



A Spectacular Welcome for Mother General Maria

Our Congregation is an international family with a very united spirit. This spirit permeated the Home as we welcomed Mother General Maria del Monte Auxiliadora and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine on April 25. As the only Home in the States Mother General has visited three times, we were honored to make this visit especially memorable. A cheerful welcome banner featuring our Residents greeted their arrival, setting the tone for a joyful and meaningful few days.

Mother General and Mother Joseph Christine were warmly received by the Little Sisters, our Residents and Staff, who gathered in the lobby waving Chicago flags. Words of welcome in French, English and Spanish delighted Mother General, who personally greeted each Resident. The Little Sisters then led a procession to the

chapel, where they sang the Salve Regina and entrusted the visit to the Blessed Mother and St. Jeanne Jugan.

A formal reception was held the next day. The celebration began with a beautiful Mass concelebrated by Fr. Paul Joseph Langevin, OFM, Conv. Provincial, Fr Don Craig, our chaplain and six of our priest friends. In honor of Mother General's Spanish heritage, a group of twenty

graduate students from Spain who regularly pray with us sang a rousing Spanish recessional hymn, much to her delight.

After Mass, our honored guests visited the Residents in the dining room. Residents Pamela Dronen and Mary Crocker shared heartfelt reflections on the impact of the Little Sisters on their lives, presenting flowers in gratitude. *(next page)*



A Spectacular Welcome (continued)

Mother General and Mother Assistant greeted each Resident personally and thoughtfully offered them gifts of candy for the men and lovely silk scarves from Rome for the women. Mother General also had a much appreciated meeting with staff members, expressing appreciation for their dedication and service. Many of the staff were proud to bring their children. The unity and family spirit in the Home was tangibly felt.

The celebrations continued with a festive reception in our Auditorium. The stage performance highlighted key moments in Chicago's history, including the

founding of Fort Dearborn, the Great Chicago Fire – and the arrival of the first Little Sisters during that period; the World's Columbian Exposition, and the Century of Progress Exposition – each symbolized by a star on the city's flag. A creative addition imagined a fifth star honoring Chicago's own Pope Leo XIV! The performance featured dazzling set pieces by volunteers Mark Ward and Helen Miner. Bringing to life these key moments, these pieces included a rotating Ferris wheel, a real showstopper. The celebration ended on a joyful note with a lively performance by the Briggs Sisters, who had the audience singing



and dancing along to “Sweet Home Chicago” and finally: “We Are Family.” ... And as this visit showed, we truly are.

Rooted in Faith and Gratitude

Following the joyful reception on April 26, Residents, Sisters, and staff gathered at the front entrance on April 28 for a meaningful tree-planting ceremony honoring the canonical visit of Mother General Maria and Mother Assistant Joseph Christine. In tribute to their homelands, a Silver

Birch – native to Spain – was planted for Mother Maria, and a Scots Pine – Scotland's national tree – for Mother Joseph Christine.

After a prayer led by our chaplain, Fr. Don Craig, both Mothers took part in shoveling soil and carefully planting the trees. The Sisters were

then invited to join, each adding a shovelful of earth as a personal mark on this special occasion.

These trees will serve as lasting symbols of faith, unity, and gratitude – living reminders of this blessed visit, offering beauty and shade to our Home for generations to come.





Called to the Faith

By Lily Boyer, staff member of St. Mary's Home

I am truly so blessed and grateful to have entered the Church this Easter, and I would love to thank the Little Sisters of the Poor for the inspiration and guidance on my spiritual journey!

As a child, I was never baptized and my parents were raised in different sects of Christianity, but never attended church. I was raised with minimal religion. Shortly after starting my sophomore year at DePaul University, I began working at St. Mary's Home. The whole community at St. Mary's is so special and beautiful, and to watch how the Sisters truly love and care for the Residents inspired my path to Christ.

Finding a deep sense of belonging with the Little Sisters and the Catholic community, I felt called to join the Catholic faith. In January, I began my OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes and continuous call to conversion. The Sisters were with me every step of the way and prayed for me as I journeyed through the Lenten season. I am truly fulfilled being in full communion with the Church after receiving all three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist – at the Easter Vigil at St. Giles Parish in Oak Park. I hope to emulate the vision of the Little Sisters in my continuous deepening of the Catholic faith!

Celebrating 150 Years!

Please join the Little Sisters of Chicago and Palatine in celebration of 150 years of the Little Sisters in Chicago.

Saturday, July 11 | 4:30 PM

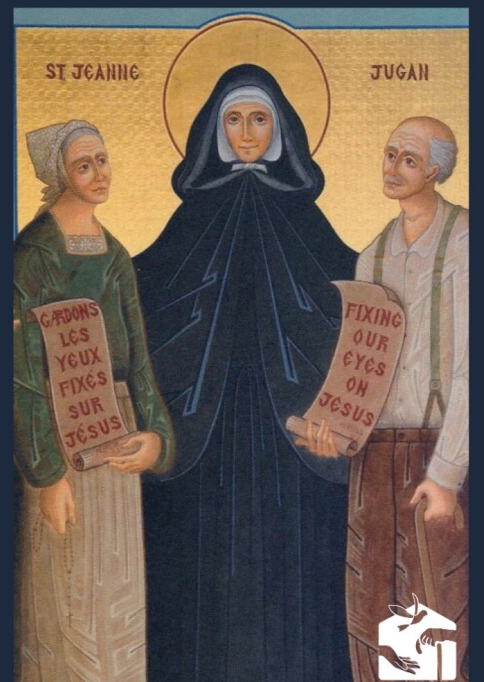
Felician Sisters Convent
Mother of Good Counsel

3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659

Mass of Thanksgiving and Reception to follow.

Kindly RSVP to

Sr. Bernadette Rose at
clchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org



A NOTE FROM MOTHER

Dear Friends,

As you can see from the previous articles and photos, Mother General's visit was truly wonderful.

A Canonical Visit is unifying and uplifting. It helps each member of a religious family to continue to strive for holiness according to their way of life. The life and vocation of the Little Sisters is simple, holy, joyful and at the same time challenging. We dedicate our lives to God and to the elderly in need. It is a wonderful vocation for those who are called.

And a beautiful part of our vocation is the involvement of so many others. We could never offer the love and care that we do without our benefactors. Our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan would say to people "if you help feed our elderly, we will care for them ... and we will always pray for you." An attitude of gratitude and humility has marked our spiritual family since the inception of our Congregation. We still go out on our daily 'begging rounds', we still rely on Divine Providence and the goodness of so many people.

We are celebrating 150 years of presence in Chicago this year. When the Little Sisters first arrived, the city was still reeling from the Great Chicago Fire. In our Foundation Book we read that one of our first benefactors was a poor working woman who wanted to donate a bed to the Sisters. She made several trips to our Home, carrying it in pieces on her back. She was the first of many good people who have supported us in so many ways.

Today, you continue to make sacrifices for our work. You may not carry a bed, but you enable us to offer comfortable beds and so much more to our elderly Residents.

Like our Little Sisters who came to Chicago 150 years ago, we share our vocation with you, we thank you for being part of the great family of St. Jeanne Jugan, and we lift you up in prayer.

Gratefully,
Mother Margaret Charles, lsp



In Honor. In Memory. In Celebration.

**Celebrate our 150 years serving
Chicago's elderly poor
with a commemorative bench
dedicated to someone you love.**

**Limited benches available.
Call 773-935-9600 for details.**



VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT

For single, Catholic women
18-39 years old

JUNE 12-14, 2026

(Beginning 6PM Friday to 2PM Sunday)

To register, contact
Sr. Bernadette Rose at
clchicago@littlesistersofthepoor.org

