



Sr. Joseph with the broken 300-ton chiller, that is wrapped in chains for removal. The plan to hoist it out whole was thwarted by its size and the presence of a giant blue pipe. "Instead, it had to be cut apart to be removed," said Sr. Joseph emphasizing the massive scale of the operation. Above right: Under the watchful eyes of our patron saint, St. Joseph, it took several hours to carefully unload the new chiller.

## Chiller Replacement Project Successfully Funded

*Donations Ensure that Residents Can Chill this Summer*

The generosity of our friends and benefactors has come shining through once again, providing us with the funds necessary to replace our 300-ton air conditioning unit. The "chiller" failed last summer. Our smaller chiller and a rented unit came to the rescue, but these small units failed in October.

The "chiller project" was initiated at Christmas, when Mother Margaret Regina made a special appeal to raise the approximately \$700,000 needed for new equipment and for rentals in the interim. "In the past, many of you have given us a donation at this time of the year, so may I ask you a special favor?" Mother inquired.

She announced that there was a generous benefactor offering a matching gift of up to \$300,000 if the remaining amount could be raised in 2023. "If you can donate to this project or could double your amount this year to meet this campaign deadline, we would be most grateful!" Mother said.

The last of the necessary funding was secured by the end of December, when long-time donor B. F. Saul made a generous donation to ensure that we

**“We must always say: 'Blessed be God. Thank you, my God. Glory be to God.”**

— Saint Jeanne Jugan

would receive the matching funds, which were offered by another long-time friend and supporter of our Home, Genevieve Murphy.

In March, we were so happy to see the removal of the old chiller and the delivery of the new one! "Thanks to the support of our friends, we can overcome the unexpected failure of our AC equipment," said Sr. Joseph. "Thankfully, this means a cool Home for the Residents and Sisters, as we expect the new equipment to be operational before summer and its soaring temps."

The installation of the Trane chiller represents a step towards a more sustainable and energy-efficient future

for our Home. As we look ahead, this improvement will lead to reduced energy consumption, furthering our efforts to decarbonize our Home and meet the District's greenhouse gas goals. Additionally, it will result in significant cost savings and qualify us for potential incentives from the DC Sustainable Energy Utility, maximizing the impact of your contributions.

"There are still significant costs to completely restore our AC system – we must also replace the air handling units and the small chiller," said Sr. Joseph, who is helping to oversee the project. "But now, we are on our way!"

Your donations significantly contribute to the Residents' well-being and comfort, assuring that we can continue to provide them with the care and dignity they deserve. We extend our deepest gratitude to all our supporters, knowing that together we are making a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of the elderly.

As our Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan said, "We must always say: 'Blessed be God. Thank you, my God. Glory be to God.'" —St. Jeanne Jugan

## Volunteer Spotlight: In Step with Annie Moore

### Partnering with Little Sisters in Their Mission

Join us in celebrating Anne Moore and the countless volunteers who help us care for our Residents by assisting us with many day-to-day tasks from meal service, transportation, and manicures, to office work and building maintenance.

Once a week, Anne, aka Annie, can be found in the development office, updating the donor database, diligently sorting and coding gifts, and helping with operational day-to-day data entry. "Her attention to detail allows us to process donations more quickly, while maintaining necessary accuracy and helping to ensure that each gift is received with great care," said Kimberly Juarez, our development secretary.

Annie's dedication extends beyond the office as she actively engages with the Residents. From picking up their favorite foods from local shops and eateries to helping with activities and offering a listening ear, Annie brings companionship to those who need it most.

Over the years, she has developed relationships with many of the Residents, becoming a trusted friend and confidant. One such friend is Carl. Most recently, Annie ran to Chick-fil-A to get one of his favorite lunches and one for his "tablemate too!" Carl said. "She is a really nice lady."

A long-time donor, Annie's



inspiration to volunteer at our Home and partner with us in caring for the aged poor stems from her childhood experiences "When I was a little girl, the Little Sisters used to come to my church and my dad's law office in Phoenix," Annie said. "I feel like I've always had a special connection with the elderly and was — and am — so inspired by their selflessness and care of the aged poor." Volunteering also became a way for Annie to become active again, and to give back, as she recovered from an illness.

"Volunteering here has strengthened my faith, and deepened my understanding of service and compassion," she said, "instilling in me a profound sense of purpose to strive to live out the same values the Little Sisters so beautifully embody."

"Even in the face of the pandemic, the Sisters remained steadfast in their mission," Annie said, noting one example of how she has been inspired

by the example of the Sisters, their unwavering faith, and their dedication to living out the charism of St. Jeanne Jugan.

On May 5, the nearest Sunday to the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker May 1, Annie will formalize her membership in the Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) after a one-year formation program overseen by Sr. Dorothy Christine. Jeanne Jugan Associates share in the charism of the Little Sisters' Foundress, a charism distinguished by its simplicity: recognizing Jesus in the aged poor and helping to welcome them, to make them happy, to enable them to live in a family atmosphere, providing spiritual and supportive care until their death, according to each one's faith.

"We express our heartfelt gratitude to Annie and all our volunteers who support our mission of hospitality to the elderly," said Mother Margaret Regina.

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time at the Jeanne Jugan Residence, please email [volwashingt@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:volwashingt@littlesistersofthepoor.org) to arrange a tour.

Saint Jeanne Jugan often exclaimed in gratitude, "Our benefactors — where would we be without them?" The same sentiment fills our hearts today as we thank God for the goodness of so many people who support our mission.

## Our Volunteers

The Independent Sector, an organization of charitable communities, calculates that volunteer time in D.C. in 2022 was worth \$50 per hour. When you consider talent, energy, and the many hours individuals and groups freely dedicate to supporting our mission, that is an enormous value and blessing for which we are so very grateful!

Sr. Jeanne Veronique (above left) and Sr. Frances Catherine (above right) spent an afternoon alongside volunteers from Alpha Kappa Alpha and CUA students, preparing the garden for spring.



## Congratulations Charron Williams!

We are thrilled to announce that Charron Williams, the director of dining services at our Home and a member of the Unidine team, has been selected as one of twenty-four exceptional female culinarians within the Compass Group family of businesses. Unidine, the provider of food services at our Home, is part of this group.

These talented culinarians, including Charron, were honored at the 2024 Women in Culinary Showcase held at the Middleby Innovation Kitchens in Texas. This prestigious event, along with a comprehensive 2-and-a-half day training program, offered a unique platform for female chefs to learn from industry experts, to increase their awareness of professional possibilities, and expand their network within the culinary community.

In a surprise celebration of Charron's



accomplishment, Little Sisters, Residents, and employees gathered in the café to offer kind words, a floral bouquet, a gift, and to enjoy cake and punch. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as everyone congratulated Charron on her well-deserved recognition.

As the world's largest food service company, Compass Group "recognizes

the importance of diversity and inclusion in the culinary world." "I'm grateful to Compass executive leaders, our chef innovators, vendor partners, the spacious commercial kitchen facilities, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team," said Charron "for their support in my culinary journey."

With three decades of experience in culinary arts and dining services, Charron takes pride in preparing delicious home-style meals for the Residents here at Jeanne Jugan Residence. Prior to her current role, she managed a bustling kitchen at Providence Hospital for nearly two decades. Now, as a supervisor, Charron is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of culinary professionals and providing them with opportunities for growth.

Congratulations, Charron, on this well-deserved recognition!

## Celebrating Black History Month

Recently, our community gathered in the auditorium to commemorate Black History Month. The Residents thoroughly enjoyed the event, which included short narratives from key figures such as Dorothy Height, a prominent civil rights activist, and Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange.

Francine Whitley, our activities director, asked participating employees to dress as the person they were representing. Dionne Jackson attended as National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, who gained international fame when she read her poem at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. Ramona Hatten read Ms. Gorman's moving poem entitled "The Hill We Climb." Shellyann Kelly came as Maya Angelou, while Eunice Ferrell attended as renowned gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.

Elaine Barber, garbed in an outfit resembling Dorothy Height's, complete with her signature hat, spoke about Height's significant role as the first leader in the civil rights movement to recognize inequality for women and African Americans as problems that should be considered in tandem. She focused on the issues of unemployment, illiteracy, and voter awareness.

Loretta Ransome (standing with her sisters, Sr. Mary Jeanette on the left and Althea Bullock on the right) dressed in a black dress and cape with a white hat, evoking the habit of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange. Mother Mary



founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first African American religious congregation in the United States. Her life's work was dedicated to educating African American girls, providing vocational training, and establishing homes for widows and orphans. Her cause for beatification was opened in 1991. Pope Francis declared her venerable on June 22, 2023.

During the program, volunteers entertained us with gospel music, which had the Residents clapping and singing along. "This was a beautiful program. Everyone really enjoyed it!" said Resident Fr. Richard Hite.

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

With gratitude we celebrate the blessings of these past months and the support of our many friends and benefactors who have crossed our path in a variety of ways!



I would like to acknowledge some of those who have contributed to our mission: those who helped us reach the goal for purchasing the chiller, participants in the sweepstakes event, annual donors whose donations help us so much, parishioners who have given during church collections, sodality members who visit and generously bring prizes to treat the Residents during Bingo in the café, seminarians from various formation programs who visit the Residents, and of course, our Jeanne Jugan Associates, who will be making their promises for one year on May 5.

We deeply appreciate the love and support we receive. Jesus said, "Behold, I make all things NEW, and each day we see and experience his touch through others.

Our Mother General María just completed a tour of our Homes in Asia, from Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines, to Hong Kong and South Korea. Her visits brought great happiness to our Little Sisters in these countries. The upcoming issue of our Serenity magazine will provide additional details about her travels.

Before closing, I ask for your prayers that generous young women will answer the call of Christ to continue the work of St. Jeanne Jugan for our "Elders."

His Easter peace and joy be upon each of you!

*Mother Margaret Regina*

## *How Can I Help the Little Sisters of the Poor?*

### Planned Giving

Here at the Jeanne Jugan Residence we offer a Home to this city's needy seniors. Through your gifts, you too can touch their lives, bringing them hope, security, and loving care in a comfortable Home.

Our Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan based her work on an evangelical challenge to rely on God's Providence, refusing perpetual endowments and other forms of guaranteed income. "If you'd like," she said to a businessman, "we can share the elderly today, you can feed them, and I'll take care of them."

Bequests have been one of the most meaningful sources of funds for the ministry of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Through the advanced planning and generosity of others, we have been blessed to continue working with the elderly.

You can help ensure our future by planning a special gift – create a trust while you are living, make a simple



Resident Ellen and the 'Hiroshima Peace Crane' she and the other Residents folded as a wish for peace in many countries around the world.

bequest to the Little Sisters of the Poor in your will, or name them as the beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan.

Funds generated through planned gifts are devoted to current funding needs as well as capital projects. In fact, we rely on legacy gifts, which often arrive just in time to pay unexpected expenses that are outside our regular budget.

We always suggest that you discuss your options with your estate attorney or financial advisor so that they can guide you on the most beneficial choice for your circumstances.

For information on ways you can help, or if you have a question about a donation, or a service that you can provide to the Little Sisters of the Poor, contact Heather Cave, director of development, by phone 202-269-1831 or email [devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:devwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org).

## SAVE THE DATE

### Summer Sweepstakes

**June 6 – August 7**

Watch for Sweeps tickets due in mailboxes this June! The sweeps runs June 6 through August 7 – drawing August 9. All funds go to our Fuel Fund to keep the lights on and our Residents comfortable.

### World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

**July 28**

Pope Francis has chosen a line from Psalm 71 – "Do not cast me off in my old age" – as the theme for the 2024 celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

The Vatican said in a statement, "This choice is meant to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throwaway culture."

In a companion statement, Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life said, "Families and parishes are called to be at the forefront in promoting a culture of encounter, to create spaces for sharing, listening, to offer support and affection: thus, the love of the Gospel becomes concrete. Our communities, with their tenderness and affectionate attention that does not forget its most fragile members, are called to manifest the love of God, who never abandons anyone."

By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness.

Celebrated for the first time in 2021, Pope Francis decreed that the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly be observed each year on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents.