



# Easter Celebrations Among Us

## *Family Traditions from Residents and Sisters*

Every family has their own traditions when it comes holidays. As we age, those traditions carry on through the generations below us and eventually, we might ask “Why do we do this?” The answer typically comes without hesitation, “Well that’s what we have always done!”

This past year has broken many of our traditions due to the pandemic. Our first big holiday, Easter, is upon us and we wanted to reminisce and remember the traditions we hope to continue again in the near future!

“My Mother hid eggs and not those plastic ones ... real hard-boiled eggs all over the house for her and her brother. She would make two dozen eggs and they never could find them all. I loved to get a new dress every year for Easter that my Mother would make for me and we always went to Mass together as a family.” ~Helen, Resident

“We would all come together, all 104 members of our family! We would go egg hunting and eat ham for dinner. And we would attend Easter service together. It was always a big family affair for my family.” ~Joe, Resident

“I grew up here in Cincinnati and I remember the church bells would ring out on Holy Thursday and you would hear them throughout the neighborhood during the singing of the Gloria. After that, neither a bell nor an organ sounded until Holy Saturday. Good Friday services were from noon until 3pm and after the services my brother and sister would stop at the corner store to buy candy for Mom and Dad’s Easter basket.” ~Sr. Mary John, lsp

“My family made a special bread that had hard-boiled eggs in it. My daughter would make the bunny cake and I made a chocolate pie with a meringue base. It

was so good! We are Italian so food was our home. I need to find those recipes and maybe I will share them with you!” ~Madeline, Resident

“I am from India, specifically South India. For the tradition in our area, Kerala, we would fast and make penance for forty days. No meat, no eggs, no fish. On Easter we would celebrate! All different types of meat and food to share in our celebration of Easter. Holy cross buns were a big part of our tradition of celebration.” ~Sr. Georgia, lsp

Many of our Residents talked of Easter baskets, egg hunting and Easter services. Seems these are timeless traditions that will not be phased out of our families anytime soon! While traditions change and evolve through the generations, some things always remain the same. Easter is a time to celebrate life together as a family!



# Together and Through it all as a Family



A year has passed and we are still masked. Who would have guessed that we would be dealing with a pandemic that happens to dangerously affect the very population we serve? Not us. We have all had feelings during this time frame. The emotional toll has not only been tremendous for our Residents, but our staff as well.

As staff members we wanted to share our side. A point of view that might not be as known, but is just as important. What has it been like for us to work on the frontlines during this pandemic? What has it been like to care for the most vulnerable population in the midst of a virus that is attacking them?

“Working at a nursing home has been hard and challenging during this pandemic. Seeing the Residents having to deal with the many losses of not seeing family and friends, losing their neighbors, and dealing with the ever-changing rules, regulations, and restrictions. As staff we have been isolated ourselves, still working through all the fear and anxiety from the virus in our own lives and loved ones as well as everyone here.

Running the Activity Department during this time has taught us so much. We have to be more creative, adhering to the guidelines but still trying to be energetic and offer opportunities of engagement. We learned that we can still bring smiles to faces even through these terrible circumstances. We visit, converse, make sure the Residents are okay, let them talk it out.

While we are enjoying getting to know the Residents, their history, their story, their families through these conversations, we are so looking forward to having groups again. Entertainment in the house, seeing family members, going on outings, having events and holiday gatherings, etc. One day the light of our Home will be bright again, but in the meantime,

we are taking it day-by-day together.”

~Activity Department  
Mandy & Melanie

“I recently became employed at Little Sisters of the Poor as a nursing aide. This is my first job as an aide so I don't have pre-pandemic experience, but I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing at this time in my life! Now more than ever it's so important to make each day count! We as employees are almost the only ones who interact directly with our Residents. Guidelines are changing so frequently during the pandemic so we have to and try to be the constant! I love the relationships I'm building with these Residents. They push my creativity on how to make things feel common and normal in a time when this world is anything but. I am beyond blessed to be here and able to write this for our part of history!”

~Erin, CNA

“I can honestly say working in a nursing home during a pandemic has been a huge challenge for my extroverted self but worth it to keep our Residents safe and healthy. I miss HUGS! I miss seeing the Residents

smiling faces. Actually, I miss seeing everyone's smiles! BUT we are taking it one day at a time and soon everyone will be reunited. Life is precious and we need to love each other, be kind and live every day to the fullest.”

~Angela, Administration/HR

“I am a frontline worker here at Little Sisters since March of 2020. The Residents have not been able to have visits from their families or the visits as normal since this began. I can tell it is taking a toll on them but that is why our jobs have become that much more important. We try to encourage them and let them know they will get to see and hold them again one day. We all have risks and fears during this pandemic but everyone must remain strong for the Residents and for each other. The Residents need to know that we care for them and we are here for them while their loved ones maybe cannot be.”

~Fay, STNA

“At the start of the pandemic, fear and anxiety were constant emotions for us. Fearful that we would catch the virus and anxiousness related to

spreading the virus to our Residents and/or families at home. Many of us chose to isolate ourselves from our families to protect our Residents and feelings of isolation came with that choice with the exception of work.

When we had our first positive Resident case in November, we felt helpless and defeated. We had remained virus-free for our Residents for nine months! And while it was a consistent battle before, now we were in a full-fledged war. We were fighting the virus while trying to protect and give extra love, care, and emotional support to our Residents. Many of whom hadn't seen their families. We were and still do consistent training on all the CDC and ODH guidelines, restrictions, and never-ending updates.

With that said, we have been so blessed by local companies, peoples, and other businesses providing ample PPE. We have wonderful families and benefactors and an amazing team of Little Sisters and staff. Many of us have had to learn to become a little more tech savvy with communications moving toward Zoom and Facetime. We have also been fortunate to have access to testing for everyone in the building and the opportunity to receive

the vaccines earlier than most people.

We are looking forward to life returning to “normal.” Hopefully sooner than later. We don't take for granted the little things...a hug, a smile without a mask, or a sweet kiss from a loved one.”

~LSP Nursing Management Staff  
Susan, Sharon, Rhonda, Wei, & Barb

“I don't work directly with Residents but the Residents are the reason I work here. In the beginning of the pandemic I would feel guilty being able to leave and go home every day while our Residents had to remain without visitors. We truly are a family at St. Paul's Home. Our staff has never been stronger as we knew we had to come together to do what we could to protect the Residents while also giving them the love and support their families normally would. So while we can never replace the loved ones of our Residents I hope their families and friends know how much we have tried to fill their shoes during this time! Even though this has been one of the hardest times of my life, I have never seen a team come together so passionately to support one another.”

~Sarah, Development

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE

*[God's] plan, which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together,*

*everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head.*

*-Ephesians 1:10*



With this quote in mind, we cannot help but think of "spring time," when all creation brings forth new life!

New, fresh beginnings are so evident here in our Home after a year of extraordinary sacrifice. We are happy that today the majority of our Residents and a good number of our staff have received the vaccine.

Our gratitude goes to you, our friends and benefactors, whose prayers and financial support have helped us through this past year of trials.

As you may be aware, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has dedicated this year to St. Joseph. St. Joseph is a great provider of our Home who uses you all as our intermediaries so you may appreciate reading the following:

*But a celebration of St. Joseph and a call to focus on his patronage is particularly relevant in this time of universal turmoil when so many are having difficulty finding employment, when we are becoming more aware of how much we owe to so many ordinary, hardworking people, and when our human frailty and mortality are so much in our minds and in the news.*

*The Church reminds us that we have a powerful ally in Heaven who, having lived and worked so long in the shadows like so many unsung heroes, is both Patron of Workers and Patron of a Happy Death.*

*-Pope Francis*

Again, I would like to emphasize that we could not have survived this past year without your assistance, our devoted friends and benefactors. God bless you and your loved ones whom we pray for daily. Keep up your courage, to you, our unsung heroes!

Gratefully,

*Sr. Marie*

Sr. Marie Edward  
Mother Superior

## GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Religious life is a gift of God, yes, it is He who calls us. I heard this call at the age of 9. Being so young, I kept this special call in the back of my heart, but I was so certain that it stayed with me through my growing years. I thank my father who led me to the Little Sisters of the Poor and my love for the elderly began.

I have always been happy in my vocation, following St. Jeanne Jugan's charism of humble service to the elderly. It is a delight to welcome elderly into their "new home" together with other Residents. To be an instrument of God in facilitating their return to faith has also brought me much consolation. Just to be a part of this family to the Residents is what it is all about. Being there for them! Throughout the past 50 years since my first vows, it is God who has accomplished everything. It is indeed a great grace to be a Little Sister of the Poor. -Sr. Dorothy Christine Marie



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You shop and we benefit! Both Kroger and Amazon offer charitable donations if you link your accounts to give back to our Home.

Here's how:

Amazon Smile: link your Amazon account to Little Sisters of the Poor Cincinnati.

Sign-in at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

Search for Little Sisters of the Poor and select the Cincinnati home. And then shop!

Kroger Plus Community Rewards: link your Kroger Plus card to Little Sisters of the Poor.

Use the code#: W446 to choose St. Paul's Home online.

#### What we have earned thanks to you!

	Kroger Plus	AmazonSmile
2018	\$1,998.50	\$616.42
2019	\$1,880.37	\$725.65
2020	\$1,802.02	\$974.12

## SAVE THE DATE

### Spaghetti Supper

Summer/Fall TBD

The 10th Annual Spaghetti Supper fundraiser!  
Carry-out options only.

### Christmas Boutique

November TBD

Join us for affordable gifts and Holiday décor to benefit the Activity Department.

### #GIVINGTUESDAY

November 30, 2021

Giving Tuesday is a national day of giving the Tuesday after black Friday. More details to come! Online event.

### Legacy Dinner

Cancelled

We cannot commit to in person large group events.

Due to the pandemic we are waiting to commit to our fundraising event dates, but we hope to have them later this year if things continue to improve!