



Sacred Heart Residence

Little Sisters of the Poor

Serving the elderly poor in Mobile since 1901



Volunteers Are Back!



Memorial Day Picnic

What Was Normal Life?

We are emerging from one of the most challenging times in the history of eldercare at Sacred Heart Residence. We still wear masks, but there are many more opportunities to see each other's faces.

Hopefully, soon we will return to normal, and the covers that hide our smiles will be relegated to the past.

Therefore, the question. "What Was Normal?"

Normal for the Little Sisters of the Poor is to wake up every morning and know that they are serving Jesus Christ by taking care of His elderly poor. It means Little Sisters praying to God for guidance and gratitude for the many friends and benefactors to their mission.

For the Residents, normal means there are people in their lives whom God has sent, so they are never alone. It means that they will never again have to worry about hunger, shelter, and medical care.

For the benefactors, normal means sharing hard-earned treasure and God's blessings with those less fortunate.

For volunteers, normal means using time and talent to contribute to the well-being of fellow human beings. It also means experiencing the blessing of giving a piece of one's heart to the elderly.

For the staff, normal means going into work each day believing that your effort makes a difference measured more by personal impact than a

paycheck.

During the pandemic, the Little Sisters awoke each day in prayer and thanksgiving for God's blessings and the Resident's and staff's safety.

The Residents spent each day in a safe, caring atmosphere, surrounded by love.

Benefactors continued to give generously from their hearts.

Volunteers gathered needed supplies throughout our community and delivered them to our front door.

Our staff showed up every day, tested and masked, dedicated to the prospect that our mission has never changed, despite the challenges.

Maybe that's what "normal" is all about!

Masae Neel – Sacred Heart's Altar Society!

Ms. Masae Neel is a devout Catholic. She was born in Japan and for many years, followed the traditions of Shinto Shrines and Buddhist temples. As she describes it, she visited Shinto shrines to celebrate happy times and Buddhist temples during sad times.

She does not consider herself a "convert" to Catholicism because she believes it is her first commitment to a specific faith.

Masae began learning about Christianity through the YMCA in Japan. She had a close friend who was a devout Lutheran, but after two years of trying, she could not persuade Masae to join her church.

Masae was still searching for the right fit for practicing her faith. She lived in a complex located ten minutes from a Protestant church in one direction and ten minutes from the Catholic church in the opposite direction.

The difference-maker came when Ms. Neel heard singing from down the hall. She asked the young woman what she was singing.

"I'm singing hymns in Latin." The beauty of her voice struck Masae. Soon, she and her sister began attending Catholic Masses. Fr. Peeters, the Belgian pastor, and Fr. Knoll, the German choir director, convinced Masae to become Catholic.

She was baptized into the Catholic Church on December 8, 1966. Her sister joined the Daughters of Charity 44 years ago.

Initially, Masae was also encouraged to become a nun. However, she met her future husband, Walter Paulus Neel, Jr., during his three-week hospital stay at Stella Maris International Hospital.



Walter, from Mobile, Alabama invited Masae to live in his hometown. They were married on November 5, 1971 and had a daughter and son. Masae became a teacher at the Montessori School in Mobile.

She had always been active in helping with the altar in Japan. In addition, she learned liturgical customs in the Catholic Church. She attended Little Flower parish for four years before spending 22 years as a parishioner at St. Dominic church.

At St. Dominic, she helped prepare the liturgy and flowers, including making banners to celebrate various feasts. She also assisted in the same manner at Our Savior parish for ten years.

Masae began volunteering at the Little Sisters of the Poor in February 1993. She became a member of the Association Jeanne Jugan in 2004.

When her husband became ill, Mother Paul Mary offered to care for him at the Home. Masae came with him in 2006. Walter passed away on December 3, 2007.

Since that time, Masae has been a true blessing for Sacred Heart Residence. Her loving care of the altar and her service as a sacristan is a loving tribute to Our Lord.

Masae said, "Living in the same building as the chapel is a blessing to me. Being allowed to help in preparing for Mass helps me keep the Eucharist as the center of my life!"

Au Revoir, Sweet Home Alabama!

By Sister Marie Cecilia

"I thank and praise God for the eight years here with y'all! Thank you so much for your charity and generosity, and for being so responsive to my call, "I PRAY, YOU PAY!"



Please know that I will keep you in my grateful prayers. My new home in Indianapolis, Indiana is not that far, so I promise you that I will carry you in my grateful heart all the way.

I count on your prayers, too, that I may do God's will wherever He calls me. May God bless y'all more and more. Thank you so much!

*Au Revoir,
Sr. Marie Cecilia de Jesus, l.s.p.*



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY!



We're Back! 50th Annual Little Sisters of the Poor Lawn Party!

**PLEASE
SAVE
THE
DATE!** **Sunday, October 17**
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.



We are thrilled to present
our legendary Lawn Party.
Our featured musical entertainment
will be Mobile Big Band Society

Of course, we will have
kid's rides and games,
delicious food, petting zoo,
pony rides, white elephant sale,
raffles & Anniversary Specials!

Contact Tommy Fulton
251-476-6335, x102
devmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It's summertime, and slowly, but surely, life is returning to some level of normalcy. We still wear masks as of this writing, but we're hoping the health authorities will allow us to remove them soon.

We have moved through a challenging period of life in the last year or so. But, truthfully, we meet challenges throughout all of our lives. What makes this time so special is the ability to deepen our faith and trust in God and realize more profoundly His loving Providence on our behalf.

We witnessed the beauty of families, friends, volunteers, benefactors, staff, and Little Sisters banding together to serve Our Lord's elderly and continue to lift up their spirits during this pandemic.

The Residents themselves were an inspiration as they helped each other and provided support to the Sisters and staff. They did this despite the severe limitations of not seeing families and friends as we worked to maintain their safety.

As we return to normalcy, we've enjoyed seeing families and friends spending time together, face-to-face. There is no substitute for the blessing of touch, which was perhaps the most significant during this past year.

Recently, during our "Big Bucks Bingo" gathering, we cherished seeing some young people helping their family members enjoy the game. We know how much that closeness means to our Residents and their loved ones.

We are looking forward to our 50th Annual Little Sisters of the Poor Lawn Party in October. We are celebrating our golden anniversary of this significant fundraiser! This will be the best sign that we're back to normal. Be aware, though, that this year's event will be anything but ordinary!

Finally, I can't thank you enough for all of your help during the pandemic. You have a special place in our hearts and have proven what we have always known. We have the best supporters in the world!

You and your families remain in our grateful hearts and prayers.

Gratefully in prayer,
Sister Judith, lsp



We're Back!

This will be the "Golden Anniversary Lawn Party!"

We'll be sending out our Mega Raffle and Regular Raffle Tickets around Labor Day. Buy your tickets early because our Mega Raffle has sold out most of the last several years.

If you have any questions,
please call Tommy Fulton at
(251) 476-6335, ext 102,

or email: devmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

*"Be kind, especially with the infirm.
Love them well... Oh yes! Be kind.
It is a great grace God is giving you.
In serving the aged, it is he himself
whom you are serving."*

—SAINT JEANNE JUGAN

Wish List

Many of our benefactors ask if there is anything we
need for our Residents...

below are some of those items.

Thank you for your generosity!

Dinner Napkins
Individually Snack Items
Liquid Body Wash
Clorox Wipes
Liquid Dish/Laundry Soap
Body Lotion
Adult Wipes
Shout/Awesome Stain Removers
Lysol Spray
Personal Care Items
Assorted Gift Cards

Please designate Little Sisters of the Poor—Mobile
on Amazon Smile!