

"That's My House!"

Those were the words of our Holy Father Pope Leo XVI when he received the spiritual bouquet and card we sent him with a picture of Residents and Little Sisters proudly posing in front of his childhood home.

Back in July, the Residents of St. Mary's Home and Residents from our Home in St. Paul, MN, had the opportunity to go on a "Pope Tour" to see some of the places on Southside Chicago where Pope Leo grew up, lived, and taught as a young priest. The first stop was St. Rita High School. We arrived in time for a tour of the St. Rita Shrine Chapel. Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A., director of the Shrine, gave an amusing homily speaking to us about his experiences with his longtime friend Pope Leo, whom Father Tom affectionately referred to as "Father Bob."

After praying and confiding our intentions to St. Rita, we headed off to our next stop, lunch. We all went to Rosangela's pizza place and had one-of-a-kind Chicago style thin-crust pizza, provided graciously by friends of the Congregation. Rosangela's was another pizza joint frequented by our pope, and we understand why because the pizza was delicious! Our last and final stop was the childhood home of Pope Leo. This modest place, where it all began for him, truly touched all our hearts and reminded of us of the "simplicity of the little ones."

Even after we returned home, our trip didn't end that day. When Father Tom mentioned he was going to Rome to see the Holy Father, we decided to let Pope Leo know of our prayers and thoughts for him by sending a spiritual bouquet. The bouquet was made up of Hail Marys, Memorares, Acts of Kindness offered, sacrifices offered, Masses offered and rosaries prayed. It was gratifying to see the Residents sign up and want to offer their prayers and sacrifices for the pope, especially those Residents that aren't necessarily of the Roman Catholic faith or come from different faith backgrounds.

It seems that we all can relate to Pope Leo in our own unique way. He would be proud, as he longs and prays so much for a world to be united and in peace. God Bless you, Father Bob.



The Holy Father receiving our Spiritual Bouquet.



Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope with Our Neighbors

The Holy See has designated several Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church.

The Jubilee of Consecrated Life was held from Wednesday, October 8, to Thursday, October 9, 2025, and the theme was “Pilgrims of hope, on the way of peace.” This special Jubilee Year event “is born out of the desire of consecrated men and women to reflect on the urgent need for peace and to answer the call to be witnesses and prophets of hope and peace, particularly on the occasion



of the Jubilee.” So, to celebrate this, on the feast of the Guardian Angels on October 2, we had the chance

to invite the Franciscan Sisters and Brothers of the Eucharist of Chicago for an evening of good food, fellowship and Night Prayer in our backyard.

It was a beautiful evening under stringed lights and tiki torches where we really got to know one another and appreciate all that we do for the community of Chicago in its many different aspects. The night ended with Night Prayer next to our grotto to ask Mary for her intercession for the grace of perseverance for all of us especially during this Year of Jubilee of Hope.

Happy Birthday, St. Jeanne Jugan

On October 24, St. Mary’s Home was delighted to be celebrating the 233rd birthday of St. Jeanne Jugan, our Mother Foundress. The crisp fall morning gave the perfect ambiance as Residents of our Jugan Terrace apartments gathered with Sisters and staff outside our Home in front of the statue of St. Jeanne Jugan. Liz Stubits, a member of Association

Jeanne Jugan (AJJ), presented fresh, fragrant flowers that were then lovingly attached to her statue for all to see. Brother Jim O’Brien, OFM Conv, a Resident of Jugan Terrace, led us in prayer before everyone joined together to sing Happy Birthday. To conclude the ceremony, everyone was invited inside to warm up with hot coffee and fresh donuts.

The following day, the day of her birth, members of AJJ sat with Residents at lunch time to enjoy each other’s company, as well as slices of birthday cake! It was great for the Residents to get precious one on one time with people who help to take such good care of our Home. What a fun and meaningful celebration to honor our blessed Foundress!



Members of Association Jeanne Jugan gathered to present St. Jeanne Jugan’s statue with flowers.





Resident Esther Zavala singing a solo loud and proud!



Beverly, pictured left wearing a green sweater, with Residents and volunteers of her Piano Time group.

With a Smile and a Song

The power of music can make the biggest difference for anyone, but it can be seen most of all in the lives of the elderly. Music has the power to bring back memories, change moods, reduce stress, and bring folks closer together as a community. And no one knows that better than Beverly J., who enriches the lives of our Residents through music, art, and various restorative programs at our Home. In addition to her usual duties, Beverly leads the group Piano Time — a weekly sing-along group for our Residents, which has been a

favorite activity for over ten years.

From popular standards, to Broadway hits and classic American songs, there's always something for everyone to recognize and sing along to. Residents are always thrilled by the opportunity to wave a shaker or tambourine, clap along to the beat, or sing solo with a microphone to one of their favorite tunes. "I try to give everyone a solo," Beverly explains. "It makes them feel special." When working with some Residents who might be shy or might have difficulty

projecting or enunciating certain words, Beverly encourages them to keep doing their best. "I try to focus on what they can do, not what they can't do," she says. "We're just here to have fun singing!"

When asked what differences the impact of this group has had on the morale of our Residents, Beverly replies, "singing always makes them perk up! Music is so important and helpful for them in so many ways. And they just love it! They really come alive when we sing."

God Bless You, Dr. Garcia

When a physician retires, there are many things that may be experienced. The AMA suggests that there are three steps typically involved upon leaving one's profession: Letting go, dealing with emotions, and visualizing a new identity.

When Dr. Luis Garcia, our Medical Director and friend for over eight years announced his retirement, we all experienced the letting go and dealing with emotions part. Dr Garcia has a big heart, is a keen diagnostician, and leaves big shoes to fill. He has been much more than a Doctor for our Residents; he's

been a trusted friend. His kindness has promoted more healing than his prescriptions. We've seen him drop by the Home after hours to pick up a Resident's eyeglasses when that person was in the hospital and needed them, as well as stop on his way to his car to sit on a bench outside for a long conversation with a Resident who was dealing with a terminal diagnosis. His many acts of kindness have made a difference.

We thank God for the gift that Dr Garcia has been for our Home and ask God's blessings upon him and his loved ones.



A NOTE FROM MOTHER

Dear Friends,

Every season, both in our lives and in nature, holds special beauty. The crisp days of autumn and the invigorating beauty of changing leaves remind us here at St. Mary's of the respect and attention that we owe to our elders in the autumn of their lives.



We all change; we age, we face new challenges, and we travel together on this road called life. And it can be a very good trip when we are mindful of the good in each other and thankful for blessings great and small.

We were delighted to receive the photo of Pope Leo holding the card that we sent him and seeming visibly touched by the good wishes and prayers from our Residents and Sisters. That indeed was a blessing for us all because everyone in the home was involved, Christians and non-Christians alike. We likewise rejoiced when we heard that he was making an apostolic visit in Turkey and that our Home in Istanbul was on his agenda to visit on November 28. We'll keep you posted when we hear that he's coming here! We can only hope.

We sincerely thank you for your support. As always, know that the Little Sisters remember you in our grateful prayers many times each day.

God bless you.

Gratefully,

Mother Margaret Charles, lsp

Thankful. Grateful.

Blessed.

Help us provide for our Residents by donating much needed items from our wish list such as:

- **Women's deodorant**
- **Mouthwash**
- **Shampoo**
- **Toothpaste**
- **Dish soap**
- **Lotion**
- **Poise Pads**
- **Pull-Up Briefs (XL-XXL)**
- **Diclofenac**
- **Tylenol**
- **Clorox wipes**
- **Tissues**

Scan the QR code to shop our Target registry, or drop off supplies at St. Mary's Home.



Help Us Stay in Touch!

Have you recently moved, updated your email, or changed your phone number?

Let the Little Sisters of the Poor know so we can keep you informed about the happenings at St. Mary's Home.

Your support means so much—don't miss a moment!

Give the Development Office a call at **773.935.9600, x303** or email us at **dvchicago@littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org** to update your contact information.