



Peace Be With You

ST. JOSEPH'S IS A HOME WHERE PEACE IS LIVED

"Peace be with you."

These simple words, spoken by the Risen Christ and echoed by our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, are more than a greeting, they are a gift. Peace is not merely the absence of noise, conflict, or worry. True peace is the presence of Christ dwelling among us, steady and faithful, even in the midst of a busy and broken world.

At St. Joseph's Home, peace is not something we speak about only on special days. It is something we live quietly, patiently, and together. You can see it in the gentle care offered by a nurse in the early morning hours, in the familiar rhythm of Residents gathering for prayer, and in the calm assurance that comes from knowing one is safe, valued, and loved.

Peace lives here in small but powerful ways. It is found in forgiveness freely given, in a kind word spoken at just the right moment, and in the hospitality that welcomes every person as Christ Himself. Our Home is filled with many routines, shared meals, daily prayers, simple laughter, yet each one becomes an opportunity to cultivate peace in the heart.

In a world that often feels loud, divided, and hurried, St. Joseph's Home stands as a quiet witness to something different. Here, peace is practiced one meal at a time, one

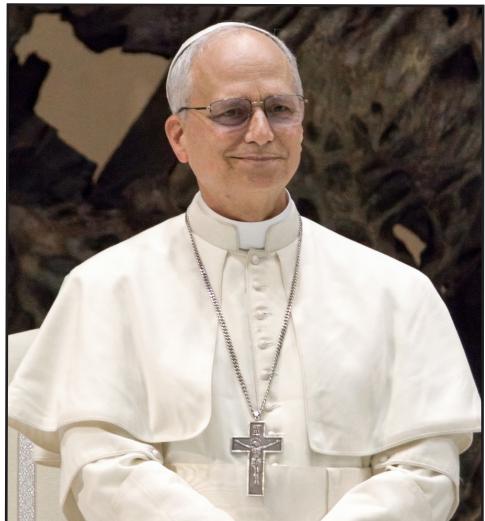
prayer at a time, one act of kindness at a time. It is nurtured through community, sustained by faith, and strengthened through love.

Pope Leo reminds us that peace is not fragile when it is rooted in Christ. It is "unarmed and disarming", humble, gentle, and enduring. That peace continues to grow within these walls through the daily lives of our Residents, Sisters, staff, and friends.

As spring brings new life and renewal, may we all be reminded that peace does not begin out in the world, it begins in the heart, and it grows wherever Christ is welcomed.



An Unarmed Peace: Choosing Gentleness



Pictured is our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV

In his message for the 59th World Day of Peace, Pope Leo XIV speaks of a peace that is “unarmed and disarming.” A peace not built on force or control,

but on humility, love, and trust in God. It is the peace of Christ, who chose gentleness over power and compassion over fear.

This kind of peace is lived every day at St. Joseph’s Home.

Here, peace shows itself not in grand gestures, but in quiet faithfulness. A nurse lowers her voice during a difficult moment. A Sister sits patiently beside a Resident who needs comfort rather than answers. A staff member chooses understanding instead of frustration. These simple choices reflect a deeper truth: peace grows when love leads.

Pope Leo reminds us that peace begins within. It is something we receive from Christ and then offer to others through our actions. At the Home, this peace shapes how we care for one another with respect for each

person’s dignity and with reverence for their life story.

In moments of challenge or uncertainty, we are told to lean not on force, but on faith. Prayer steadies anxious hearts. Listening opens paths to understanding. Compassion disarms fear. Through these daily practices, peace becomes not an ideal, but a lived reality.

The Holy Father encourages us to resist violence not only in action, but also in words and attitudes. This call must be answered through gentleness, presence, and love. These are the virtues that transform even the smallest moments into opportunities for grace.

Peace, as Pope Leo teaches, is a journey. And here, it is one we walk together.

WHERE ERLINDA FINDS HER PEACE



Erlinda (Bottom Center) with her 3 Children

Erlinda Arroyo is 93 years old, and for the past nine years, St. Joseph’s Home has been her home. Originally from Manila, Philippines, Erlinda and her husband raised their three children surrounded by faith, family, and love. Over time, her children moved to the United States and Canada for school and work, eventually growing their own families. Today, Erlinda is blessed with 3 grandchildren and five great-

grandchildren who are a constant source of joy in her life.

After the passing of her husband, Erlinda moved to the Chicago area nearly ten years ago so she could be closer to her family. She lived with her daughter for a time, but it was her son, who often attended Mass at St. Joseph’s Home, who first told her about the Little Sisters of the Poor. Not long after, Erlinda came to live here, and she has felt at peace ever since.

For Erlinda, peace is deeply rooted in her faith. She attends daily Rosary and Mass in the chapel, where she feels closest to God. “When I receive the Eucharist, I feel at peace,” she shared softly. “I thank God for everything He has given me.”

In her room, Erlinda has created a small prayer space, where she tunes in each day to the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed in the chapel. She also finds

comfort in simple moments of sharing meals with fellow Residents, talking with the Little Sisters, organizing her room, or sitting quietly by the window enjoying the view outside. “I like things in order,” she smiled.

Surrounded by prayer, care, and community, Erlinda knows she is never alone. She is close to God, close to her family, and cared for with love. And in that closeness, she has found a deep and lasting peace.



Preparing Hearts, Not Just Rooms

Peace at St. Joseph's Home is not something reserved for quiet reflection alone, it is woven into the rhythm of daily life, shaped by faith, friendship, and moments of shared joy. It can be felt most clearly in the ways our Residents come together each day.

Each morning, many Residents gather for the Rosary and Mass, filling the chapel with familiar prayers and a deep sense of comfort. For some, this daily routine is the anchor of their day. "When I'm here praying with everyone, I feel calm," one Resident shared. "I used to pray each day that one day I would live close to a Church, now there is a Chapel in my home!"

Peace continues to unfold around the dining room tables, where laughter and conversation flow as freely as the coffee. Meals are never rushed, they are moments to connect, share stories, and enjoy one another's company. As one Resident put it with a smile, "We come for the food, but we stay for the laughs."

Beyond the Home, peace is also found in moments of excitement and fun. Recently, Residents enjoyed outings with the Little Sisters to a Pentatonix concert and a Harlem Globetrotters basketball game cheering, clapping, and taking in the joy of being out together. "I never thought I'd be going to a concert again," a Resident said. "It made me feel young again being out with my girls."

The joy of togetherness was especially visible during our Christmas celebrations, when Residents gathered for parties, music, and the opening of gifts generously donated by friends of the Home. The room was filled with gratitude and surprise. "It wasn't just the gifts," one Resident shared. "It was knowing someone thought of me."

Peace also shines through creativity and song. Visiting schoolchildren join Residents for arts and crafts, filling the rooms with color, laughter, and intergenerational joy. Singing groups gather in the auditorium, lifting voices together in familiar songs that spark memories and smiles.

These moments of prayer, laughter, music, and shared experiences create a life rich in peace. At St. Joseph's Home, peace is lived daily, in community, and always together.



A Magical Night with the Little Sisters of the Poor AMAZING GRACE GALA 2026

Please join us for our Amazing Grace Gala 2026 on Sunday, March 22nd, at a brand new venue, Concord Banquets in Kildeer, IL. This year, we joyfully celebrate 60 years of serving the elderly poor in Palatine, while embracing our theme of a Magical Night with the Little Sisters of the Poor.

We will enjoy a delightful evening featuring a captivating performance by magician David Ranalli, followed by music and dancing. Please see the enclosed flyer for details on registration, sponsorships, and advertising opportunities.

The Amazing Grace Gala is our largest fundraiser, and we rely on the generosity of our friends to help cover the costs of caring for our elderly Residents and maintaining a loving, dignified home for them.

Tickets for the Amazing Grace Sweepstakes are also enclosed. The drawing will be held on March 22nd at the Gala. You do not need to be present to win. Don't miss your chance to win \$500, \$1,000, or \$5,000.

More information can be found at LittleSistersofthePoorPalatine.org or by calling 847-358-5700.



R // DAVID RANALLI
MAGICIAN

MOTHER MERCY'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

The Jubilee Year of Hope has come to an end, but as our Holy Father said in his Christmas Urbi et Orbi address, "The Holy Doors will close, but Christ our hope remains with us always! He is the Door that is always open, leading us into divine life." We continue our journey as pilgrims of hope, confident that God our loving Father will provide for our needs and guide us throughout the coming year.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of our presence in Chicagoland and 60 years at our Home in Palatine. As we prepare to celebrate this milestone, we invite you to pray for vocations to the Little Sisters of the Poor, so we can continue to welcome the neediest elderly around the world for many years to come. We also invite you to join us in praying for peace, an intention dear to the heart of Pope Leo XVI. The Little Sisters and residents pray often for peace, and this is one of our Monthly Mass Intentions.

Our annual "Amazing Grace" Gala is just around the corner! We would love to have you join us March 22nd at the Concorde in Kildeer for a delicious dinner and lots of fun! Visit our website or scan the QR code in this newsletter for more information.

Thank you to all of you for your support, whether it is through financial donations, the gift of your time, or your prayers! You are in our grateful prayers and we wish you a Grace-filled New Year!

Fr. mercy

2026 AMAZING GRACE GALA

A MAGICAL NIGHT WITH THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND, 2026

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SERVING THE ELDERLY POOR IN PALATINE!

FEATURING: FOOD, DRINKS, RAFFLES, MAGICAL ENTERTAINMENT, AND MORE!

CONCORD BANQUETS

20922 N RAND RD, KILDEER, IL 60047



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR OUR 2026 AMAZING GRACE GALA OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.LITTLESISTERSOFTHEPOORPALATINE.ORG

SAVE THE DATE

■ Amazing Grace Gala

*Sunday March 22nd, 2026
Concord Banquets
Kildeer, IL*

■ Mid-Summer Organ Concert & Tour

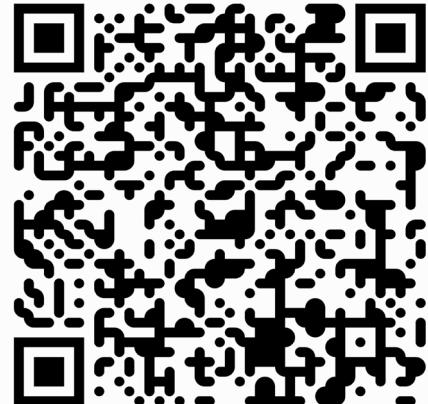
*Sunday June 14th, 2026
Sanfilippo Estates
Barrington Hills, IL*

■ Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

*Monday, Sept. 21st, 2026
The Club at Wynstone
North Barrington, IL*

NEEDED ITEMS!

Scan the QR Code below to view our Amazon Wishlist or find it on our Website!



Wishlist is updated frequently!