



When Heaven Touches Earth

A Place Where Miracles Happen

Fifteen years ago, St. Joseph nudged me through the doors of St. Joseph's Home. I honestly didn't think I was a good fit for the Development job. However, the Little Sisters had trust in me. I fell in love with the St. Joseph Home Family and tried my best to do everything I could to help.

It soon became apparent that this was a very special place where miracles often happen. It was hard not to be continually amazed as I witnessed the Lord and St. Joseph, blessing the Little Sisters and Residents with answers to their needs.

There are so many stories. Once a Little Sister came from the kitchen to tell me that we needed soft white bread. Within an hour I received a call from a local grocer saying that he had a truckload of white bread that he couldn't use and would we like it. Another time a Resident was close to tears as she searched for a box of tissues, only to be met at the front door by a young man who brought a pallet of tissues, collected for a Scout project.

Once at our golf outing as a mass of dangerous storms headed directly toward us, Mother called home, asking the Sisters there to pray. Like the Red Sea, the storm parted and the bad weather went north and south around us.

Our Family is a powerhouse of prayer. I have



seen and heard from many people who have asked for prayers and/or have visited our chapel. They tell stories of how their prayers have been answered, when the Residents and Little Sisters pray for their intentions.

Every day, I see the love and appreciation on the faces of our Residents. Many who were so hesitant to move in, now freely tell us, that they couldn't imagine living any other place.

The greatest miracles I have been privileged to witness, are those that happen at the bedside of a Resident who is approaching eternal life. It is a sacred time when heaven touches earth. Wounds have been healed. Families have reconciled. Faith has been restored. And, at the holy moment when the Lord reaches down and takes a Resident into His arms, the presence of the Holy



Spirit is so strong that I could barely breathe.

I am grateful and touched by the kindness our friends and benefactors. As one who has counted the pennies every day, I can honestly tell you that without your prayers and financial support, we would not be here. You are a part of the miracles here. Please know you are cherished and loved!

As I ride into the retirement sunset, I know in my heart that I will always be a part of this special family, and for that I am eternally grateful. I will carry each of you in my heart and in my prayers. It has truly been a privilege to be so close to this intersection of Heaven and Earth.

Diana Olson is our retiring Development Director, pictured above with resident Mary Ann Vacek and other staff members.

MEET PAT



Have you ever visited Mackinac Island, Michigan? Our Resident, Patricia Pistone shared that Mackinac Island was her favorite vacation spot so much that she her husband traveled there annually for 22 years! “We made lots of friends while visiting the Island that we had to return every year!” However, there was one memorable trip Pat took in 1990 to Washington D.C. when she met First Lady Barbara Bush!

Patricia Pistone grew up in Elmwood Park, Illinois. She was married to Sam Pistone for 53 years. Together they lived in Des Plaines with their one son and four daughters. She has six grandchildren. More than anything, Pat enjoys being with her family.

Pat’s love for others is why she has a smile for everyone. It is no wonder that her visits to Mackinac Island were all about her new friends. And now, as a part of our St. Joseph’s Home Family, it is again, all about her new friends!



Pat (right) will always remember her 1990 trip to Washington D.C. and meeting Barbara Bush.

"Jesus is waiting for you...

... in the chapel." Go and find Him when your strength and patience are giving out, when you feel lonely and helpless. Say to Him: ‘You know well what is happening, my dear Jesus. I have only you. Come to my aid ...’ And then go your way. And don’t worry about knowing how you are going to manage. It is enough to have told our good Lord. He has an excellent memory.”

These words of St. Jeanne Jugan speak of the place that is truly the heart of St. Joseph’s home – our chapel. Our most important Resident can always be found there, although He is not listed in our daily census. The tabernacle of the chapel holds the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. His presence radiates throughout the home, touching the lives of the Residents, staff, Little Sisters, and all those who visit.

Little Sisters and Residents go to the chapel to visit to Our Lord throughout the day, and staff members often stop by the chapel before beginning their shift. The Mass is the highlight of each day, and on four evenings each week, all are invited for a half-hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer with the Little Sisters. We asked some of our Residents for their reflections on the Eucharist.

Brother Martin, a conventual Franciscan friar, says “Jesus wants to love us so much, and He is ready to forgive us whatever we might have done to offend him. So I would

“**Jesus wants to love us so much, and He is ready to forgive us whatever we might have done to offend him.**”

encourage everyone to make visits to the Eucharist...give it all the attention you can and you will never be sorry.”

Veronica attends daily Mass in the chapel and often joins the Little Sisters for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer. “Not only do I go to ask God for something,” she said, “but I go to thank Him every day for what he has granted me. When I ask him for something, I know that He will take care of it, either give me strength or take care of my problem, and that gives me comfort.”

We hope these words will inspire you to spend time in the Chapel with Our Lord as well!



Sr. Paul, Br. Martin, Sr. Amy Marie and Veronica spend time with Jesus in our Chapel.

Congratulations to our Centenarians!



Lisa Moran and Andy-John Kalounos Present Margaret with a resolution honoring her.

Palatine Township honored our two Centenarians – Mary Ann (102) and Margaret (100), with a special recognition during their Monthly Board Meeting.

Mary Ann Vacek maintains an active life at our Home. She takes part in musicals, bingo and has been a Third Order Carmelite for over 50 year.

Mary Ann's best piece of advice, "When someone asks you to do something, you don't want to do, tell them - my father won't let me do that!"

Margaret Mary Iosso loves to play bingo, especially when she wins! She also enjoys singing along when Activity Aide



Margaret and Mary Ann with the Township Board and Mayor Schwantz

Br. Tom plays the keyboard.

When asked what is the secret is to her long life, Margaret replied (with her wonderful big smile), "Being healthy, happy and living right – every single day!"

During the Recognition Ceremony, Palatine Township Clerk Lisa Moran, presented a slideshow of each of our ladies' lives. Lisa read a special Township Resolution passed by the Board honoring our beautiful Centenarians. Township Supervisor, Andy-John G. Kalkounos then presented each Resolution to Margaret and Mary Ann.



Palatine Mayor, Jim Schwantz, welcomes and congratulates Margaret.

In addition, Palatine Mayor Jim Schwantz came to present a Certificate of Recognition from the Mayor and Village Council of Palatine to each of them.

Jim is a former NFL Linebacker for the Chicago Bears, San Francisco 49ers and Dallas Cowboys – where he was a part of the 1995 Super Bowl Championship Team. Jim brought along his Super Bowl Ring to let the ladies try it on for size.

The evening ended with chocolate cake and coffee for all. Congratulations Mary Ann and Margaret on lives well lived.

May you have many more, with the Little Sisters of the Poor!

Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

Registration is now open for our Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing on Monday, September 16th at The Club at Wynstone in North Barrington, IL. *St. Joseph is in charge of the weather and he always comes through for us.* Don't wait too long, the last three year's events were a sell out!

Registration begins at 10:30. The driving range and locker rooms will be available for our guests. Be sure to try your luck at the "Putt Against the Sister" contest.

A hot-off the grill lunch will be served until the noon shotgun start. Beverage carts will be roaming the course during the day to provide complimentary refreshments. After golf, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner, will be served on the beautiful patio overlooking the course. Our winners will be presented with our very popular fresh baked banana bread!

Your support of this event will help us to provide a loving



home and quality care for our elderly Residents. Find more information on registrations, sponsorships and/or advertisements, on our website, call 847-358-5700 or email dvpalatine@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

MOTHER MERCY'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

We hope you all had a joyful Easter!

We were blessed to have Bishop Jeffrey Grob and Bishop Mark Bartosic preside over the Liturgy for the Easter Triduum. We extend a special thanks to Leider Greenhouses, Pesche's Garden Center, and the Knights of Columbus at Holy Family Parish for helping us with Easter flowers for our chapel. Thanks also to the students of St. Theresa School, who did a collection of Easter candy and organized a fundraiser for us, and we were able to make Easter Baskets for each of the residents!

Thank you for joining us at our Amazing Grace Gala – it was a great success! We were happy to meet you and see everyone enjoying the dinner and great music! Thank you also to those who supported the event even though you were unable to attend.

May, June, and July will be special months for the Little Sisters and Residents. We will honor the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout the month of May with a "May Crowning," joyful hymns to Our Lady, and the Rosary.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi in June, we will meet a procession of the Blessed Sacrament from St. Theresa Parish that will pass by our home. In July, some Little Sisters will travel to Indianapolis to participate in the Eucharistic Congress taking place there.

We would like to invite you to join us for our next Swing and a Prayer Golf outing, coming up on September 16th at the Club at Wynstone. The event has sold out in recent years, so please register early to enjoy a challenging round of Golf and great company!

St. Mercy

AMAZING GRACE GALA 2024



Thirty years ago, a group of our friends got together to hold a fundraiser to help provide an additional source of income for us. All these years later, the Amazing Grace Gala continues to be our largest fundraiser. The old saying 'it takes a village' could not be truer when it comes to the planning, preparation and execution of this event!

Many thanks to our 'village' who supported our Amazing Grace Gala by attending, volunteering, through your financial gifts and prayers. It was a delightful evening that raised much needed funds for our general operating expenses.

We open our doors and share our home for the needy elderly, but it is only through your generosity that we can continue. Your support helps us to improve the quality of their lives, protecting their dignity and self-esteem.

Congratulations to our Amazing Grace Sweepstakes winners:

Mr. Bob Lawless - \$5,000, Ms. Nicole Moore - \$1,000 and Mr. Mike Kent - \$500.

SAVE THE DATE

▣ Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

*Monday, Sept. 16, 2024
The Club at Wynstone
North Barrington, IL*

▣ #GivingTuesday *December 3, 2024*

MISSION

Continuing the work of St. Jeanne Jugan, our mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as a family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.