



Just Say Yes

Doctor receives Jeanne Jugan Award

Years ago, the Little Sisters were praying for a miracle that would pave the way for St. Jeanne Jugan's beatification. But Mother General Marie Antoinette remarked that the "real" miracle is that our Homes all over the world continue to exist, thanks to Divine Providence working through so many generous people!

One of those generous people recently received the Jeanne Jugan Award. Dr. Robert Hammer has served at St. Joseph Residence for 33 years. It all started with a phone call.

Sister Bernard du St. Sacrement and her Little Sister companion were collecting at Louisville parishes for the new St. Joseph Home that was about to open on Audubon Plaza Drive. They were spending the night at the home of the Hammer family, well-known benefactors and the Sisters said they did not have a doctor for their new Home.

Mr. Hammer immediately got on the phone with his son, a newly-minted doctor, and asked, "Son, do you think you can help the Little Sisters out?"

Within 20 minutes Dr. Robert Hammer was at the house, telling the Sisters that he would be happy to do whatever he could "to make the Residents feel better."

Just like that, he said "yes."

On March 18, the Home's auditorium was beautifully decorated for a dinner and program to celebrate the 33-year commitment of Dr. Hammer as he prepared to retire.



Among those sharing the joy of this occasion were Mrs. Andrea Hammer and their family, including Dr. Hammer's five siblings, all benefactors of the Home.

One of the siblings, Father Bill Hammer, could also be called a "physician of souls" as he would often hear confessions and celebrate Mass at the Home on the same day of the week that his brother was ministering to the physical needs!

St. Joseph's Home presents the St. Jeanne Jugan Award to individuals who embody the mission, vision and values that St. Jeanne Jugan passed on to her followers.

When Mother Mary Richard approached Dr. Hammer about accepting the award, he humbly shook his head saying, "No, no, no."

After a little coaching he softened up a bit and said, "I don't know what to say." Mother replied, "Just say yes."

And so, he did.

During her presentation, Mother Mary Richard recalled the many times the Lord must have whispered the words, "just say yes" to Dr. Hammer.

And he did respond "yes" countless times, remaining on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 33 years. His availability and respectful attitude towards the Residents, nursing staff and Little Sisters was a great comfort to all.

In accepting the award, Dr. Hammer remarked, "It is ironic to me that the Sisters should be giving me an award to thank me for having served here when in reality I should

be thanking the Sisters for blessing me with the opportunity to be the medical director of this wonderful facility ... Everyone in this room makes St. Joseph's Home the truly spectacular place that it is. For each and every one of us in this room there was a time in the past when St. Jeanne Jugan tapped you on the shoulder and said, 'Come with me, my Residents need you.' ... For me, St. Jeanne Jugan came in the form of my father."

He added, "On behalf of all the Residents here, both past, present and future, I want to thank you for just saying "yes." I take this award home tonight fully aware of the significance of what it represents and I will cherish the memories of this night and of the last 33 years for the rest of my life."

And so, thanks to the hundreds, like Dr. Hammer, who have served in our Home, this "miracle" of charity and care has been uninterrupted.

What's next for our Home? Divine Providence has been at work, sending us a new medical director ... but that story will be for the next issue!

The Albert C. Horton Staff Lounge



This newsletter highlights two longtime friends who lived out this passage from Proverbs in very different ways. Besides the three decades of friendship we have had with Dr. Robert Hammer (which we gratefully look forward to continuing) we thank the Lord for the impact that Albert (Al) C. Horton made on the lives of the Residents at St. Joseph's Home for over a half century. Caring for the well-being of the elderly poor has been a priority for both of these generous men.

Like his father before him, (Albert Horton Sr., founder of The Horton Fruit Company), Al continued the tradition of generosity toward the Little Sisters and their Residents when he took over the family business in 1979. Every Tuesday, Al would meet the collecting Little Sisters on the loading dock, and, after spending

a few minutes "catching up," he would review their list and have the requested fruits and vegetables loaded into the van. His donation ensured that the Residents at St. Joseph's would have the quality food they needed to thrive. In addition, Al and his wife Barbie

supported the work of the Little Sisters with generous donations.

Last September, God took his good and faithful servant, Al, home. We are grateful that his son-in-law Jackson has continued his father's generous offerings. In addition, Barbie directed that donations in Al's memory be directed to our Home. In March, the Little

Sisters dedicated the Albert C. Horton Staff Lounge to memorialize this wonderful friendship. Barbie, Al's bride of 54 years, was present to cut the ribbon as the grateful staff applauded her enthusiastically.

"The generous will be blessed, for they share their food with the poor"

– Proverbs 22:9

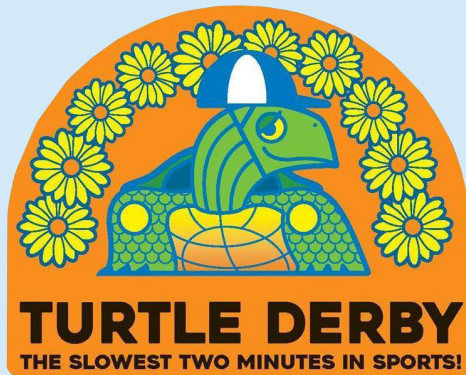
Showing the Love in February

The Little Sisters, Residents, and staff found several ways to share and "show the love" in February. They danced the afternoon away during our annual Valentine's Dance and the Residents passed out roses to the staff on Valentine's Day. They also celebrated history and heritage during Black History Month, Mardi Gras and Chinese New Year events.



We celebrated celebrated a festive St. Patrick's Day with a parade and lots of green!

Turtle Derby – May 25



Mark your calendar for the 32nd Annual Turtle Derby! We hope you will plan to come out and share in the excitement of the “slowest two minutes in sports.” This year we have our wonderful fried chicken dinner; thanks to the hard work of the St. Stephen Martyr Fryers Club! Volunteers are needed and greatly appreciated!

Join us for: Children’s games, Wheel of Chance, Raffles, more booths and of course turtle races!

MOST ^{NOT} WANTED



MOST NEEDED™

GARDENING VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for a “Gardening Club” to battle the weeds and plant beautiful flowers. Contact the Home for more details.

Reflecting on our Patron Saint



St. Jeanne Jugan was deeply devoted to St. Joseph. She looked to him for spiritual guidance and for all that was needed for the elderly in her care.

We celebrated the solemnity of Joseph, Spouse of Mary on March 19 with a Mass in our chapel concelebrated by seven priests. Afterwards, each



priest and Advisory Board member helped serve the Residents at their table and then enjoyed dining and conversing with them. Later that afternoon, the Little Sisters and Residents shared stories about St. Joseph and God’s Providence, and were treated at St. Joseph’s Table to delicious treats baked by Dr. and Mrs. Peter Urda.

MOTHER'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

When you receive this newsletter, we will be in the month of May, traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Mother. How beautiful it is to witness the devotion that many of our Residents exhibit towards Mary. They have discovered, perhaps, as Pope Francis once said, that "Mary is not only the bridge joining us to God; she is much more. She is the road God traveled in order to reach us, and the road that we must travel in order to reach Him."

Many of our Residents have experienced difficulties in life, but have found courage and solace in "traveling with Mary," especially by clutching the rosary. St. Jeanne Jugan often said, "The Hail Mary will take us to heaven."

Perhaps you already know the joy and consolation of having a close relationship with Our Lady. How great it would be if you can pass this on to your children and grandchildren!

Be assured of our grateful prayers for you and your loved ones, especially this month, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin! We are so grateful for your friendship and generosity.

Please also ask the Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady, for the good employees that we need to help care for our Residents, and for fervent vocations of Little Sisters of the Poor!

God bless you,
Mother Mary Richard



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If you do not have an email or computer access, you can call 800-576-4377 Ext. 3, and they will add Little Sisters to your card.

**For more information on how to participate
contact: 502-636-2300 ext. 217

*"Father of the poor, you
have never refused the
prayer of the lowly." J.J.*

Immediate Needs:

Washcloths, Kleenex,
Body wash, Mouthwash,
Toothpaste, Ladies'
deodorant, Laundry soap,
Free and Gentle dryer sheets,
Annual and perennial plants

Larger Needs:

6 Foot Lightweight Folded
Tables, Walk Ins & Freezers,
Heat Pumps/Boilers, Wi-Fi