



After Another 17 Years, Brood X Residents Remembering the Cicadas

They are here! Yet another 17 years have gone by and the Brood X cicada invasion is upon us again. Many of the Residents have experienced this natural phenomenon more than four times!

Sr. Dorothy gave us all a nice refresher on the evolution of the Brood X cicadas. Brood X cicadas will emerge in the millions in the Greater Cincinnati area. They emerge and shed their outer exoskeleton. The loud noises we hear are the male cicada's mating call. Females will then lay their eggs in twig branches on trees and when the eggs hatch the newly hatched "nymphs" will fall and burrow in the ground for us to experience all over again in another 17 years!

Even though cicadas are a nuisance to us with their shells, noise, and swarming... cicadas are actually beneficial to the environment! We took a poll with our Residents to see what the consensus of our Home is on these bugs: a majority said "yuck!", very few said they were cool, one said just noisy, and one did not care one bit about them.

The one thing we can all agree on is that this is a unique experience and no



Misty, our resident pup is not a fan of bugs, especially flies, but she is loving chasing cicadas around our yard!

matter your opinion, it is a wonder to see Mother Nature in these moments! Read on for some of our favorite reactions from our Residents.

Yuck! They never intruded on our lives though. We just swept them up!

~ MARY M.

They killed our plum tree at our first

home... it was such a beautiful tree.

~ RUTH

Ew! I don't like them landing on me!

~ HELEN B.

Ugh yuck, they are just horrible.

~ EVELYN, PICTURED

The last time, my brother was at Christ Hospital... 17 years ago. They were all over! I had to keep wiping them off of me walking to and from. I do not like creepy crawlers!

~ MADELINE

YUCK! *I know they are one of God's creatures, but I could do without them.* ~ JESSIE

They are good for nothing except for being annoying!

~ BARB

They are just too noisy.

~ JOANN

Ew, I just do not like bugs.

~ GINNY

I think they are kinda cool!

~ BONNIE, PICTURED

Eh, they don't bother me. I don't mind them at all.

~ SUE



Our LSP Morning Show that will now be a staple!



Residents finally able to enjoy bingo again as a group!

Reflecting on the Year of COVID

Sr. Mary John's Reflection on a Tough Year

The emergence of COVID-19 made the winter of 2020 into a very long 13 months with only a few signs of spring here and there. On March 29, 2021 we finally saw a glimpse of hope that spring had truly arrived. We welcomed Father Rob Waller to give the Residents a three-day retreat and also celebrated Holy Week and Easter together in our home for the first time in over a year. Imagine living in the same home but unable to gather together! It was tough.

After that week we began to see some things returning to normal. We were able to return to the dining rooms, although only sitting two at a table, but at least we were able to be together socially distanced. You could hear many Residents expressing their joy, "This is wonderful! What a joy to see you it has been so long! I cannot believe it feels like being back Home again!" Volunteers are once again seen in the hallways helping within some areas that we needed them the most, like our therapy gym, kitchen, and in some of our offices. Every single person in our Home must follow protocol, wearing masks at all

times and following hand hygiene guidelines!

Just as quickly as we began to feel normal within our walls again, a positive Covid test suddenly sent all in the home back into "lockdown." Back to eating separately, back to no group activities, back to 13 months ago when this all started! For us COVID will and has been an on-going stress on the Home. It feels like a light switch we flip. One positive test, we are flipped to lockdown mode. Once we are two weeks out from any positive test, we can flip the switch back. We take things one day at a time.

Now when we are flipped to "open" we are able to eat together, three Residents at each table. Group activities are able to begin again in the auditorium and out on the patio. The excitement and joy we have seen since some of their favorite activities have returned is indescribable! We have been able to offer Masses again in our chapel six days a week. Volunteers are able to return to their duties as well as our Residents that volunteer in different departments

in our Home. Their sense of purpose has returned, being able to rise up early to help fold towels in the laundry.

Several Residents have mentioned that getting things in our Home back to normal was as if spring had arrived. To say this past year has been a whirlwind for our home and family is an understatement. Never in my life have I experienced such a thing, but we are here and still standing. I might even say that the bond between Residents, staff, and Sisters is stronger than ever after weathering the bumpy waves of this pandemic. Our fight is not over and probably will never be fully over, but we have learned and will continue to do the best we can as a family.

We cannot express our gratitude enough to all of those that were so thoughtful to us. Thank you for your prayers, donations, letters of encouragement, and a special thank you to those of our youth that wrote to our Residents during this time.

With Christ we can weather any storm.

St. Paul's Home Snapshots

Saying "See you later, not goodbye" to Rhonda

"In May of this year, I celebrated my 20th anniversary with Little Sisters in Cincinnati," said Rhonda. "This has been my home and I love it here. I will still be working for the Little Sisters but for our Home in Mobile, AL and will have Mondays off for going to the beach!" Rhonda has dedicated herself to the Little Sisters for the past twenty years, starting off as a nurse on one

of the Resident floors and eventually joining the nursing management team as the clinician nurse. For the past few years she has been the MDS nurse, making sure that the Residents are receiving the best possible care. The friendships from Staff and Residents have been a gift. Her daughter Natalie will be moving with her as well. "Now it's time to embrace me," she said. "I'm



going to be living my dream living close to the beach everyday!"

Welcoming New Residents Again!

With the pandemic, we have been very cautious to bring in new Residents to our Home. With the vaccine and the accessibility to rapid testing we have



begun to welcome new Residents again! Ginny grew up in Northside, graduated from Hughes High School and went to work at Camp Washington Chili. After that she sold advertising over the phone for twenty-three years! "I like people," she said, "so that was just easy to me." Now to pass

the time, she likes to play games. Her favorites include Scrabble, Bingo and any kind of word games. When asked what words of wisdom she would give to younger people, she did not hesitate: "Be faithful and be kind." Welcome to our home Ginny! We are happy to make new friends.

50 years of Service, Kathy Hurd, Restorative Aide, STNA

Kathy started working here in 1971 when the old Home, St. Peter's Home, was at our current address and she has been here for 50 years — caring, loving, helping and enjoying the Residents and the Little Sisters. "They are like family to me," she said. "When I wake up at 5:30 a.m., I love getting ready and thinking about the Residents and the lovely atmosphere in which I work." A past winner of



the discontinued St. Jeanne Jugan Award, Kathy treats every Resident

with dignity and patience. The award recognized individuals who exemplify the spirit of Jeanne Jugan, those who demonstrate the core values of the Little Sisters, and embody a work ethic of humble service to the Residents of the Home. "It's not really work; it's like taking care of family" according to Kathy. Thank you Kathy for your 50 years of service to the Residents and Little Sisters.

Volunteers waited to come back, we waited to welcome you!

Lucy's mother was a Resident on the third floor when she decided to start volunteering at our Home. She approached the Mother Superior at the time and asked if she could volunteer in the kitchen. Mother asked her to come into her office and have a seat. She said, "No one has ever asked to volunteer in the kitchen! We would be incredibly pleased to have your help." That was

twenty years ago, and Lucy has been busy helping ever since. She helps with the flowers, activities, picnics, wherever she is needed really. "I've been here so long, it's my home away from home. It is a great gift from God to be able to come back to help." Well Lucy, we are so happy to have you back! Along with many of our other faithful volunteers. It has been too long.



MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

With my recent surgery and the challenges that followed post-op, I fully realized what blessings our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us, mainly, the "Gift of Life!"

So many circumstances helped me to identify with our dear Residents, such as needing assistance with activities of daily living, waiting, and the humble experience of neediness. This experience brought me to the realization of the magnificent calling of a Little Sister of the Poor to be that beacon of light to the elderly poor. You too, our cherished friends and benefactors, have helped to make this ideal a reality, here at St. Paul's Home, and for this we are extremely grateful.

It was an overwhelming experience to receive so many "Get Well" wishes, especially your prayers and Masses. This following quote of George Elliston sums up my feelings: "How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it!"

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with the fire of your Love!" God bless you.

Gratefully,

Sr. Marie

Sr. Marie Edward
Mother Superior

CELEBRATING MASS IN OUR HOME AGAIN!

Finally, we are able to celebrate Mass together in our Chapel again. We are taking many precautions: social distancing, wearing masks when needed, and screening and testing the Priests that are so gracious to come help us celebrate every day.



OUR NEEDS

As always we are so grateful for your help and support throughout the year. As we continue to "normalize" our home again we are in need of some in-kind donations to help our Residents:

- XL twin quilts/bedspreads/thermal blankets**
- white wash clothes**
- dish towels/clothes**
- Bleach & Shout stain remover**
- body wash**
- Pepsi, Diet Coke, Rootbeer soda cans**
- Lay's potato chip individual bags**
- colorful paper goods (plates, napkins, plasticware)**
- assorted gift cards for events**

SAVE THE DATE

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!

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 this year. Hope for 2022!