



Merry Christmas from Sacred Heart Residence *Little Sisters of the Poor*

Serving the elderly poor in Mobile since 1901

What Does Christmas Mean to Me?

Christmas is such a special time in all of our lives. Our Residents have a lifetime of memories of this blessed season. We asked several of them to share those thoughts with us.

John Simmance - "In India, Christmas is celebrated by Hindus and Muslims, as well as Christians. The name for Christmas is 'Burra Din' which means 'Big Day.' A feature of Burra Din is music provided by 'poo poo' bands. This is a collection of Indians playing European instruments. The servants would bring little toys from the bazaar which were usually made of clay in the shape of animals and people."

Weezie Guillot - "Christmas is all about the birth of Jesus. My favorite Christmas activity is watching the children open their presents! I just love it!"

Jack Roach - "Christmas means the Birthday of Jesus. My favorite memory during my childhood was getting a bicycle when I was about ten years old."

Vivian Clark - "Christmas means happy times to me. We grew up very religious. One year, when I was about 16, my Dad got me a horse!"

Anne Tucker - "It's Christ's birthday. I believe it's more of a spiritual day than anything else. My Father and my husband always made every Christmas special to me!"





RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jim and Mary O'Donnell

Jim and Mary met as summertime neighbors spent at their parents' places on Mobile Bay. Sixty-four years ago, they began their marriage together.

Jim was a 1957 graduate of McGill Institute. Mary graduated from the Convent of Mercy in 1958. Their union has produced three daughters, three sons, eighteen grandchildren, and twenty-one great grandchildren.

Jim spent his career as a computer expert in several capacities. He spent much of his time working at Brookley Air Force Base in support of F-105 jets.

Companies desired people with computer skills. Jim worked with Merchants Bank, Courtaulds, Ingalls, and Ryan Walsh. Jim and other computer experts were called "Educated Gypsies."

You can imagine how fulfilling Mary's career as a Mother

and homemaker was as they raised their six children.

Both Mary and Jim cherished their experiences traveling overseas to places like Rome, Ireland, Israel, and cruising the Gulf of Mexico. They also drove their beloved motorhome throughout the United States.

In Israel, Mary had the opportunity to carry a cross with three others along the path Jesus walked as he carried his cross. She also got to ride a camel on that trip.

They began living at Sacred Heart Residence in April, 2022. Jim's mother, Nellie O'Donnell, spent her final days as a Resident here.

They live in a converted parlor and are very grateful for the care they've received. Their 17-year old dachshund, Murphy, keeps them company. Even with increasing health challenges, they are happy!

Another Successful Lawn Party!

Every year it gets better! Thanks to Three On A String, Ryan Balthrop and Brian Fulmer, the entertainment was amazing! The Little Sisters, the Residents, our Volunteers and the Staff pitched in for a beautiful Sunday of family fun and fiscal success. We're already planning for the 53rd Annual Little Sisters of the Poor Lawn Party.

Save the Date! Next year's Lawn Party will be October 20, 2024.
(Thanks to Vernon Fowlkes for photo contribution)



MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Here at Sacred Heart Residence we cherish holidays with family and friends. Christmas is, perhaps, the most special of those times.



Our season starts at Thanksgiving as we feel gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon us by Our Lord, and you, our supporters.

As you can see in this issue, our Residents remember the times of their lives that Christmas represents. It is also the time in which we recall the past year. This year is no exception.

Because of you, we had one of the most successful Lawn Parties ever. We're not so far removed from the pandemic challenges to appreciate that this is only the second "outdoor" Lawn Party since the lockdown.

We have been working diligently toward constructing the new apartments, which will occupy the west wing of our current building. We expect to see the work taking place when you receive this newsletter.

Your continued support will allow us to serve older people in ways not possible in the past because of the future construction of our 17 new independent apartments for those elderly of low income.

At this time of year, we also look back at those Residents, a genuine part of our family, who have left us during the year and entered their eternal home.

In the last year, two of our Little Sisters, Sr. Clare McDonough and Sr. Anne Joseph Doyle, have also made their final journey to the Kingdom of the Father. They served God faithfully for a combined total of 130 years.

Thank you again for always being there to support our mission!

Gratefully in prayer,
Mother Judith, lsp

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 Packaged
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



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

SAINT JEANNE JUGAN

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY FATHER TOM WEISE

I've made it! I'm in the heart of Catholicism! I know that because I just won 30 bucks at Bingo. As the new Chaplain at Sacred Heart Residence, I appreciate the thrill of competition!

Not only do I have a home, but my beloved 1996 Buick station wagon, "Bessie," has her own designated parking spot!

I celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. each day. After Mass, we enjoy a delicious lunch, which is considered the main meal of the day by most of us. We have a dietician and an excellent kitchen staff who serve three nutritious meals each day. I gained 5 pounds in just one month!

I turned 87 in October, which is probably the average age here. I especially enjoy the activities, including exercise, music therapy, and field trips to famous Mobile seafood restaurants.

In 1998, my dear Mother passed away at this Little Sisters of the Poor Home. She was 96 years old. I like it here, mainly because I believe this place is close to Jesus and Jesus to this place.

God Bless!
Father Tom

