



MAGIS students had the opportunity to go to The Chicago International Produce Market for a morning of begging for fruits and vegetables! Pictured here with Tom Cornille, long-time benefactor.

MAGIS Midwest Comes to St. Mary's Home

In the month of July, the Little Sisters and Residents had the joy of welcoming 4 college students from Creighton, Xavier, and Saint Louis University accompanied by Father Aaron Malnick, SJ, Deacon Josef Rodriguez, SJ, and Emmanuel Arenas, SJ, for a week of service in a program called MAGIS. MAGIS, an Ignatian term is a worldwide program for youth and young adults between 18 and 30 years of age connected to the Society of Jesus. It features an event which is held during the ten days prior to any World Youth Day (WYD). It was first held in France in 1997, but it was in Germany, in 2005, that it got its name and became an official gathering, which was repeated for each of the WYD. A

few years later, in 2011, in Spain, it brought together thousands of participants from fifty different countries. MAGIS is an opportunity for Ignatian youth and young adults to reflect, share and celebrate together. It is an invitation as well to experience the presence of a shared desire, in each person's heart, for more just societies that could offer sustainable and life-giving possibilities, so what could be better than sharing time together with our elderly Residents who have given so much to our society?

The week was full of activities, outings, cleaning, gardening and moments of prayer. The highlight of the week were the times of adoration spent with our Lord, and the students were able to lead Praise

and Worship and join the Sisters for Vespers. The students also had moments to speak to the Residents one-on-one. At the end of the week it was evident that the elderly left a lasting impression on the young people of MAGIS. "There is this hope that the older generation puts on us. While being here, I could feel that our presence gave them joy. A few approached me and said how rejuvenated they felt. It was so affirming and convicting to hear that we fulfilled that expectation from our elders. We're happy to have been able to spend this time together," says Josef Rodriguez. "At the end of the week it was hard to say good-bye, but we will keep all of them in our prayers and can't wait to see them again soon!"



Fr. Gil Ostdiek with his celebration cake.



Fr. Don Craig, our Chaplain, with Fr. Gil and Brother Jim O'Brien.

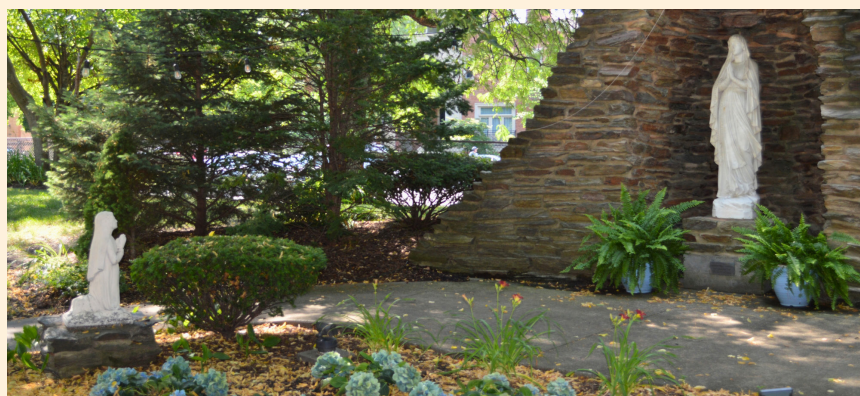
Father Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM

Who would have thought to spend their 65th anniversary of the priesthood with confetti poppers, balloons, and lobster tails? None other than the good and faithful Father Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM. Father Gil, as we all call him, had the joy of celebrating his 65th

anniversary of ordination with Little Sisters, Residents and friends on June 24. All were gathered together to watch Father enjoy a special lobster meal and listen to him reminisce about his years as a priest. He'd probably say one of the highlights was when he had the privilege of

teaching Pope Leo XIV when he was in seminary at the Catholic Theological Union. Thank you, Father Gil for your many years of service to the Church and for all that you bring to St Mary's Home.

May you have many more years ahead of you.



Gardening – it grows on you!

The Garden Walk Stops at St. Mary's Home

July 19 and 20 marked the annual Sheffield Neighborhood Garden walk and this year, our Home had the honor of being on the “map” of places people could visit to see a beautiful garden. We'd have to say we are proud of

our grounds at the Home. They are beautifully kept up by our volunteer gardeners and provide a nice place for the Residents to visit with their families, to have BBQs, and to be able to breathe fresh air in the big city!

Sisters, Residents and their families took the time to be outside during the garden walk and meet and speak with those that came in to admire the garden that is full of God's most unique plants and flowers.

Celebrating World Grandparents and Elderly Day

On Sunday July 27, Residents and their families came together to celebrate the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly.

Established in 2021 by Pope Francis, this day is celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July, to coincide with the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus.

This occasion honors the bonds between elders and youth, grandparents and grandchildren. And what better way to kick off such a sweet summer celebration of their

ohana (family) than with a Hawaiian feast!

Guests were greeted with a decorative display of photos showcasing Residents throughout their lives which had been prepared especially for the occasion.

Traditional Hawaiian music helped to get everyone in the festive mood. With mouth-watering delicacies like spam fries and Hawaiian fried rice, and a 100-pound pig donated generously by Steve Tzoumis, it was a great party.

He aha ka pā'ina! (What a party!)



THANK YOU, FRIENDS!

We did it—and it's all thanks to you!

After months of hard work, we have reached our goal of raising \$250,000 to replace our elevator! Because of your generosity, we will be able to have a new, efficient elevator that will safely transport Sisters, staff, and visitors for years to come. The construction of this project has already begun! Thank you to all who have supported our elevator project. God Bless You!



A NOTE FROM MOTHER

In this newsletter we've highlighted some wonderful events: 65 years of fidelity in the priesthood for one. Although Father Gil has retired as a professor and liturgist, he has certainly not retired as a priest. His prayerful, gentle presence is a blessing in our Home.



And the reciprocal gifts received by the young and old: our MAGIS students brought the energy and enthusiasm of their youth, as well as their sincere openness to share and learn from their elders; and our Residents shared their wit and wisdom, as well as the peace that they've acquired in a stage of life where competition and acquisition no longer matter, and where faith plays a prominent role. It was a beautiful blend that strengthened all.

The MAGIS students were duly impressed by their trip to the produce market, where each week two Little Sisters solicit donations. It is beautiful to see the generosity of the vendors, who so kindly look at our "shopping" (begging) list to see what they can offer. Mr. Cornell, seen in the picture with the students, allows us to follow him into his large refrigerated storage room where he carefully looks over his stock and chooses only the best herbs and aromatics for the soups and stews we make for the Residents. I can almost picture our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan (1792-1879) walking around that market, behind Mr. Cornell, and hear the advice that she used to give the first Little Sisters: "Make a good soup for our old people, keep them happy."

St. Jeanne Jugan would also say "Remember to pray always for our benefactors." We hope that you know how seriously we take that counsel. Each of you are in our daily, grateful prayers.

Thank you. God bless you!

Gratefully,
Mother Margaret Charles, lsp

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without the help of you,
our generous benefactors.



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JOIN THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
FOR OUR ANNUAL

CHEZ STE. MARIE

WINE TASTING

SEPT. 18 | 6-8 PM | ST. MARY'S HOME

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☐ **Yes, I'd like to attend!**

Write how many tickets you would like _____

☐ **I cannot attend, but I want to support your event
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