



Serving the elderly poor in Mobile since 1901.

## There is Beauty in Begging!

Sister Marie Cecilia has been a member of the Little Sisters of the Poor for more than 24 years. She was born in the Philippines as one of 11 children, eight girls and three boys.

Her parents were very Catholic, and made education a top priority for the children. They were poor, but she said; “Yes, poor materially, but rich in love, respect and unity in the family.”

Sr. Marie Cecilia received her Bachelor’s Degree in Commercial Science in Economics from Jose Rizal University in Manila. She began her career working for her uncle’s textile import/export business. She worked during the day and attended night school to earn a graduate degree in Management.

So, with a business background how did she become a Little Sister?

In 1987, she was working in Hong Kong in a very good position with an American owned company. One of her friends had become interested in a non-Christian faith and invited her to attend.

This served as a wake-up call for



her. She realized she needed to delve deeper into her own Catholic faith. She began attending daily Mass again, and after a few weeks, realized how much she loved and needed her faith.

One afternoon, after a busy day at work, she wanted to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, however, the church was closed. There was a Chinese lady outside who showed her the way to the Little Sisters of the Poor chapel. This is where she met the

Mother Superior of the Home.

Mother asked her to become a regular volunteer on weekends, which she did for more than a year.

God opened her eyes to His gift of love to be shared, and gave her the means to do exactly that. She realized that her real vocation was to give back God’s love by serving the elderly.

On May 11, 1992, Sr. Marie Cecilia was accepted as an aspirant to the order of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

On July 29, 1995, she pronounced her vows and was assigned to one of

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## Little Sisters of the Poor

**\$3,300,000 IN 25 YEARS!**



We are so grateful to Dr. David Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Bronner and Harry Childers, put together a charity golf tournament. This tournament brings together supporters from around the United States, all in an effort to help the elderly poor here at Sacred Heart Residence. This year's effort raised a record \$175,000.00.

Every year, Dr. Bronner asks the Little Sisters to pray for good weather. For the most part, the tournament has enjoyed clear, or at least non-rainy conditions. Thank God!

Hundreds of Residents have thrived at Sacred Heart because of their generosity!

# Happy 104th Birthday!



*Sarah Wilder*

What an amazing lady! We are blessed to have our "Senior" senior here at Sacred Heart. Sarah is one of four centenarians at our Home!

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the infirmed units in Hong Kong.

In late 1996, she went to France, and in 2000 made her perpetual profession.

Sister Marie Cecilia remembers her first experience with the elderly after she was professed. The lady was paralyzed and even though she had a loving family, they were unable to give her the care she needed and deserved. Being able to serve God, in the person of this woman, exposed her to the joy of giving herself to another human being. This was a real source of blessings and grace for her.

For the next couple of decades, she served in the infirmaries of various Homes in the

Congregation. These included Hong Kong, Palatine, Baltimore, MD, Indianapolis and Pittsburgh.

In April 2013, she was assigned to Mobile, AL with a new mission. She was designated to be the "Begging" nun. "This is the most humbling part of my service!" she says.

"On most weekends, we travel to various Catholic parishes in a four-state area. They allow us to speak to their parishioners and 'beg' for financial support and for their prayers. This is also a great opportunity to showcase our mission, and to pray for vocations to the Little Sisters."

When asked about the best part of being a Little Sister, she answers,

"You can see the joy in our Residents, even as you see them challenged by their individual situations. I have the opportunity to praise God and pray for the benefactors who make this all possible!"



Sister Mary Frances celebrates her 70th Jubilee with her "real" sister!



Shirley Allbritten, Pam Ross and Nancy Hawkins enjoying the Mother's Day Tea Party!

Cammie Wayne after sponsoring and running in Blisters for Sisters 5K, with her Mom, Resident Ruth Petrie.



USA Campus Policeman helping 101 year-old Resident Mary Conner at the annual Easter Egg Hunt!

## The Maestros of Maintenance!

These guys perform miracles on a daily basis. With more than 41 years of experience at Sacred Heart Residence, Joe (4 years), Jarrett (7 years) and Russell (30 years) use their expertise and creativity to provide a Home to 86 Residents and 10 Little Sisters.

Joe Smiley, the supervisor, leans heavily on the specialized skills of his team. "Jarrett has tremendous carpentry skills and is our IT expert. Russell has worked on virtually every electrical device in our facility, as well as those scattered throughout the grounds."

One thing they all agree about is the generosity of our donors. Slowly, but surely, much of the infrastructure has been upgraded, as opposed to simply being patched up. This will allow us to save a lot of money over the next several years.

An example of these savings is the replacement of the lighting systems throughout the Home. Not only are these new systems dramatically lowering our operating expenses, the lighting is improved. You can already see the difference in our chapel.

In addition to maintaining almost 150,000 square feet of building, our team is a key player in making our Annual Lawn Party a success. It simply doesn't occur



without their involvement!

It's not just "fixing" things, though. They are truly a part of the family with the Residents. Joe is often seen dancing with them at parties, or using his bartending skills. Jarrett plays the guitar and can be seen entertaining them with his music. Russell is the "jack of all trades," who has seen the Home through eight terms of Mother Superiors and 30 Lawn Parties.

We appreciate their dedication!

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Thanks to all of you who attended our 150th Anniversary celebration! We are so grateful to God for the support of our benefactors over all of these years. We have been 150 years in the United States and more than 118 years in Mobile, Alabama.

Our family has been blessed by so many celebrations here at Sacred Heart Residence. Sister Mary Frances recently celebrated her 70th year as a Little Sister. This is an amazing milestone of consecrated service to our Lord Jesus through His elderly!

Although we're in the middle of summer, the activity is continuing all around us. This year will be our 48th version of the Little Sisters of the Poor Lawn Party. We will be sending more information and raffle ticket order forms around Labor Day.

I often wonder if our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan had any idea what an impact she would have when she took in that first infirm woman. She certainly had limitless faith that Jesus would provide the solution each time she reached out to Him in prayer for the needs of her beloved elderly.

She believed deeply in prayer, especially to St. Joseph, and to Our Lady. Each time she needed help, benefactors stepped forward, and young women were inspired to join her in her mission of service to God's needy.

Now we need vocations more than ever. Please encourage young women to search their hearts and consider the blessings involved in serving God as a Little Sister. Our society is living longer. There are more elderly who need help as they approach their final days.

No life vocation is easy ... none is more gratifying than that of a Little Sister!

Gratefully in prayer,  
Sister Judith, lsp

## { Save the Dates }

### 48th Annual Little Sisters of the Poor Lawn Party Sunday, October 20



### AJJ Presents Left Center Right Tournament Friday, August 30 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Tickets – \$25



## Wish List

Many of our benefactors ask if there is anything we need for our Residents...here are some of those items...Thanks for asking!

**Dinner Napkins**

**Individually wrapped soft snacks**

**Individual cups of pudding, fruit and applesauce**

**Liquid body wash**

**Mouthwash**

**Boxed tissues**

**Clorox Wipes**

**Liquid laundry soap**

**Denture tablets**

**Body lotion**

**Adult wipes**