

While we cannot join together in person, we try very hard to keep you informed about all of our activities and special events. Please take advantage of the opportunities below:

Newsletters

Three newsletters are sent yearly, generally arriving in your home in March, July and November.

E-blasts

E-blasts are sent to keep you posted on all our special events.

Blogs

Blogs are posted monthly, and **giving opportunities** are listed (including special opportunities such as Giving Tuesday, Thanksgiving, Christmas). **Donation tabs** are set up for special events on our website: www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org

Update Letter

Read Mother Joseph's COVID-19 update letter posted each week on our website.

Slideshow

We create **slideshow**s for our events, so take a moment to look for your photo and those of your friends on our website!

News & Events

View our **"News & Events" page** (on our website) – all special communications/events for the last several years

are listed and are viewable. Newsletters are available for viewing.

Facebook Page

Visit our **Facebook page**: <https://www.facebook.com/LittleSistersBaltimore> for photos and announcements.

Contact

If you are not receiving written communications, contact adevbaltimore@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Connect

If you would like to be added to our e-blast communications, <http://www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org/contact-us/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OPTING OUT OF COMMUNICATIONS:

1. If you opt out of our eblasts by unsubscribing, you will receive no other eblasts until you put yourself back on the list (directions above).
2. Please let us know if communications (newsletters, e-blasts) are being addressed incorrectly. With over 13,000 names in our data base, we admit we make mistakes!
3. Our goal is to **KEEP IN TOUCH** with you!

Finding The Silver Lining

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in providing a friendly face for the Residents, knowing she is doing something good for others. Most important for Liana is letting our Residents know they are not alone!

With one-on-one visits now "the new normal" due to group activities on hold, Danielle, Activities Coordinator, says she has taken this opportunity to really get to know our Residents on a much more personal level. She said she has to get really creative with her visits, offering small "prizes" and bringing Residents some of their favorite snacks (which usually involves ice cream). While COVID-19 restrictions keep family members from visiting in person, Danielle has offered video visits and tries to assist the families in giving them tips to connect with their loved one virtually. "When a Resident smiles," Danielle says, "I made this person happy!" and that is her silver lining!

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the Sisters and staff planned and implemented a socially distanced, but special, Christmas Party for Residents as they were unable to host their annual large Christmas gift-giving party. Sister Lawrence Mary explained the Sisters arranged to have a

small party in each cottage. Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, said, "Making the elderly happy, that is what is important." Sister Lawrence elaborated that "The Sisters thought each Resident would enjoy selecting a gift they really wanted for Christmas. We asked them to let us know their desires and we did our best to find the item or items. One request gave us quite a challenge: ribbons for an old manual typewriter! Our Resident, Joe, who treasures his typewriter, was working with a worn-out ribbon. We managed to find the right ribbons on-line and ordered them, but the projected date of arrival was sometime in January. We thought we would let Joe know that Santa's reindeer would still be working in 2021 to bring him his gift. However, during our party, the receptionist alerted us to a small package that had just been delivered. The typewriter ribbons arrived! Quickly wrapped, Joe's delight was evident and one of his first letters was a beautifully typed thank you note to the Sisters thanks to the new typewriter ribbon! I'm not sure who was the happiest - Joe or the Sisters and this silver lining!"

Until we meet again, go with God

Even though life is full of goodbyes, it does not mean that it is easier with practice. When our chaplain, Father Stan DeBoe, O.S.S.T. left St. Martin's, it was a time of disappointment for us. His years of spiritual guidance, bedside visits, Masses, the celebrations, rejoices and sorrows, shaped each of our relationships with Father Stan. He presented the person of Jesus to us in word and in deed and for that, we are forever grateful.

Father Stan's new assignment is that of Pastor of Incarnation ~ St. James in Ewing, New Jersey. Giving to others seemed to come naturally to Father, but we know it didn't happen by accident. He went the extra mile, took the extra time, gave the extra thought, and really made a difference. What an incredible gift and amazing blessing to have him not only as our chaplain, but as a friend and mentor. Bringing wisdom in teaching, hope in the sacraments, and joy in his vocational call, he touched all our lives. Although we miss his physical presence, he will always remain a part of the St. Martin's family. God speed, Father.



Fr. Stan with Mother Provincial Loraine and Mother Joseph during the 150th anniversary of St. Martin's Home

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



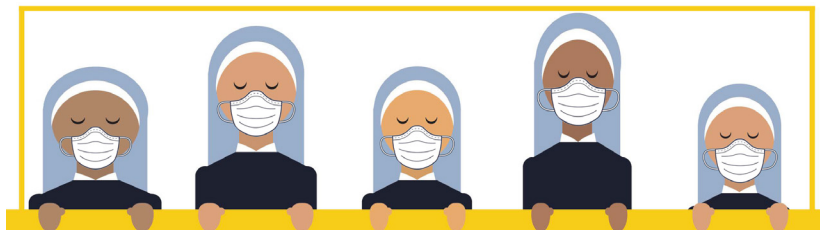
Dear Friends,

With Spring in the air, we look forward to new life which is bursting forth all around us. Yet, we cannot forget this past year with its many sufferings due to the Coronavirus pandemic which has affected all of us. Despite all that we have each experienced, our gratitude continues to shine forth in our daily lives for all those who have come to our rescue and we have witnessed more than ever God's loving Providence acting through so many generous and faithful friends as you.

Since the beginnings of our Congregation, the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan has always instilled in each Little Sister to trust in Divine Providence to provide for the needs of each home. And this is certainly true today as we confide all to St. Joseph, our Patron and Provider. This year our Holy Father, Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year consecrated to St. Joseph and invites everyone to develop their love and trust in him. The example of the hidden life of St. Joseph reminds us of our many friends and benefactors whose generous and often anonymous gifts given in his name, go unnoticed by the world, yet what God sees in secret he will repay generously. For God loves a cheerful giver.

Sister Joseph Caroline

Mother Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.
Superior



CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE LITTLE SISTERS!

The Little Sisters found a silver lining in the continued support of our friends as 2020 events were cancelled or modified!

HANDBAG AUCTION

Unfortunately, we will again postpone the Handbag Auction. For those that bought tickets or sent in sponsorships, we thank you and will acknowledge you at our 2022 event scheduled for **April 24, 2022**.

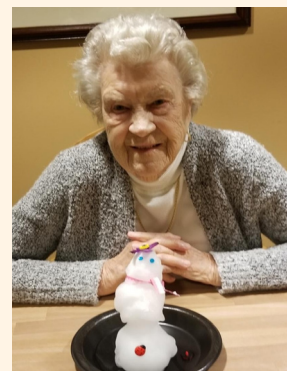
NUN RUN

Our Virtual Nun Run in 2020 was a huge success with over 750 participants! Please watch for information as we determine if we will hold the Nun Run either in person on **Saturday, September 18, 2021** or as a virtual event again.

GALA

Thank you to our friends who supported our **nun-gala!** We raised over \$71,000 during this Virtual Event. To err on the side of caution, our 2021 Gala is also postponed. Please look for the on-line auction in the fall and help us make this **2021 nun-gala** event an even bigger success.

Included in this newsletter are raffle tickets! We have had great success with our 50/50 fall raffle and ask you to consider helping us again by participating in our Spring Raffle! The format will be slightly different, with three names pulled and winners taking 30%, 15%, 5% of the total amount.



Residents in Independent Living enjoyed creating snowmen – finding the silver lining in being together while distancing from others.