



New Birth into a Living Hope

A jubilee year is a special time in the life of the Church, which is usually celebrated every 25 years. Pope Francis chose as the theme of this jubilee year, 2025, “Pilgrims of Hope.” When he announced the celebration of this important time he said, “The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God’s gift of creation.”

At the beginning of this year of hope we had the joy of welcoming a new member of the Church, Saeko Mary Nakao. Her journey to the faith actually began years ago. Saeko moved

into Jeanne Jugan Residence in January 2024. As she became a part of our family she was increasingly struck by the friendliness and kindness of her fellow Residents. She began joining them for Sunday Mass, which made her recall her many visits to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City and the sight of hundreds of people receiving Holy Communion. Saeko reflected, “All my life I liked the Christian faith because I liked Jesus. I saw Jesus on the Cross. I saw pictures of Him and felt drawn to Him.” She spoke with our chaplain, Fr. Patrick Universal, about her desire to become a Catholic, and Sr. Kathleen McHugh, S.S.C. a fellow Jeanne Jugan Resident, began giving her instructions in the faith. The peace and the joy that she experienced throughout this experience led her to ask for the sacrament of baptism.

“Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Go and find him when your strength and patience are giving out, when you feel lonely and helpless. Say to him: ‘You know well what is happening, my dear Jesus. I have only you. Come to my aid ...’ And then go your way. And don’t worry about knowing how you are going to manage. It is enough to have told our good Lord. He has an excellent memory.”

– Saint Jeanne Jugan

Filled with Joy and Hope

Since our last newsletter, Carmen Petra Gonzalez, a Resident on the third floor, celebrated her 100th birthday. Longevity runs in Petra's family. Her father lived to be 110, and never even wore glasses! Born in Puerto Rico in 1924, Petra was the youngest of ten children. Her father grew coffee and had a store. Her mother taught her from an early age to be kind and helpful to others. Petra is very grateful for all that she learned from her mother and fondly looks back on her early days when she and her seven sisters worked hard helping their mother to do the family's cooking, washing, and ironing.

At the age of 25 Petra came to join an older sister living in New York. She arrived in February and was amazed to see snow for the first time. It was here that she met her future husband, Roque P. Gonzalez, a Merchant Marine. Petra and Roque were married on January 1, 1949. They had a daughter, Rachel, in December of the same year. When Petra first came to the U.S. she worked making gloves and handkerchiefs, and later in a hotel. Her favorite job, though, was in a school, where she worked for 31 years doing administrative work, helping the teachers, and even acting as a substitute teacher when needed. She encouraged the children to eat well and to learn languages.

Petra's faith has been the most important aspect of her long life. In her younger days, she was often a leader in faith-based activities. Prayer and spending time in the chapel continue to be her highest priority. She has lived at Jeanne



Caption

Jugan Residence for 3 years and comes to Mass every day. She loves to sing and continues to show loving kindness to others. She helps in the development department preparing



literature for distribution and in the kitchen peeling and chopping vegetables. As she enters her 101st year she is still filled with joy and radiates hope to everyone around her!

SPECIAL TIMES SHARED

When it was announced that we would celebrate Valentine's Day with a party featuring homemade waffles and ice cream, the Residents thought that this was nice, but immediately added, "What about a Valentines Dance?!"

After the great dance party they enjoyed on New Year's Eve and the scary fun time they had doing the "Monster Mash" at Halloween, this request was not surprising!

Needless to say, a dance was scheduled right away to mark the holiday when love and affection is celebrated.

It was another special time to cherish friendship and share fun!

The Thrill of Hope

The Christmas season brought a great outpouring of love and support from many friends. Students from Iona Preparatory School made their annual visit on December 10, 2024, bringing gifts and sharing smiles. On December 13 we were treated to an inspiring recital of sacred and Christmas songs by Addie Nelson Backlund, accompanied by Andrew Levine. Selections included classical favorites and favorite carols, and an opportunity for audience participation was included in their magnificent performance. The next day, the Dixieland Jazz Band, a regular favorite at Jeanne Jugan, entertained with a varied repertoire. Handmade Christmas cards and a concert by the choir of Christ the King School made for a warm holiday encounter on December 19. Students from PS/MS 194 brought hand crafted gifts and spent additional time crafting with the Residents. Fancy Feet Dance Studio delighted the Residents with a beautifully choreographed performance and a craft activity. Generous gifts from the Ladies of Charity and the Franciscan Mission Associates brought joy as we celebrated the birth of our Lord.



Mother's Message

On May 9, 2024

Pope Francis proclaimed a Jubilee of Hope, and on Christmas Eve the Holy Door



of St. Peter's Basilica was officially opened. This great event and our journey through Lent during this Holy Year of Hope is filled with the desire that "the light of Christian hope might illumine every man and woman, as a message of God's love addressed to all." We all know how much the world needs the assurance of a Hope that's trustworthy and sincere, attributes that come from the Heart of Christ. The Pope said, "Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross."

We witness this Hope in the heart of our Residents as they live out the remaining days of their lives, confident in God's love for them. Saeko's entrance into the Church, her baptism and first Holy Communion is a witness to this.

Petra's 100th birthday manifested the confident Hope in God's love that has governed and guided her journey through life. So many of our Residents portray the same supernatural hope that allowed them to bear courageously the many hardships and difficulties of life.

We pray that this Lenten season will be filled with the Hope Jesus offers to each of us. We are deeply grateful for the many sacrifices our friends make on our behalf, and we wish to assure you of a special place in our grateful prayers.

Have a blessed season of Lent and a very Happy Easter!

Our Needs

- EPA approved sanitizing wipes
- Liquid hand soap
- Facial tissues
- Cases of copy machine paper
- Individually wrapped snacks and candy
- Juice — large bottles
- Eco-friendly paper cups, plates, and napkins for parties
- Gift Cards
- Donations toward the cost of entertainment for parties
- A pool table for our game room
- Bingo supplies: MR CHIPS Bingo Master Board and Easy Read 7/8" bingo balls; MR CHIPS Jam-Proof Easy-Read Large Print Fingertip Bingo Cards with Sliding Windows (50)

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

SAVE THE DATE

Monday,
July 21, 2025
Golf Outing
at Quaker Ridge Golf Club

Sunday,
October 19, 2025
Dinner By the Bite!



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
- 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!*

OUR MISSION

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

*Reverence for Life Family Spirit Humble Service
Compassion Stewardship*