



## I Feel Like a Kid Again...

Yes, we kept hearing Residents repeat this phrase on the afternoon of August 30 and in fact, it seemed like everyone was magically transported back in time. We were all kids for a day and cherished the excitement it created! In her lifetime, our Foundress, Jeanne Jugan wanted a true family spirit to permeate throughout each Home. In honor of her feast day, a carnival was organized. Since the start of the Covid pandemic, activities and gatherings underwent various restrictions. This year, we needed a Carnival to bring people back together and return the joy of gathering for food and fun. And, fun it was! It was a huge success and was talked about for weeks afterward!

As always, the Knights of Columbus pitched right in to do whatever was needed with last minute preparations and then helping at the various game tables during the Carnival.

Enthusiasm reached a crescendo from late July through August as Sisters and staff brainstormed together about games, prizes, food, entertainment. Tee shirts designed for the occasion were donned by staff.

Talent was identified among staff and Resident families to find face-painters and entertainers. Sisters learned how to whip up cotton candy.

There was even a giant, stuffed animal, compliments of this year's Indiana State Fair.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, grilled

chicken sandwiches, soft pretzels, and nachos were donated in abundance. Specialty cupcakes and hand-dipped candy were plentiful. Of course, no Carnival is complete without ice cream. Papaws Ice Cream Truck from Brownsburg was just the coolest way to make this Carnival a lasting memory of a family fest for kids of all ages!

"Making the Residents happy – that is everything." These words of St. Jeanne Jugan, the honorary star of this year's Carnival, would have been delighted to see such joy on the faces of everyone, young and not so young that day.

Numerous friends and donors made this happy occasion possible.



# What a year we have had!

St. Jeanne Jugan's mission, carried out over more than 180 years, opens the way to an endless number of possibilities. Today, the elderly need and appreciate feeling safe, protected and loved. Knowing themselves to be respected, honored and fulfilled is experienced through friendships, compassionate healthcare providers and interactions with the wider community. The necessary upkeep to any household, large or small – both under the roof and around the yard adds to the contentment and happiness of those who call St. Augustine's HOME.

Throughout 2022, we have been able to undertake some long-over due and necessary upkeep projects.

Here is a brief summary:

- Our approximately 827 windows were washed – both inside and out – and that included removing, washing and re-installing the same number of screens! The colors in our beautiful garden became even more vibrant through clean windows!
- More than 20 areas on our very long driveway and parking spaces underwent significant (and costly!) surface repairs. Potholes are gone for now!
- Dead limbs from an endless number of trees closest to the building were removed. This required more than a dozen haul-away trips of debris. Residents watched the agile tree trimmer swing between branches like a monkey – slower, of course, and strapped for safety! As he progressed, he educated us on ways to preserve the health of our numerous and diverse trees.
- As in past years Master gardeners and Resident gardeners-in residence worked throughout spring, summer and fall to transform our 23 acres into a warm and inviting garden and patios. Individual volunteers and service groups lent countless hours for yard projects, including finding just the right spot for donated plants, flowers and shrubs.
- A new commercial laundry dryer replaced one that had finally worn out after 30 years of daily usage!
- Bed linens and bedspreads are being renewed.
- Several neighborhood power outages obliged us to upgrade our security cameras and chapel lighting. This is a work still in progress.

Without your continued generosity, be it in the gift of your time, your talent, your business connections, school community service projects or monetary contributions, we would not be able to provide for our Residents today!

Each year, complimentary tickets to the State Fair and other local venues are yet another way to make the Residents happy as you seen in these photos. Their happiness is what makes the Little Sisters happiest!

Thank you!



Little Sisters enjoy springtime in the garden



A day at the State Fair



Shirley Schafer petting the horse at the State Fair



# God's Dream Came True

## *Sister Agathe Looks Back Over 70 Years*

I was born in Ballcong, a close-knit farming community near Ballina County Mayo, Ireland. Our village was very scenic, with two surrounding lakes and a river linking the lakes together, as well as a wood and two hills. But back in the forties the Ballcong farmers paid little heed to scenery. Finding ways to sell their cattle or pigs at a good price was the men's preoccupation, while the women kept an eye on the market for chickens, eggs or turkeys. But we had our light moments when the village fiddler came, and on hearing the music the villagers would follow him for a dance and a song. I had two living brothers, one two years older and the other three years younger.

I loved grade school and became an avid reader. Through books I got to know about other countries and customs, about cities and city life.

At 17, I had an opportunity to take a Civil Service exam and work in Dublin. I did well and soon was living in an apartment and experiencing life in the city. I thought my dream was realized at last! But God had His dream for me too and this is how His dream came true.

One evening I passed by a great big granite building with the brass plate on the wall saying Little Sisters of the Poor. A Sister took me on a tour of the Home, explaining everything about the Congregation as we walked along. But nothing impressed me — not until passing through the Residents' dining

room. It still gives me chills as I recall the scene - two elderly men setting up for the evening meal as they chatted and joked together. The atmosphere of joy, love and contentment touched me deeply. The rest is history.

I entered in March 1952 and two years later I made my profession. I did my RN training and worked in England until it was time to go to France for my final vows.

There were no strong objections from my family when I told them I would like to do missionary work, but I had to wait two years before all was arranged for my flight to the Far East. At that time the Far East Province consisted of the Homes in India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Because I was secretary to the then Provincial Superior, I would be visiting the Homes in those countries for which she was responsible. I was thrilled.

In the late 1960's I was back in Europe again, editing the Congregation's Safe Home Magazine in England, then on to Malta. What I thought was the high point of my mission life was my 16 years with the Australian Aborigines in Kalgoorlie, West Australia.

But since then I have come to understand better the fuller meaning of mission and even now in old age I still have a mission.

My favorite text from Scripture is "As the Father loves me, I also love you, abide



Sr. Agathe's three nieces from Ireland paid her a visit in August.



Her homemade Irish scones are always a hit!

in my love."

Now after 70 years of religious life I am left with a spirit of great thankfulness for a grace I did not at all merit, thankfulness for the holy people in my life.

On my journey I met Mother Teresa in Calcutta and later took care of her when she came to Malta and stayed in our Home. I also met Pope Francis when he visited our Home in Washington, DC in 2015.

But above all, I am grateful for the many happy and holy Little Sisters and elderly I have encountered and, last but not least, the Aboriginal People who have inspired me and whom I have loved. Thank you, Lord, for everything.

— Sr. Agathe

## God's Dream For Sr. Madeline Marie Takes Her to France

After two years at St. Augustine's Home, Sr. Madeline Marie recently departed for Brittany, France to continue her religious formation as a spiritual daughter of Saint Jeanne Jugan. In fact, she is at our Home in Angers, a city where Jeanne Jugan went herself to open a home for the indigent elderly in 1850. Learning the language, the customs, traditions and of course, tasting real French cuisine now fills these first months for Sr. Madeline and for her Little Sister companions from other parts of the world.

Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Sr. Madeline discerned her vocation while helping at our Home in Cincinnati. While we already miss her bright smile, her boundless energy and genuine love for the elderly, we now pray she continues along the path leading to the day when she says "Yes" to the Lord FOREVER as a Little Sister of the Poor.

Please pray for Sr. Madeline and for many generous vocations.



Sr. Madeline with her parents, Kevin and Kathleen Garnica.

## Mother's Message

Dear Friends,

I hope you are glad to have a St. Augustine's Home newsletter back in your hands!

Yes, it's been well over a year since the last issue and so much has happened – too much for these pages.

As you read on the cover page, our Jeanne Jugan Carnival remains a happy memory for everyone. Who doesn't like forgetting one's worries (and work load!) for at least a few hours! The happiness on the faces and Residents, staff, families, volunteers, Jeanne Jugan Associates and Little Sisters says it all: there's a lot of love in our large family!

On the second page, the short summary of the most notable activities and work projects undertaken during 2022 reminds us that it is in the present moment where God awaits us by the way we care for others' needs. Emerging from the pandemic, a number of essential projects needed to be addressed. As you can imagine, a building that combines both licensed healthcare and a home environment 24/7 for 365 days a year is subject to wear and tear. Our 23 acres, beautiful as they may be require attention and nurturing. After all, we are stewards of God's creation since He has given it to us as our common home.

By sharing some of these recent projects, I wish to assure you that every donation of time, talent and treasure is needed and carefully put to good use.

Now, St. Augustine's is "beginning to look a lot like Christmas." Decorations, lights and trees add a festive cheeriness to our Home. Residents and staff really enjoy the holiday season, thanks to the generosity and help of our Ladies Guild, local schools, parishes and organizations who want to make the season bright for others. Life is hopping here with lots of activities and plenty of good cheer.

The community of Little Sisters at St. Augustine's Home joins me in wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a blessed, healthy New Year. During this Christmas season, you will be in our thoughts and most especially in our prayers in the novena of Masses to be celebrated in the chapel of St. Augustine's Home.

God bless you for all you do for us!

*Mother Maria Christine, Lsp*

**Mother Maria Christine**  
Superior



## Wholly Cow!

This past spring, Sr. Marie Cecilia, our begging Sister telephoned Mr. Leo Gasper to thank him for his monetary donation. He asked what else we might need. Sr Marie Cecilia told him we were always in need of meat for the meals. The Little Sisters' belief that Divine Providence and St. Joseph never fail us was surely evident in what followed. In a follow up call a few days later, Leo offered to provide the Home with an 800 lb cow – yes, all butchered, processed and packed to our preferences! A second cow was delivered later this past summer – 900 lbs. We definitely have nothing to beef about! A beautiful friendship has formed with Leo and his family of four generations over these months. Residents unhesitatingly accepted the Sisters invitation to pray for all their special intentions. Thank you, St. Joseph!



## We need your updates!

Thank you to our donors and supporters for their patience while we complete major changes and improvements to our Development Office.

If your information needs to be updated, please let us know by:

- Email: [devindianapolis@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:devindianapolis@littlesistersofthepoor.org)
- Call: (317) 415-5767
- Write:

Development Office  
St. Augustine Home  
2345 W 86th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46260



We will be offering text messaging. Please send us your mobile phone numbers so that we can keep you up to date about St. Augustine Home.

Thanks for keeping in touch and helping us to keep in touch with you.

## Little Sisters of the Poor 2023 Calendar

We would like to share our annual Little Sisters of the Poor Catholic calendar with you.

The calendar, conveniently organized monthly, includes important information for you every day and it's a reminder that we Little Sisters are grateful for your support.

Please go to our website and sign up for a FREE 2023 Catholic calendar. [www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org/calendar](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org/calendar)