

Serving the elderly  
poor in Cincinnati  
since 1868.

*St. Joseph, our great friend and provider, is shown in his perch atop our first home on Riddle Road. Today, this original statue has a prominent place on the hill overlooking our home.*

## Little Sisters celebrate 145 years in Cincinnati St. Paul's, the founding spirit lives on

In the fall of 1868, the first group of six Little Sisters arrived in Cincinnati. They came with nothing but willing hearts and the desire to serve the poor elderly of the area. As we mark our 145<sup>th</sup> year in the Queen City, we wish to honor three special instruments of God's Providence that led to this foundation – Saint Jeanne Jugan, Sarah Worthington Peter and Father Ernest Lelievre. We also wish to pay tribute to the numerous businesses, groups and individuals who have supported and continue to support our home. Finally, we wish to acknowledge our many volunteers who help us make our house a real home where the elderly are loved and respected.

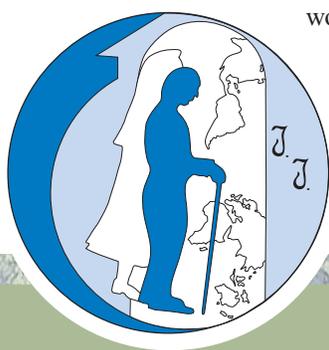
It was in the winter of 1839 that Jeanne Jugan, moved with compassion, opened her heart and home to the blind elderly beginning with Anne Chauvin. This small act of charity committed her forever. It was the mustard seed for the nearly 200 homes of the Little Sisters of the Poor throughout the world. Although her direct management lasted only a few years, her vision lives on. When Jeanne

died, she left no spiritual writings, no manuscripts, no letters, nothing. Her legacy was transmitted from the counsels to her first companions and by the example of her life of caring for the poor and begging on their behalf.

Sarah Worthington Peter, a Cincinnati socialite, was known for her concern for the less fortunate and her works of charity. In 1857, she journeyed to Europe in search of religious congregations to make foundations in Cincinnati. The cholera epidemic of 1849 that had claimed 8,000 victims in Cincinnati alone, brought the number of orphans and elderly in dire need to epic proportions. In London she learned of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a new order dedicated to caring for the poor elderly. She immediately changed her plans in order to visit the Motherhouse in St. Pern. The visit entailed a 10-hour trip by train to Rennes and an additional several hours by carriage to reach her destination. Although her hope of taking Little Sisters with her when returning to Cincinnati was not realized, no doubt the seeds for the expansion of the congregation in America were planted.



CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



# Little Sisters of the Poor

## VOLUNTEERS . . . More Precious than Gold

Opportunities to be of service are never lacking in our home, especially for our generous Residents. From clerical duties to assisting other Residents, each day abounds with opportunities for being of service. Our Monday angels are one example. Never in our home would one ever question the old saying that many hands make light work, but especially on Monday. Since our laundry is not open on Sundays,

Monday is jokingly termed “double-day.” Our industrious laundry staff is never daunted by mounds of linen awaiting them each Monday morning, because the four laundry angels, Hedy Jansen, Kitty Stickley, Claire Crawford and Mary Ann Schneider, appear and happily assist with folding. The angels were recruited six years ago and have since then faithfully offered assistance.



*Sr. Henri, who managed the laundry for many years, stops by to entertain and visit.*

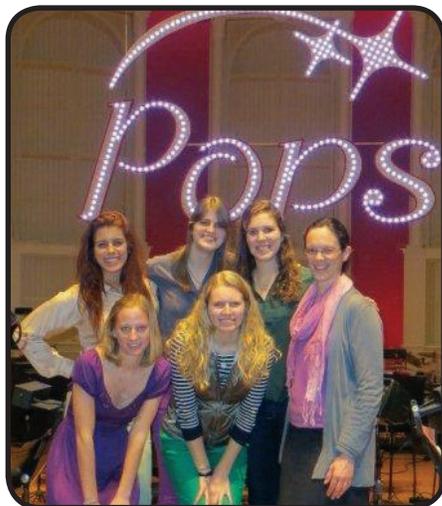
## Joy-filled Giving in Their Golden Years

Nearly every Friday for the past 25 years, carts of bread and pastries would arrive at our back door. Initially, Tony Peter and a few other men, collected and delivered bread to shelters and churches. When Tony heard of the Little Sisters and their “good work,” he “wanted to be part of it.” This coincided with a donation offer from a second Kroger store, where he was deemed an honorary “Reverend” and so the tradition began.

Tony’s wife Peggy now accompanies him each week. They treasure this time of service together. Previously, while Tony was volunteering and delivering, Peggy was the full-time caregiver of their eight children –

four boys and four girls, – and then for her ill mother until she went home to the Lord.

Peggy and Tony are truly an extraordinary faith-filled couple. They met in church, remained committed to each other through daily shared prayer in their 55 years of marriage. They continue to serve the Lord, not only providing bread for the Little Sisters and Residents, but by sharing their faith with the inmates at both the Lebanon and Dayton Correctional Facilities each month. According to Peggy and Tony, “to serve others is to experience the joy of the Lord,” and they are “very blessed and very thankful.” Through them we too are very blessed and very thankful!



*Thanks to a friend, after an intense week of service, our MU friends were treated to a Pops Concert as a parting gift.*

## Michigan State University Students Lend a Hand

The rainstorms and wintry chill of March did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of five young women and their chaperone from Michigan State University, who arrived on March 3 for a week of service. We were blessed and our lives were enriched by the visit of these students who made the sacrifice of their spring break to help.

The students would join the Little Sisters for prayer and chapel services and the rest of their day was packed with Resident events and activities. Ready for anything and able to find

fun and laughter in all they did, each morning they tackled a mountain of canned goods to be sorted and shelved. They were thrilled with their daily progress.

For most of the students, it was a first encounter with the elderly. They assisted in the dining rooms for the noon and evening meals and then joined the Residents at the tables. From the mutual sharing and enjoyment, friendships flourished. Their joy was touched with sadness as they departed, but promised to return for a work weekend.

## I Could Have Danced All Night

With the help of numerous volunteers, the much-anticipated "Winter Ball" brightened the dreary days of winter. Our auditorium was transformed into an elegant supper club with snowflake decorations suspended from the ceiling and charming centerpieces of blue lights and feathers, crafted by Eileen Hageman. Our delighted Residents, in all their finery, were

the perfect hosts and hostesses of more than 150 family members. "Being surrounded by my family is the next best thing to heaven," remarked one Resident. The jazz band provided the perfect blend of modern and classic favorites for this memorable event. "I could have danced all night," commented another infirm Resident and laughingly added "in my dreams, of course."



*Mary Bohl (seated) was pleased to be escorted by her son, Chuck, and four of her great-granddaughters, Abby, Jessica, Alicia, and Sarah.*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINTER RAFFLE WINNERS!

Our Winter Raffle brought a wonderful response in direct donations to the proposed projects and in number of chances sold!

**A warm THANK YOU to all who helped us meet our goals.**

\$2,000	Nancy Cowan, Milford, OH	\$100	Betty Ferone Cincinnati, OH
\$500	Lucy Kotzbauer Cincinnati, OH	\$100	Mary Anne Eichner Kettering, OH
\$500	Sue Hesselbrock Cincinnati, OH	\$100	Gloria Feldman Bellevue, KY
\$250	Wayne Owens Cincinnati, OH	\$100	Kenneth Barnhorst Cincinnati, OH
\$250	Steve Bodki Edgewood, KY	\$100	Mary Sue Hughes Kettering, OH (61)

## Thank You Lucy and Eugene!



For nearly every holiday and event you will find Lucy Kotzbauer and Eugene Oliverio assisting with set-up, serving, grilling, or whatever needs to be done. Their volunteer service spans so many years, hours cannot be tallied. They are family.

Thirty-five years ago, Eugene's godmother was a Resident and he would

often come after work to help serve in the dining room. Soon his gift of service included his artistic skills and talent for decorating, a service

which continues today. To everyone in our home, Eugene is most celebrated as the proprietor of "Chez Eugene," our resale shop tucked away in the corner of our ground floor. Eugene proudly organizes racks and shelves and works hours to assure items are like new. Everyone who visits appreciates his welcome smile and contagious laugh more than the bargain purchase.

Lucy also offered volunteer service when her mother was a Resident, assisting with special events and spending many hours in the kitchen. Her service continued after her mother died in 1984. She claims that she "got serious" about her volunteering when she retired in 1993, expanding her kitchen duties and helping the Residents by "playing in the dirt." We are blessed and Lucy is rewarded for her hours of hoeing, planting, weeding and watering when our yard comes to life each spring with beautiful plants and colorful blooms.

*Thank you Lucy and Eugene for all the joy you bring to others!*

## A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



As we begin our 145<sup>th</sup> year of service to the needy elderly of the tri-state, our thoughts turn to our friends and supporters who have unfailingly provided for us. From the foundation of our first home until today, we have been blessed with gifts great and small. Often these gifts are the fruit of sacrifices made for God's poor. This network of caring was envisioned by our founder St. Jeanne Jugan. Her unshakable confidence in the providence of God through friends and supporters remains alive today.

In celebration of Volunteer Appreciation Month, in this issue we also wish to pay tribute to the various individuals and groups who volunteer in numerous ways. In a real sense, they too are the lifeline of our home. Time and talent are gifts beyond measure. You will enjoy meeting of few of our wonderful helpers and with us, appreciate their hidden services.

A remembrance in our daily prayers is our only means to say thank you.

God bless you!

*Sr. Francis Gabriel, L.S.P.*

Sr. Francis Gabriel, Lsp  
Mother Superior

## Our Needs

Harsh winters and age have presented us with our next fundraising project. The tarmac and concrete surfaces in our back parking lot are beginning to crumble. With the arrival of spring, safety concerns have moved this project to the top of our list. Your assistance with this improvement would be most welcome. If you can help, please contact us at [devcincinnati@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:devcincinnati@littlesistersofthepoor.org).

Thank you to all who delivered items to our door from our last wish list! The following items are needed and would be appreciated:

- Copy Paper
- Mouthwash
- Body Wash
- Denture Tablets
- Coffee
- Stamps



**Neal Hafertepe, maintenance supervisor, explains the need to replace concrete and tarmac to Sr. Margaret. To assure the safety of all, he is applying temporary patches to the area until the project can be funded.**

## Upcoming Events

### Buffet Luncheon and Fashion Show Saturday, June 22

Join us for the buffet luncheon and fashion show held in the auditorium of our home at 12 noon on Saturday June 22. This fun event features nearly new and classic fashions from Chez Eugene, our resale shop. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and will be available online at [www.littlesistersofthepoorcincinnati.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorcincinnati.org). Meet our Residents, staff, and friends on the runway.

### Spaghetti Fest September 14

Plan to join us for this evening with family and friends.



**Our fashion show always includes an appearance by a guest "star." At our last event, Elvis (Mike Davis) concluded his performance by presenting his scarf to a very surprised Marilyn Smith.**

### CONTINUED FROM COVER

Eleven years after the visit of Sarah Peter to La Tour, Father Ernest Lelievre arrived in New York to found the first homes in the United States. The rapid expansion of the congregation throughout Europe and the United States can be attributed to Father Ernest, who placed his life, ministry and family fortune at the service of the congregation. As a priest, as well as a doctor of the law, he was

able to firmly plant our first homes in the new world. A phenomenal 13 homes were founded during his four-year stay. In October 1868, Father Lelievre arrived in Cincinnati with six Little Sisters. They were welcomed by Sarah Peter who was overjoyed to see her dream come true. She remained an ardent champion and benefactor, facilitating a flow of charity that continues today.