

MERRY CHRISTMAS



*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
Romans 5:13*

May you relish in the true meaning of Christmas this season and may you be blessed in sharing the miracle of believing with family and friends. May your homes be filled with love and happiness that will carry you through the New Year with renewed faith and belief in the power of prayer. Join us in remembering the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, not only this Christmas, but as we live each day.

"Today in this world, in this humanity, is born the Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Let us pause before the Child of Bethlehem. Let us allow our hearts to be touched, let us allow ourselves to be warmed by the tenderness of God; we need his caress. God is full of love: to him be praise and glory forever! God is peace: let us ask him to help us to be peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families, in our cities and nations, in the whole world. Let us allow ourselves to be moved by God's goodness."

Merry Christmas from the Residents and Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Anne's Home.

Little Sisters of the Poor

Remembering St. Jeanne Jugan

By: Sr. Elizabeth Mary

The month of Jeanne Jugan at our home in San Francisco proved to be one of history, mystery, and facility for fine art. On Tuesday, August 26th, our Residents boarded our bus and headed down to Crissy Field to admire the beautiful views. However, they were alerted to keep their eyes peeled for a “special guest” they would encounter. As they drove along the scenic route, the Residents suddenly noticed something glistening in the water. To the surprise and delight of all, they discovered a bottle containing an extraordinary message from 19th century France! It read as follows: “My name is Rudulphe, and I will be visiting St. Anne’s Home this week. I was the first old man that St. Jeanne Jugan took into her home. Come and hear my incredible story!” Barely able to contain their excitement, the Residents returned home and shared the story with the rest of the house. The following day, Rudulphe (one of our activities staff) broke the barriers of time and space and came to St. Anne’s to vividly tell the story of St. Jeanne Jugan

from his own perspective. On Friday, August 29th, Rudulphe spent the day visiting with the residents and staff throughout the house. As he jokingly said, “You never know where I am going to show up!” Everyone in the house was unanimous in expressing their enjoyment and their renewed appreciation for our Mother Foundress.

In addition to this, the Residents themselves were also given the opportunity to share their gift of storytelling. Each Resident was invited to color or paint a scene from the life of Jeanne Jugan. They were then invited to recount the story in their own words. The magnificent art and the accompanying stories were displayed on the actual feast day, following our annual Jeanne Jugan



Tim Lobacz in character as Rudulphe sharing his story about the life of St. Jeanne Jugan

picture bingo at which 11 Association Jeanne Jugan members and over 50 residents were present! The month culminated in an air of joy and gratitude for the family spirit that has reigned in our homes since the foundation.

What a Team!

The Little Sisters of the Poor and the San Francisco Giants

By: Maria Cunningham

Baseball season started a new tradition for us this year. We are now not only proudly cheering on our three-time World Series Champions, but thanks to members of our Advisory Board, we were able to share in the excitement of an end of season game win by the Giants at AT&T Park with many new friends and supporters of our work.

Our Little Sisters of the Poor Giants Night fundraiser was a fun-filled evening complete with pre-game festivities at Pete’s Tavern, a baseball themed raffle, and wonderful camaraderie and friendship. “Our goal is to get to know our supporters, have them know us, and learn more about

our work. This is not always possible at a larger event, but this event allowed us to do just that,” shares Mother Theresa, our new Superior at St. Anne’s. Our Advisory Board hosted event brought together both new and old friends to share in their passion for two San Francisco icons, our San Francisco Giants and our Little Sisters of the Poor.

The tremendous enthusiasm for this event has convinced us that it is a great a new tradition and one that we hope to build upon in the future. A very special thank you goes to our Advisory Board and in particular to our Giants Night Event Committee and Pete’s Tavern.



The event team pictured left to right, Maria Cunningham, Meagan Levitan, Sr. Anna Marie, Mother Theresa, Sr. Clotilde, Kathy Daly, Tony Passanisi and Kathleen McDonough, not pictured Joanne Hayes-White.

Senior University – A Spotlight on Learning

By: Maria Cunningham

Just as fall marked the resumption of classes for students after summer break, Fall at St. Anne's marked a different approach to activities for our Residents. Senior University is an exciting concept that encompasses a variety of brain games. It is learning or re-learning about things that may have been learned long-ago, but

have since been forgotten or learning about things that may not have been of interest a few decades ago and now spark a new found fascination. Senior University is open to all Residents, with sessions held at different times throughout the day. Groups are small, lending themselves to more personal interaction with the moderator, as well as with other members in the group. The curriculum includes something for everyone and covers topics ranging from human inventions to an inquiry into paleolithic times and research of San Francisco print media, dating back to the late

1800's. The musically inclined are not neglected and can chose to participate in music appreciation or even in swing dance. The format is highly visual, utilizing videos and social media in a non-intimidating atmosphere that is enjoyed and appreciated by the diverse community of Residents that make up the St. Anne's Senior University student body. "I am so excited to be a part of this new approach to activities with our Residents that so well compliments our arts program and our physical fitness regimen. My reward is witnessing the sparkle in the eye of a Resident whose memory is sparked when we discuss something that awakens the passion for learning. Proof positive that learning remains a life-long journey," says Tim Lobacz.



My Summer at St. Anne's

By: Emma Parks

During my summer break from Creighton University, where I am currently a Junior, pre-med/biology major, I volunteered at St. Anne's, helping out wherever I was needed. A typical volunteer day for me began by assisting with pre-lunch activities and then on to serving and feeding meals in the skilled nursing dining hall. After lunch, I often engaged in many one-on-one visits with Residents, which included anything from giving manicures to offering assistance with typing letters and emails. Other days, I helped with and attended fun group activities, including Wii bowling, a trip to Walgreens, and, of course, the incredible two-week Summer Olympic Games in July. Additionally, I was able to "shadow" the nursing staff, a very informative and interesting experience. My greatest joy in volunteering was getting to know the people that make St. Anne's the wonderful place it is. I formed fast, strong relationships with

many of the residents and greatly looked forward to seeing their smiling faces each week and hearing updates on their health, families, and latest art projects. Many also expressed a great interest in my life, always wishing me well in my endeavor to become a doctor and thanking me over and over again for choosing to spend my time at St. Anne's with them.

The Residents would often rave about their love for the St. Anne's community and the amazing Little Sisters and staff that makes them feel so much at home day in and out. I saw firsthand the devotion and kindness the staff shows their residents, always working to keep them happy and healthy. It was a pleasure to work alongside them.

I want to sincerely thank the Residents, Little Sisters, and staff at St. Anne's for making my volunteer experience this summer so outstanding. From day one, they warmly welcomed me into the St. Anne's family with smiles, friendly greetings, and

many hugs and words of appreciation. I feel truly honored to have served in a community that is filled with such a strong sense of faith, hope, and love. I wish the best of luck to everyone at St. Anne's and hope to come back to visit in the near future.



Mother's Message



My first few months at St. Anne's Home have gone so very quickly and have been full with meeting many of the wonderful people that make up the St. Anne's family, working on the completion of the many projects that were underway before my arrival, and starting on the next phase of necessary repairs to our aging building. We celebrated the feast of St. Jeanne Jugan with month-long activities, including the reenactment of a visit from Rudulphe, the first elderly male to be cared for by Jeanne Jugan. I feel very blessed to be here, back in San Francisco, in the neighborhood where I grew up, and to be a part of this community that works fervently to keep alive the teachings of our Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, and whose spirit is very much alive in their hearts.

My most sincere thanks go to all of you that form this community for sharing of yourselves with us and for the many ways that you help us in our care of our elderly. Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and overflowing . . . (Luke 6:38) May the blessings of God overflow in your lives this Christmas Season and throughout the coming New Year.

May God bless you,

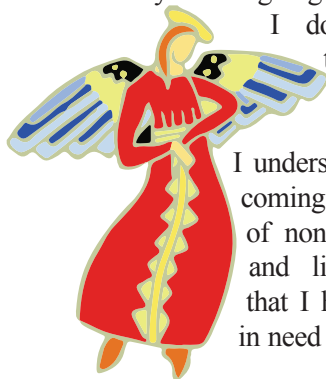
Mother Theresa

Seeking Christmas Angels House of Providence, Home of Miracles

It's my favorite time of year! There is a moist mild chill in the air, typical of our winter, and Christmas lights illuminate many a path in our neighborhood, including the gates that grace my entrance.

I am 300 Lake Street. I am a shelter for the homeless, I am a haven for the lonely, but best of all, I am a home in the business of caring. My many walls have seen remarkable things. I have seen fear and loneliness dissipate from the man who found himself alone on the streets, without a place to lay his head for the night. I have seen solace in the face of a woman who realized that she and her husband could no longer care for each other on their own. I have seen the beauty of peace in the elderly who call me home.

Love, hope and charity live strong here and people flourish. Talents develop, interests are cultivated, and spirits are supported. Mind, body and soul are nurtured. It is a home for the elderly, unlike any other. People come here to live each day to its fullest. It is a home where the elderly are treasured like valuable antiques. The love and dedication given to the care of the elderly is what everyone would want for their loved ones or even for themselves. There is no talk of dying behind my walls, there is only talk of going to heaven.



I do hear people talking about the challenges of aging, and that I understand well. I am coming up on 35 years of non-stop operation, and like the elderly that I house, I too am in need of tender loving



care. I am feeling the aches in my joints and the stresses to my structure, but I know that care makes all the difference. I see it in action every day. I know that you have always helped me. You have helped me stay vibrant so that this Home of Miracles can continue to be. You have helped repair water damage to my structure thus protecting my living areas. You have replaced my rusted gates sick with corrosion from the elements, you have added lights to my outdoor areas and upgraded my security systems to keep my family safe.

Your kindness and generosity overwhelm me. You understand that my needs are substantial and on-going, and you do not let me fall into decline. You are the Christmas Angel that has chosen to be a part of my family. It is your powerful spirit of giving that has so positively impacted the lives of the aged, who walk my halls. You have helped to ease isolation and anxiety for members of the greatest generation. You have recognized that everyone has value and that value is not diminished with age. This House of Providence survives through the Divine Providence that is manifested through your generous spirit.

This Home of Miracles is truly grateful for your hearts, your hands, and for the shoulders that you lend to propel us on our journey. I believe and trust in you, Christmas Angel, to help me through another year.

Mark your calendars for March 5, 2015!

Celebrate HeART

AN EVENING OF FINE ART & FESTIVITIES



Save the NEW Date!

Don't miss this very special event featuring the art of renown Bay Area artist, Susan Schneider, as well as artwork from other notable artists.

It will be a fun-filled evening with something to delight everyone.

Invitations will be mailed in January 2015. For more information call 415-751-6510.