



Sacred Heart Residence

Little Sisters of the Poor

Serving the elderly poor in Mobile since 1901



Joy in a Life's Work

The Little Sisters of the Poor welcomed Mother General María and her vicar, Mother Assistant Joseph Christine, to the northeastern United States shortly after Easter.

One of the primary purposes of their visit was to launch a national Vocations Team, which is made up of Little Sisters from around the country who are experienced in the accompaniment of the young.

All of us involved in the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor understand the need for this effort. I went to the Little Sisters website: littlesistersofthepoor.org, to contemplate what makes a young lady desire this vocation.

The following remarks came from women who had answered the call:

"I realized how big the Church was, and I wanted to be a part of it."

"And I always thought that maybe God was calling me to a religious vocation. It wasn't something I ever actively pursued. I was sort of scared about the whole thing."

"And then, when I went to the Home, my experience there just confirmed that the Little Sisters was where He was calling me. I felt at home!"

"I thought, 'Oh, maybe I'm being called to religious life.' My grandfather used to tease me that I would be a Sister one day, and I said, 'Oh no!' I really had no interest in becoming a religious. As time progressed, I really fell in love with the congregation, you could say."

"It was the joy in the Sisters that really attracted me at first and I could see it was the joy that was found in belonging to God."

"And I thought to myself, whatever



it is that people in society are racing around looking for, frantically trying to grasp, the Sisters, in their capacity, they have it, and I wanted it!"

"The day I made my final profession, I was overjoyed that now I would finally belong to the Lord forever. No more turning back, now I was His. And my family was there and they were very supportive. Proud to have their daughter as a Little Sister!"

As the Development Director here in Mobile, I wanted to give a perspective of the Little Sisters as someone who has worked alongside these women for the last eight years. I am privileged to see first-hand the beauty of their commitment to caring for the elderly poor.

We live in a world that constantly seeks immediate gratification. The idea that our young people would dedicate the rest of their lives to the care of others is rare today.

But here's the truth. Women, and men, for that matter, spend their entire lives searching for happiness. If you're

not happy, you want to be able to "pivot" and search for something else that might satisfy your hunger.

When they do pray, these people seem to say, "God, give me happiness, and then I'll be able to make other people happy." How's that working for them?

The life of a Little Sister of the Poor is not easy. But one word you hear often is "joy." These women genuinely see the face of Jesus in each of their Residents. Their foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, said, "Making the elderly happy – that is what counts!"

During these past years of my association here at Sacred Heart Residence, one theme comes through clearly from the elderly here. The sense of gratitude for the care of the Little Sisters is heartfelt.

If you, or any young lady you know, would like to learn more about serving God as a Little Sister of the Poor, contact our Home and ask!

After all, is there any other vocation that offers the opportunity to see the face of Jesus daily? Think about it...

Welcome Mother Provincial Julie



Welcomed by Azalea Trail Maid



King Cake Presentation



Welcome from Jester Weezie



Pressure Time, Tide or Tigers

What a pleasure to welcome our new Mother Provincial Julie. She is a Kentucky native who presides over the Chicago province, of which our Home is now a part. (Oddly enough, our two most recent Mother Superiors also hail from the bluegrass state.)

Mother Julie had never been to Mobile, so we gave her the "Chamber of Commerce" view of our community.

We found a vintage song that set just the right tone for her welcome. "Mobile is Great!" was followed by a video of some highlights of our port city.

Mobile is famous for our history and especially, our entertainment. Rosia and Brian from Activities put together a spirited show featuring customized music and a symphony of Residents. Thanks to Wanda Parker, Sarah Lightbourne, Cassie Franklin, Vada Griffith, and John Simmance for the musical support.

Employees Ginger Lyndall and Lisa Cox added two beautiful vocal performances.

There were some tense moments, however. Mother Julie was presented

with the traditional "choice" between Alabama and Auburn fandom. After careful consideration, she recommitted her loyalty to the Kentucky Wildcats.

Mother Julie offered gracious remarks, after which mayhem began with a second-line procession and presentations from King Briand Saba, Queen Mary Smith, Lady in Waiting Nannee Grove, Grand Marshall John Simmance, and Jester Weezie Guillot.

As we say during the days of merriment and misrule: *Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!*

JOURNEY TO HOME

Pat Darr has been a traveler for most of her life. She grew up in Great Neck, NY, about one hour from New York City.



"We took the train to the City, and for three dollars, we could listen to Frank Sinatra, Glenn Miller, and Tommy Dorsey," Pat says.

Pat was a United Nations and Life Magazine secretary during World War II. During this stint, she got the opportunity to meet Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, and Cary Grant. Her future husband was fighting in Germany in the Battle of the Bulge.

"Bill and I got married in 1947 in 30 inches of snow. We had to dig our way out to the street. There weren't many people at the church, but our reception was crowded," said Pat. "Bill and I moved to Denver, Colorado, where Bill went to Regis College. Students using their VA benefits had filled all the spots in the East.

"Later, we moved to Boston, where Bill eventually earned a master's degree in chemistry," she continued.

"We moved to Wilmington, Delaware, where Bill worked for a large chemical company that serviced the paper industry. Our ties to Scott Paper and International Paper companies led to ten more moves."

Pat and Bill raised four children, Pete, Maureen, Linda, and Mimi. They lived in Milwaukee, Atlanta, and Jacksonville, Florida. After more

stops in Atlanta and Mobile, Bill retired.

Now it was time to decide on a permanent address. Pat says she told Bill, "I'm going to Mobile, and I hope you come with me." He did!

Her husband passed away about nine years ago. A friend told Pat about the waiting list at Little Sisters of the Poor. It took eight years, but she is grateful for the opportunity to live at Sacred Heart Residence.

"It feels like home, and not just because of the wonderful Little Sisters." She loves the nurses, aides, and the rest of the staff. (Note: As we were doing this interview, Moody from housekeeping came by. Pat says to me that he's one of the best!) Pat loves the activities, especially bingo.

Finally, she says, "I wake up every day and thank God for Mother Judith and everyone who takes care of me."

Finding a home at our Home

In today's work environment, finding someone who has stayed with the same company for more than five years is often difficult. Everyone associated with Sacred Heart Residence knows how blessed we are to have Karen Richardson with us for almost forty years as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)!

Karen has served several Mothers, dozens of Little Sisters, and scores of Residents. After attending Coastal Training Institute, she was hired by the Little Sisters in December, 1983.

Taking care of our Residents comes naturally to Karen. She feels as though she's taking care of her own family.

Maybe one of Karen's most significant challenges came in her early years here. "I became so close to the Residents that I was heartbroken when they passed away."

When asked about some of her favorite Residents, she says, "I have cared for so many over the years, I can't pick a favorite. But, I have very fond memories of Aggie."

Aggie once told her, "If I had a million dollars, I'd hire you to take care of me!" Karen often told Aggie, "I can't wait for you to get your million dollars."

Although Karen is not Catholic, she encountered nuns as a young girl at St. Peter Claver grade school. She says, "The Sisters looked like angels to me. I was always in awe of them. They still seem that way to me today."

She fondly remembers Sister Veronica, one of her



supervisors. She was a lot of fun and often danced around as she tended to her mission.

Karen has no children, but has been part of countless families. Some of the daughters of former Residents have become Residents themselves. She has often comforted families as their loved ones passed on to heaven.

For almost forty years, Karen has rarely called off. Why would she? After all, Sacred Heart is her home also.

Her secret to success is expressed in her simple statement, "Treat the Residents like you would treat your own parents!" Thank you, Karen! You are definitely our angel!

Farewell to Father Tony

Father Antony Kadavil is going home to India. He has served two stints as Chaplain at Sacred Heart Residence and will be missed after his long-deserved retirement.

Father Tony faithfully served the Residents with Mass and the sacraments from 2003 to 2004, and then again since mid 2018.

Father's "second love" is botany, a science he studied during his college years. We have seen his work in our gardens as he nurtured everything from roses to grapes. Some of his creations will no doubt be around for years.

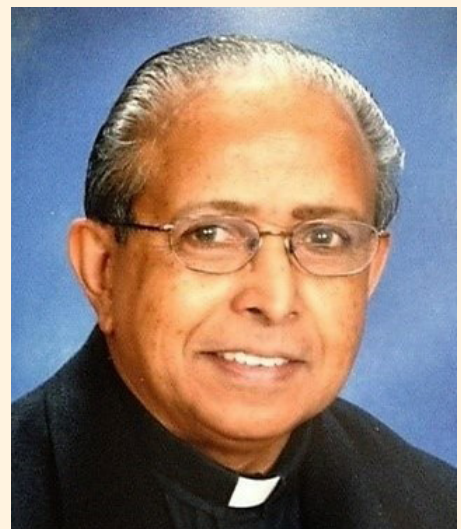
Fr. Tony's impact has certainly

been felt beyond our Home, however. He continues to contribute his homilies to priests and deacons throughout the world. For many years, Vatican Radio featured Fr. Tony's work on their website. With each submission, he includes various anecdotes along with topic appropriate jokes.

You can enjoy reading his wonderful reflections online at his personal website. <http://frtonyshomilies.com>.

We will miss Fr. Tony and wish him the very best as he celebrates his family and friends back in India.

God Bless You, Father Tony!



MOTHER'S MESSAGE

In June our Home had the pleasure of hosting Mother Provincial Julie Marie on her first visit to Mobile since our Home was incorporated into the Chicago Province. She was grateful for the "Southern Hospitality," even though she's technically from Lexington, KY, which some might consider the South.



Following our recent General Chapter, an international meeting of Little Sisters which takes place every six years, we have been given a special mission to increase our efforts to promote vocations to our Congregation. You can read more about this in our cover story.

We also have some changes in our Home. Sister Christina has been transferred to our Chicago Home and Sister Marcel Joseph, a former superior here, returns as supervisor of Madonna Way.

Father Tony returned to India after serving twice as our chaplain at Sacred Heart. When he left, he was the oldest actively serving priest in our diocese. We are very grateful for his service and remember him in our grateful prayers!

Father Tom Weise is our new chaplain. We look forward to having him here with us! Father Tom has long been associated with our Home as his mother, Marie, lived with us for several years until her death in 1998.

We continue to move forward on our plans for the 17 new apartments, a dining room on Madonna Way unit, and a coffee/snack bar which will be centrally located to be available to all our Residents, families, and others in the Home.

Our architects are now working on the construction plans. We look forward to a concrete date for beginning this project.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this moment to thank you for supporting our mission. The past few years have been challenging, but successful, thanks to your generosity and support on behalf of our Residents!

Finally, we pray for vocations to our Congregation of Little Sisters of the Poor. We live a life of sacrifice, but also of immense joy, as we have the privilege of living with and serving God's elderly poor. Don't hesitate to talk about our lives, especially to young women who might be discerning a religious vocation. The rewards of our life are truly abundant!

Gratefully in prayer,
Mother Judith, lsp

SAVE THE DATE

52ND ANNUAL LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR LAWN PARTY

Sunday, October 15
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



We're excited to announce "Three On a String" as our featured entertainment! Our raffle tickets will be going out shortly after Labor Day. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Tommy Fulton at (251) 476-6335, or email at devmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



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

Don't forget to designate
Little Sisters of the Poor – Mobile
on Amazon Smile!