



Joyfully serving
the elderly
poor in Mobile
since 1901

The Gift of Poverty

Jeanne Jugan's Christmas Tree

If Jeanne Jugan had a Christmas tree, what would we have found under it?

In the midst of this Christmas season, with its attendant shopping and merriment, it becomes easy to forget the true gift that Jeanne Jugan brought to us – **the gift of poverty**. Truly embracing the poor, making them happy and seeing Christ in every face is a gift that renews itself in the life of each Little Sister as she dedicates her life of poverty in service to the elderly poor.



If each of us could strip ourselves of the weight and burden of the material things we think we must have, we would slowly come to understand the simple gifts of Jeanne Jugan's life: there is no joy in accumulation; the gift of joy is found in simplicity.

There is no peace in wealth; there is the gift of peace in poverty. There is no love in the love of money; there is true love in the sacrifice of self to serving others.

If Jeanne Jugan had a Christmas tree, there would be nothing under it. She had no money, no toys, no brightly wrapped presents - just an overpowering love for the poor that transformed the world and brought the true gifts of Jesus Christ to generations of God's eldest children.

*"What can I give Him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him –
Give my heart."
Christine Rosetti*

Save The Date

December 8, 2014
10:30 A.M.

Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception
*The Little Sisters of the Poor
renew their vows*

December 21, 2014
2:30 P.M.

Residents' Christmas Program

February 2, 2015

World Day of
Consecrated Life

April 25, 2015

8:00 A.M. Run
Blisters for Sisters 5K and
Fun Run

Little Sisters of the Poor

Memories of Christmases Past



Virginia celebrates Christmas morning with her family.

"One of the nicest Christmases I remember was when my children were small and my husband was stationed with the Navy in Alaska. I had 5 children at the time and the oldest was 8. They were all sad that Christmas because their Daddy wasn't going to be home and I hid all their presents in our Volkswagen bus so they didn't find anything when they searched the house. On Christmas Day, my husband arranged a radio call to us so that he could wish his children a Merry Christmas. I can still hear them all yelling, 'Merry Christmas Daddy!' so that he would be able to hear them."

- Antonia Romine

"I remember waking up early Christmas morning and finding my mother and daddy putting toys under the Christmas tree. I was heartbroken because it wasn't Santa Claus. I ran back to my bed. I also remember sitting in my room playing with the new tea set I got."

- Virginia Mroccka

Decking Our Halls

Sharing talents to bring Christmas joy

When the turkey leftovers are gone and the football games are over, our thoughts turn to Christmas trees, lights and decorations. Boxes need to be unpacked and lights untangled. We want our homes to reflect the special season in bright lights and treasured ornaments. It's no different at our Sacred Heart Residence, which is home to our treasured family of elderly Residents. Thankfully, our two Christmas angels prepare for this season of joy all year and create beautiful surroundings for the enjoyment of all who share and visit our Home.

Together, volunteers Kitty Smith and Mary Kenny have almost 50 years of experience decking the halls of Sacred Heart Residence. Kitty came to Mass with a neighbor 34 years ago and has been a devoted volunteer ever since. Originally, she joined the ladies creating ceramics and even took a class to learn the process from beginning to end. Their creations were sold at the Lawn Party and throughout the year to raise funds for the Home. It wasn't long before Christmas rolled around and Kitty's incredible decorating talents were revealed. After she helped the Sisters set up 15-18 trees and hung countless

boughs of holly that year, Kitty became the official Christmas decorator! Luckily, after several Christmas seasons and lots of practice, God sent Kitty another set of willing hands. Mary Kenny's husband, a volunteer at the Home, saw Kitty's collection of donated and recycled decorations and generously offered his wife's time and talents!

The ladies stay busy all year in the "K & M Recycling Room" stripping donated wreaths, repairing, packaging and pricing ornaments and creating items to be sold at the Lawn Party. Proceeds from items sold throughout the year are used to purchase new lights to decorate the Home each year. Early in December, Mary and Kitty gear up to deck our halls – 40 to 50 wreaths are hung, 10 to 12 trees are set up throughout the home and nativity scenes are lovingly placed and decorated. Special attention is given to the chapel where our faith community gathers to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Our Home is truly blessed to be wrapped in the warmth and joy of the season shared with us in such a special way through the beauty of Kitty and Mary's Christmas creations.



Kitty and Mary's gift of beauty for our Residents to enjoy throughout the Home.

SACRED HEART RESIDENCE



Anna and her great-granddaughter at a Crow family Christmas.

"My Christmas memories can't be separated into just one year or one event. The Crow family Christmas party is our long-standing family tradition going back to 1946 when my husband and I married. I hosted the party every year and my husband was Santa Claus. When my 6 children married and had homes of their own, they all wanted turns hosting the party. 18 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren later, the party is still going strong! Everybody is there and all the little ones get a special treat from me. Last year a great-grandchild hosted and we're hoping another one takes it on this year. Over 60 years of Crow family Christmas parties is my Christmas memory."

- Anna Crow

"Christmas was always a happy time. I had 4 children and all their friends always came to our house. We always had a great big tree. The children went with their Daddy to pick it out and they decorated it too."

- Martha Greer

Spreading Christmas Cheer

Santa's elves plan Residents' holiday fun!

The Activities Department always plans a full calendar of fun for our Residents each month. But, just as it is at your house, December's calendar is filled to the brim! Santa's elves plan activities and outings galore to bring the joy of the season into our Home and into our Residents' hearts. Celebrations are plentiful and all are included.

Groups ranging from Girl Scouts to Barbershop Quartets fill our halls with laughter and the beauty of the season. There are trips to the mall for Christmas shopping and parties to wrap the gifts purchased. The Residents themselves showcase their talents in their own Nativity play for staff, family and friends. Local businesses and other organizations also reach out to us in a very special way by adopting each Resident to make sure no one is left out when it's time to open presents.

The entire Christmas season is celebrated as a family and faith community giving thanks for the greatest gift of all – the birth of our Savior in a humble stable in Bethlehem. Our gift of humble service to the elderly poor would not be possible without your support and the many ways you care for our beloved Residents. Amidst the busyness of the season, the Little Sisters, Association Jeanne Jugan members, staff, volunteers and Residents of our Home will take time to reflect on God's goodness to us each and every day. Your "presence" to us – your visits, your donations, each and every way you reach out to our elderly family - that gift will be treasured long after Christmas Day has passed. May God bless you abundantly for joining us in our mission of service to the elderly poor.



The Little Sisters and our beloved Residents want to offer a HUGE "thank you" to all of our sponsors, volunteers and all who attended to make our 43rd Annual Lawn Party on October 19th such a big success. The Lawn Party is our largest fund-raising event and for the last three years has brought in record-breaking support for our Home. We could not have done it without you! Thank you and God Bless!



Sarah Wilder modeling her festive Christmas attire.

A Message from Your Little Sisters



Dear Friends,

Greetings from all of us Little Sisters of the Poor, who pray very much for you! Just as our loving God reveals Himself to us through the coming of the Christ Child, so also does He reveal Himself to us through all of you, and we are humbly grateful. The gift of your friendship and support, the gift of your presence in our family--whether you are near or far-- is a precious treasure to us.

As we usher, during this Advent, in the Year of Consecrated Life which our Holy Father Pope Francis has proclaimed, we Little Sisters are excited about the opportunity that this special year will provide to reveal to the world the beauty of religious life, and to awaken in young men and women the desire to offer their lives in humble self-gift, after the example of our newborn Savior. Thank you for sharing our joy in this special year which is about to begin, and for being not only our cherished friends and supporters, but also ardent vocation ambassadors for us so that, through generations of Little Sisters to come, the love of the Christ Child may continue to reach and rejoice the hearts of His eldest children.

Note: Please see newsletter insert on the Year of Consecrated Life, and enjoy your wallet calendar!

Become an Angel

Make your gifts to the Little Sisters more powerful and enduring by becoming a Sustaining Angel. Our Sustaining Angel Program is a convenient and reliable way to manage your charitable giving to the Little Sisters of the Poor through ongoing monthly gifts charged to your credit card or automatically deducted from a bank account. It is a unique and carefree way to maximize your financial support of the Little Sisters' care for the elderly poor.

If you are interested in becoming a Sustaining Angel, we invite you to visit our website and click on the donate online icon and look for the Sustaining Angel giving opportunity.

www.littlesistersofthepoormobile.org



We are so appreciative of all of our generous supporters.

Special News

BLISTERS FOR SISTERS

April 25, 2015

Dust off those sneakers and get ready for a few Blisters for Sisters at our first 5K and fun run on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at Sacred Heart Residence. We will be running a certified 5K course as well as a one mile fun run.

Registration will begin at 7:00 AM with beverages and refreshments. Runners will take to the streets at 8:00 AM. All running times will be certified by a professional timer and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize medals in selected age categories will be awarded. The registration fee is \$20 in advance for adults or \$25 the day of the event and \$10 for age 16 and under or \$15 the day of the event. Fees include registration and a souvenir t-shirt as well as snacks and beverages before and after the run.

Proceeds directly benefit the elderly poor Residents of our Home. For more information, please visit littlesistersofthepoormobile.org and click the "Blisters for Sisters" icon to download your registration form or contact John Goodroe at 251-476-6335 or by email at devmobile@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

DEFICIENCY- FREE SURVEY!

Congratulations and many thanks to all those in our hospitaller family whose efforts contributed to an excellent report during our Home's annual state inspection recently. As St. Jeanne Jugan would say, "Blessed be God!"

