



A WARM “BALLMER” WELCOME

In many cultures, on December 6, St. Nicholas brings children who have been good during the year their Christmas gifts. All of God's older children at St. Martin's must have been very, very good throughout 2021!

After months of anticipation, we received with great joy the news that we would welcome at last Mother General María del Monte Auxiliadora on December 6!

Mother María is from Spain and has been Superior General of the Little Sisters of the Poor since 2015. Mother Assistant Joseph Christine, originally from Scotland, accompanied her. For both, it was their first visit to the United States.

As our visitors arrived at the Home in the late afternoon, Gordon Schultze (age 101), Anna Hagerman (102), and Jennie Libertini (106) presented them with cards and bouquets of roses.

We then went to Main Street where many of the other Residents were gathered for a quick hello before our visitors joined the Little Sisters for supper.



Mother General María del Monte Auxiliadora arrives at St. Martin's Home to a warm “Ballmer” Welcome!



Fr. Michael Orchik greets Mother General.



Anna, 102 years old, had the honor of being one of the gift presenters upon Mother General's arrival in Baltimore.

Little Sisters of the Poor

December 7 is a day of prayer for the Little Sisters in preparation for their renewal of vows the following day. On December 8, the Residents were able to have more time with Mother General and Mother Joseph Christine. From beginning to end, this feast of the Immaculate Conception was a day completely filled with God's blessings and Mary's joy. Mother General told us that it was the first time in the history of the Congregation that the Mother General was not in the motherhouse of La Tour St. Joseph in France for December 8! The Mass was beautiful and the family spirit, so typical of our Homes, made obvious the joy of the Sisters' vow of hospitality.

After Mass, Mother General and Mother Joseph Christine visited each dining room during dinner to greet the Residents and to distribute gifts. For their part, the Residents in each cottage presented Mother with spiritual bouquet cards.

In the afternoon, the Residents put on a wonderful show. Thanks to a mixture of talent and energy supported by the help of our staff, it was a great success. Our Chaplain, Fr. Mike Orchik, served as emcee and posed as the priest who paved the way for the Little Sisters in the United States, Father Ernest Lelièvre. Staff members from various departments did animated movements to a contemporary hymn to the Holy Spirit, invoking his blessings upon our visitors. Two staff members from El Salvador, in native dresses, did a beautiful dance from their country. Resident, Mrs. Mary Mines, expressed the feelings of all our family by singing "Getting to Know You."



Fr. Orchik acted as emcee for the Residents' presentation welcoming our visitors from France.



Sisters and Residents enjoyed the many festivities with Mother General!



Mother General with Resident, Lourdes



Resident, Jennie, 106 years old, welcomes Mother General.

To introduce Mother General and Mother Joseph Christine to the highlights of “Ballmer,” we took them in spirit to Camden Yards, the home of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team. The “team” entered to our singing of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” and our visitors received complimentary boxes of Cracker Jacks. Several of the apartment Residents re-enacted the final moments of the 1983 World Series in which the Orioles defeated the Philadelphia Phillies. The movements of the players dressed in Oriole shirts were so authentic that we could easily imagine the bat striking the ball!

Since the favorite dish of most Baltimoreans is crab, a Resident dressed in a crab costume entered and gave a soft plush crab to Mother General. Our tourists then continued on to visit America’s first cathedral, the Basilica of the Assumption (via television). The “Basilica Choir” (our Residents dressed in choir robes) prepared two hymns, but before they could begin, two visitors arrived at the Basilica. First, a former Resident of our Home in Richmond, Sr. Maria Lutz, dressed as Our Lady, entered and greeted Mother General in Spanish. Our Lady then invited St. Joseph to enter. Our housekeeping supervisor, Bruno Fernandez, felt so honored to be St. Joseph that he was trembling. Although Bruno’s native language is Portuguese, he greeted Mother General in excellent Spanish.

St. Joseph assured us all of his constant protection for our Home and his intercession, and he thanked us for all the marks of honor given him during this past year dedicated to him. At the end of the program, Mother General and Mother Joseph Christine both spoke to the Residents and staff. Our visitors then greeted our good friends and benefactors, Mr. Gerry Keefe, Mr. John Danko, a member of the Little Sisters’ Board, and members of the Association Jeanne Jugan.



Little Sister employee, Bruno, participates in the tribute to Mother General as Joseph with Mary, Resident, Sr. Maria Lutz.



Mother General holds her Baltimore “crab”!



Gerry Keefe and John Danko welcome Mother General to Baltimore.



Mother General speaks to the Residents and Sisters of St. Martin's Home.

Goodbye, Mother General

The following day, while Mother General and Mother Joseph Christine visited our Home in Washington, D.C. with Mother Provincial Loraine, the Mothers Superior arrived from the Homes in the Province for meetings. The next days passed all too quickly and after breakfast on Monday, December 13, we bid “au revoir” to Mother General and Mother Joseph Christine as they left us to visit our Little Sisters in New York.



Mother Joseph Christine, Mother General, and Mother Provincial visit with Archbishop Lori.

Serving the elderly poor in Baltimore since 1869.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The forty days of Lent are upon us and as we begin our journey to the foot of the cross, you may be asking, "How can I have a closer relationship with Christ?", "What should I give up for Lent?" or "What should I do for those less fortunate?" As Catholics, we are blessed to have the Church answer these questions for us – Pray, fast and give alms, a tradition rooted in the Old Testament.

Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread over forty days. It sustains and nurtures our relationship with God as he calls to us each day. Listen for that call and then respond. Our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan said, "Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Say to him, 'Jesus, you know exactly what is going on. You are all I have, and you know all things. Come to my help.' And then go, and don't worry about how you are going to manage. That you have told God about it is enough. He has a good memory."

Fasting is a consistent part of our Catholic tradition. Fasting and living a life of moderation allow us to devote our energy to God's purpose. Lastly, we are asked to reach out to others in charity. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we will be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry.

This Lenten and Easter season, the Little Sisters join me in thanking you for reaching out in charity by making us part of your charitable giving. We continue to pray for you, your families, and your intentions. We also pray for an end to this pandemic. Praise be to God!

*Sister Jeanne Mary, L.s.p.
Superior*



We thank you for your continued generous support! Be sure to visit our website: www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org to stay in touch! You will find blogs, events, updates and ways to give.

The Little Sisters are anxious to hold our events in person again! We erred on the side of caution and chose to postpone the Handbag Auction in 2022 but have set the date for April 23, 2023. We are anxious to host this event again!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES FOR:



NUN RUN

Saturday, September 10, 2022 at St. Mary's Seminary



CELEBRATING THE GIFT GALA

Saturday, November 5, 2022 at Marriott Hunt Valley, Baltimore

Details will be available for both events soon on our website!



OUR EVENTS are not possible without the energy and efforts of our amazing volunteers, Association Jeanne Jugan members and Board members. The office volunteers are instrumental in the behind-the-scenes efforts to help coordinate and handle the numerous tasks to make these events a success.

Nun Run volunteers are on-site at 5:30 a.m. the day of the run and stay through the event and clean-up!

Gala volunteers reserve a full day for event set up, evening-of activities and tear down.

And just a little tidbit of information... the thousands of raffle tickets that are returned from our raffles are cut (by hand) by a Resident at the Home.

There is much joy in working with all our committed volunteers at St. Martin's Home and coordinating these successful events!

- Carol Small

OUR MISSION



Serving the elderly poor in Baltimore since 1869.

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*