



Sacred Heart Residence

Little Sisters of the Poor

Serving the elderly poor in Mobile since 1901



Royal Merriment at our Annual Mardi Gras Celebration

It's Mardi Gras in Mobile! The tradition of merriment and majesty is alive and well. The Residents of Sacred Heart enjoyed the festive atmosphere this year with parades, throws, beads, and lots of music.

The Activities Department again produced a first-class celebration. Thankfully, our Home has taken another step toward normalcy.

Activities Director, Tanya Haynes, served as our Mistress of Ceremonies, accompanied by music from Brian Fulmer, Music Therapist.



Photos from our festivities
(from left to right, top to bottom)
Queen-Rita McKee
King-John Simmance
Queen Rita's Train
Jester-Weezie Guillot
Grand Marshall-Briand Saba
Lady of Madonna Way-Patricia Darr
Lady of St. Ann-Betty Spotswood
Court Escorts Joe Smiley
and Tommy Fulton



We're On Schedule

Want to know where to be, and when to be there? Well, Barbara Girtley knows! She's in charge of making sure all of our staff shows up to care for our Residents.

Barbara is the Scheduler for most of the staff at Sacred Heart Residence. She proclaims, "Got the phone this weekend!" more times than not.

Fortunately, she has the enormous patience and persuasion needed to succeed in her job.

Barbara started working for the Little Sisters of the Poor part-time at our New Orleans home when she was a senior in high school. After college, she worked as a dining aide, then as a CNA. She became the receptionist and helped with scheduling and purchasing, among other duties.

When the New Orleans home closed after Hurricane Katrina, Mother Paul



invited her to work here in Mobile. At first, Barbara spent 3-4 days each week splitting time between Mobile and New Orleans. Then, after nine years, she moved permanently to Mobile.

She still misses the New Orleans home where she got her start. The folks she worked with there are still close through their own Facebook page.

Barbara supports our mission as a member of Association Jeanne Jugan.

Covid and the pandemic challenged Barbara more than anything before. But,

she embraces the challenge with great enthusiasm and empathy.

Barbara says, "When it comes to staffing, I balance the happiness of our employees with the goal of making our Residents comfortable and happy."

For her part, she believes that "you treat people the way you want to be treated." The proof is in the results. Throughout Barbara's 36 years with the Little Sisters of the Poor, she remains grateful to those who step up to help even during the most significant challenges.

Recently, one of our Residents remarked to Barbara, "You are always working for us!" Everyone here at Sacred Heart shares the same sentiment. Nobody does a better job of keeping us "on schedule" than our own Barbara Girtley.

A Life of Dedication

The Little Sisters of the Poor lost a true friend who served as an employee for more than thirty years and continued as a volunteer for another ten years.

Carlita Hendricks passed away suddenly on January 13, 2021, but her positive attitude will remain here at Sacred Heart Residence for many years to come.

Carlita worked in the activities department for decades. She often welcomed visitors at the front desk with her infectious smile and brightened the spirits of the Residents she encountered here. In addition, she drove the Residents to many out-of-town functions, shopping trips, and medical appointments.

Once she retired, Carlita was one of the most dedicated volunteers ever! The Association Jeanne Jugan will especially miss her. She could be found at virtually every event

sponsored by the AJJ.

The Annual Lawn Party will never be the same without Carlita chairing the transportation committee.

Activities director, Tanya Haynes, has many fond memories of Carlita's love of dancing. Tanya vividly describes the fun while watching Carlita and Eddie Barkhouse dance to "Boogie-Woogie-Woogie Bobby Beep!"

Most of all, Carlita loved spending time with her husband, Patrick, their three daughters, and six grandchildren. She cherished being called "Mimi."

The Residents and Little Sisters were a special part of the many families and friends Carlita touched in her life. We will miss her very much!

May she rest in the everlasting arms of God, His good and faithful servant!



The Empire Is Back

There are few things more engaging than a British accent. John Simmance, one of our newest Residents, uses his to regale us with stories of a life fully engaged.

John was born in India on July 26, 1928. His Dad served in the Indian Army as part of the British Forces. Later, his father spent time as a POW in Singapore in World War II.

John spent much of his youth traveling between India and England. When he was fifteen years old, he began what would become a life-long hobby when he received a model airplane kit from the United States.

"Other people have hobbies such as fly-fishing. Standing in cold water with my lines caught in trees didn't appeal to me!" he said.

John remembers walking home at fourteen knowing that he might see a leopard along the way. Not an everyday occurrence in London.

John recalls the "multi-use" sports venues in Himalayan India. They played tennis in the summertime and donned ice skates on those same courts after they flooded them in the winter. "I learned to ice-dance on those tennis courts!"

Eventually, John joined the British Army in Egypt. In Port Said, a particular young lady approached him to ask if he spoke French. "No," John told her.

It didn't make any difference. John was smitten by Colette! The lack of a common language in the summer of 1972 did not deter their relationship. They were married on May 30, 1973.

So, how do you carry on a relationship when you speak different languages? John explains it this way. "To learn a new language, it is best to be immersed in that culture, without other options. In our case, love was the great motivator!" That, and the use of a translation dictionary!

Before meeting John, Colette already spoke French, Italian, Greek, and Arabic.

John served as a Royal Signals Officer, laying communication cables across Egypt. They fought against saboteurs who dug up those same cables.

The British Army gave him a choice. Dedicate your life to a career in the military, spend three years at a time away from your wife, or start a new job. John chose Colette.

John's parents loved Colette. John and Colette were married for 56 years and raised two daughters and a son. Colette passed away in 2009 in John's arms.

When you talk with John, you realize that you need an entire book to record his adventures. John's model airplane designing and building hobby included earning three consecutive years as the British National Champion for the Free Flight Scale Model Aircraft. In addition, he was a mechanical engineer, a pilot, a flight instructor, and an amateur musician.

He also has that infectious British accent!



John demonstrating his baritone ukelele on his YouTube channel.



John built this manger scene using an inverted table and lots of imagination.



John taking the front seat on this Stearman Trainer biplane for his 85th birthday.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We are moving toward a more normal life one step at a time! As you see on this issue's front page, Mardi Gras is back, and our Residents celebrated fully.



When you receive this newsletter, we will be in the midst of Lent. Yet, our thoughts and prayers lead us to contemplate the sacrifice of Jesus and His victorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I think of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our foundress, and the travails she faced as she worked to improve the lives of the downtrodden and infirm of her time. Yet, she met each challenge with prayer and faith. You have helped us do the same during the last few years of Covid challenges.

In union with our Resurrected Lord, this Easter reminds us that we also rise from these difficult times with hope and gratitude.

We will continue to face adversity, even after the pandemic subsides. However, our faith in God, and your dedication to our mission, help our elderly poor receive blessing after blessing because of your goodness.

While we are fully open, we still require masks and limit visits to those over 18 years old. I pray that we will be able to remove those limitations as soon as we know our Residents are safe.

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Finally, we celebrate the Easter season and the joy of knowing that we are truly a Redeemed people because of God's mercy and Resurrected love.

Gratefully in prayer,

Mother Judith, Lsp

All Dogs Go To Heaven Rest In Peace, Muffin

Everyone who includes a pet as a cherished part of their life appreciates the value of that relationship.

Muffin became a member of our family here at Sacred Heart Residence shortly after Hurricane Katrina closed our New Orleans Little Sisters home.

Since 2005, Muffin has provided loving companionship to Residents, Little Sisters, and countless visitors here in Mobile.

If there is one thing that unites humans from every generation, it's the comfort that comes from holding or petting God's furry gifts.

We will surely miss Muffin, but cherish the memories!



“To be a good Little Sister of the Poor, one must love God and the poor a great deal, and forget oneself.”

JEANNE JUGAN

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 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

Would you please designate Little Sisters of the Poor—Mobile on Amazon Smile!