



A Hymn of Human Dignity

by Sr. Constance Carolyn

For this Jubilee Year, the church has been given a beautiful, multilingual hymn entitled Pilgrims of Hope. If you participate in any Jubilee events, whether local or international, you will no doubt hear the uplifting melody and inspiring lyrics of this hymn. But Pope Francis has suggested that there is another, quite unexpected hymn at the heart of the Jubilee. In the Bull for the Holy Year, he spoke about the sick, the disabled and those experiencing weaknesses and limitations, calling for the faithful to give them “inclusive” attention. “Care given to them,” he wrote, “is a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that calls for the choral participation of society as a whole.” How can we participate in this hymn of human dignity, this song of hope?

Lucky for us, advanced musicality is not required “it’s much simpler than that. We can lend our voices to this great Jubilee choir, while obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence, by visiting our brothers and sisters in need the sick, prisoners, lonely seniors and the disabled” “in a sense making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (cf. Mt 25, 34-36).” Let’s allow Pope Francis to inspire us as we join this Jubilee choir of hope.

“Signs of hope should be shown to the sick, at home or in hospital” he wrote. “Their sufferings can be allayed by the closeness and affection of those who visit them.” Naturally, he included the elderly in his thoughts for this year. “The elderly, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope” he wrote. “Esteem for the treasure that they are, their life experiences, their accumulated wisdom and the contribution that they can still make, is incumbent on the Christian community and civil society, which are called to cooperate in strengthening the covenant between generations.” Pope Francis also encourages us to remember care givers. He said, “Gratitude should likewise be shown to all those healthcare workers who, often in precarious conditions, carry out their mission with constant care and concern for the sick and for those who are most vulnerable.”

In his message for the World Day of the Sick on

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Sr. Ann singing with Resident Joe Huyler



Resident Janette Satterlee all smiles with Sr. Bernadette.



Our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator Angelika Bravo with Resident Rita Posada at our Valentine's Day party.

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February 11, whose theme is “Hope does not disappoint (Rm 5:5), but strengthens us in times of trial,” the pope reflects on three ways in which God remains close to those who are suffering: through encounter, gift and sharing. First, the concept of encounter invites the sick to see their infirmity as an opportunity to encounter our compassionate Lord and appreciate his closeness. Second, suffering reminds us that hope comes from the Lord as a gift to be received and cultivated. Third, and this is where we can make our voices heard, places of suffering often become places of sharing and mutual enrichment.

“How often, at the bedside of the sick, do we learn to hope!” the pope

“Your journey together is a sign for everyone: ‘a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope.’

– POPE FRANCIS

writes. “How often, by our closeness to those who suffer, do we learn to have faith! How often, when we care for those in need, do we discover love! We realize that we are ‘angels’ of hope and messengers of God for one another, all of us together: whether patients, physicians, nurses, family members, friends, priests, men and

women religious, no matter where we are, whether in the family or in clinics, nursing homes, hospitals or medical centers.” Whether we are ill or we care for those who are, we have an important part to play in “singing” this year’s Jubilee hymn.

As our Holy Father said, “Your journey together is a sign for everyone: ‘a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope.’ Its strains are heard far beyond the rooms and beds of health facilities and serve to elicit in charity ‘the choral participation of society as a whole’ in a harmony capable of bringing light and warmth wherever they are most needed.”

So, let’s get started and lend our voices to this symphony through our charity to the sick and the elderly.

Our Annual Sweet Sweepstakes is here!

Ten drawings. Ten winning tickets.
Now that’s a really **SWEET SWEEPSTAKES!**

Suggested donation: \$25 for 1 ticket, \$100 for 5 tickets

No purchase is necessary to enter or win, and a donation does not increase your chance of winning.
But we do depend on your generous support!

Your entry will remain in all ten drawings unless you win, in which case it will be removed until the 10th drawing. Winners need not be present for drawings.

Scan the QR code to enter, or visit our website at
www.littlesistersofthepoorchicago.org



WARMING THE HEARTS OF ALL

On one of the coldest days a few weeks ago we decided to have a “Polar Vortex” Party for the Residents and Staff.

We celebrated the resiliency of Chicagoans, most especially our employees. Even in the bitterest cold, none of our Staff members missed work. Many come by public transportation. They wait on frigid street corners and walk blocks, and we never hear them complain. So, it was a good reason to celebrate and say thanks.

Beginning with hearty soup, followed by a savory hot meal, the Staff and Residents sat down together to proclaim we are “Chicago strong!”

Thanks to Chicago Costume, a local shop who are always ready to lend us their finest costumes, we had a magnificent polar bear, a happy penguin and none other than Olaf, the beloved snowman from the movie Frozen.

The polar bear was amazingly lifelike, and Luis from our housekeeping Department played the part very well. Usually a very quiet man, and a diligent worker, he came to life in that outfit, roaring ferociously and leaping all around, to the delight of all the Residents.

Our Maintenance staff even put the Christmas tree back up in the auditorium – for “atmosphere”! Another purchased Styrofoam “snowballs” for a very animated snowball fight.

Such simple fun for all, and so much better than complaining about the cold weather. It was also a nice way to let the staff know of our appreciation.



MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As we mentioned earlier in this newsletter, even these brisk winter days are opportunities to celebrate. Resilience, dedication, and generosity seem to be at their best when we are challenged to push ourselves a bit further.



And these characteristics abound at St Mary's Home. Staff, Residents, Sisters, Associates and Volunteers know how to pull together. And when everyone is moving in the same direction, great things can happen.

...And for us, great things are simple things: elderly Residents feeling secure and loved, frail elders knowing that they are not alone, and everyone knowing that they have a place in our family here. We are gratefully mindful that our home is supported and kept operating by you, our dedicated benefactors who enable all of this to happen.

This Jubilee Holy Year 2025, marks the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church." The concept of "Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus, chapter 25, as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."

Our elderly Residents easily identify as Pilgrims of Hope. Even if bodies sometimes ache and aging minds get a bit foggy, they show a resilience that is fueled by faith, hope and the love of God. Wherever we are in the stages of our lives, we are all pilgrims, all fellow travelers. Please know that we carry each of you in the heart of our daily, grateful prayer. Thank you for supporting and accompanying us on this beautiful pilgrimage of hope.

God bless you.
Mother Margaret Charles

Save the Date!

Sweet Sweepstakes: March 7 - May 9

Ten weekly drawings to win \$500 or the Grand Prize of \$5,000!



Habits on the Green: Monday, June 9

Our much-anticipated annual golf classic returns to Midlothian Country Club.



Chez Ste. Marie- A Taste of France: Thursday, September 18

Our ever-popular wine tasting soirée beckons you to St. Mary's Home.



HELP LIFT US UP!

Donate now to help us install a new elevator!

Our 50-year old elevator, original to the building, has served St. Mary's Home for decades. This elevator is an important means of transportation for anyone in our home, but is essential for our staff, visitors, and Sisters, especially those individuals of limited mobility.

Now it's broken and beyond all practical repair.

We know it's a heavy lift, but *we need to raise \$250,000 to install a new and efficient elevator.*

Please consider helping to meet this *urgent need!* Donations at all levels can help us reach this ambitious goal.

