



Love in Action: Making the Elderly Happy



Theresa Iazzetti



Sandy Vannelli



Maritza Ortiz



Frank Bosketti

Theresa Iazzetti met the Little Sisters of the Poor when they came to St. Theresa's Church in January 2025. As the new year began, she was looking for a way to spend her time that would really make a difference. She recounts that when she first arrived at Jeanne Jugan Residence she said to herself, "Wow! This is a beautiful place." She was touched to see the Little Sisters interacting with the Residents, "... giving their lives to make them happy." Soon she found herself working at the reception desk, showing the cheerful, loving welcome, characteristic of St. Jeanne Jugan, to everyone she encountered at her post. Her smile and kind words brighten the day of visitors, staff, Residents, and Little Sisters. But according to her, she is the one who truly benefits: "I am so grateful to be here! It brings peace and fulfillment to my life."

Sandy Vannelli was looking for something meaningful to do in her retirement. When she heard the Little Sisters speak at her parish, she decided to offer her help. She visited the Home and saw how happy the Residents were

and how much work it takes to serve them well. Finding the atmosphere "wonderful," she decided to become a part of it. She, too, has discovered joy as she contributes to the mission of St. Jeanne Jugan. Sandy is finishing the yearlong formation process to become a Jeanne Jugan Associate. Her help in the dining room and in the bookkeeping office has been invaluable.

Maritza Ortiz was also looking for a rewarding way to spend her time during retirement. When she heard about the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor at a church collection, she thought it would be a good fit. After coming in person to the Home she realized, "This is where I want to be and what I want to do." Since then, she devotes three days a week to the Residents. Every Tuesday she leads an exercise group, and on Wednesdays she shares coffee and donuts with them. Often, she serves meals in the dining room or helps with events

'This is where I want to be and what I want to do.' –Maritza

and special activities. She says that for her, it is much more than volunteering. Little things like making someone comfortable or listening to a cherished memory are very meaningful, and these experiences led her to begin formation as a Jeanne Jugan Associate. The Residents have truly become her extended family, and she finds great joy in putting smiles on their faces.

The "Pizza Man," **Frank Bosketti**, became involved with the Home about 3 years ago. As the founder of Fortissimo Pizza Ovens, he has generously shared his professional talents to make gourmet pizza for the Bazaar, Rock-a-thon, and other events. (Visit his website at fortissimopizzaovens.com) Every week Frank takes a group of Residents shopping, and they always look forward to this enjoyable time together. Frank, too, has decided to commit himself more deeply to the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor as an Associate. He is grateful for this opportunity to help others in a very direct and meaningful way and to grow spiritually by embracing the charism of St. Jeanne Jugan.

Cooked with Love!

After months of enthusiastic planning, our first annual cookoff took place on March 7. “Cooked with Love” was made possible through the inspiration, generosity, and hard work of Rita Paciulo. Rita, a longtime friend and supporter of Jeanne Jugan Residence, brought together friends and family to team up with the Residents for a truly unforgettable experience.

The competition was stiff, but friendly pairs of chefs, one seasoned and the other less experienced, created culinary masterpieces. Each reflected the skill and energy of its creators. The Residents supplied favorite recipes and their younger sous chefs worked with them to

realize sumptuous marvels. A group of generous benefactors served as judges for the event, rating each entry for flavor and presentation on a scale of 1–10. Judges enjoyed main dishes, pasta, desserts, and more as they set about their difficult task of selecting the best from among the excellent contenders. The competitors themselves joined to partake of the fruits of their labor while the judges rendered a decision.

Finally, the winning entry was announced: cheesecake by Inna Volkova and her sous chef, Michelle Rosa.

Although they were awarded first place in the competition, everyone who participated was truly a “winner,” leaving the event with the invaluable prize of joy and friendship.

Winner: Cheesecake by Inna Volkova & Michelle Rosa

At the conclusion of the evening, the special honor of “Head Chef” was conferred on Janet Phalen, our dietary manager, who oversaw the kitchen during the competition. This well-

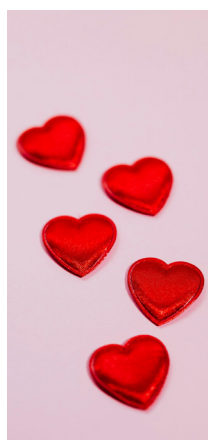
deserved distinction paid tribute to Janet’s tireless devotedness day in and day out in preparing delicious meals for the Residents and Little Sisters during the past 15 years.



Loving Friends

Director of Campus Ministry, Brother Lucian Knaap, CFC, and the students at Iona Preparatory Lower School are true friends to Jeanne Jugan Residence. They help throughout the year with food collections, Christmas presents, and at the Rock-a-thon. (Last year they took home two trophies from this event!)





You're Invited

Join us for our Annual Golf Outing at Quaker Ridge!
Monday, July 20



A Celebration of Love

Valentines Day was made even sweeter this year by students from Fordham University who spent a special afternoon with the Residents. Sharing games, treats, and reminiscing made for a warm intergenerational encounter.



Mother's Message

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of our Lenten journey we are again reminded of the beautiful words Pope Leo encouraged us to take with us as we prepare to celebrate one of the greatest feasts of the liturgical year, "Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life."

May the assurance of Jesus' love for you continue to strengthen you in your daily challenges as we open our hearts to the mystery of the Resurrection and our salvation by placing the mystery of God back in the center of our lives.

Along with our wishes for a very Blessed Easter, we assure you of our gratitude for your ongoing and generous support which makes possible all we do to "make the elderly happy."

Mother Gertrude Mary

Save the Date

Saturday, April 25
Third Annual Rock-a-thon

Sunday, October 18
Celebrating Together: Raise the Roof!

Thank You!

Our gratitude to all those who share in our mission knows no bounds!

If you are already a "member" of our family, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If you would like to become involved in our mission, please consider one of the following:

- Volunteering - To apply for volunteer service, contact Sr. Raymond Marie at bxvolunteercoordinator@littlesistersofthepoor.org.
- Regular donations, especially recurring gifts (by mail or online)*
- Gifts from your donor advised fund
- Memorial donations
- Remembering us in your will
- Praying for our Residents and for vocations

**What if the impact of your gift to the Little Sisters of the Poor could be doubled?! In many cases it can! If your employer offers matching gifts, please consider applying!*

Scan the QR code to donate now:



Our needs:

- EPA approved sanitizing wipes
- Liquid hand soap
- Facial tissues
- Bathroom tissue
- Paper towels
- Batteries – AA and AAA
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Individually wrapped snacks and candy
- Juice – large bottles
- Small eco-friendly paper plates
- Disposable spoons
- Gift Cards
- Donations toward the cost of entertainment for parties
- Forever stamps
- A NEW ROOF!!

We are a 501 C 3 tax exempt organization with Tax ID #13-1884785.