



Sr. Bernard, A life well-lived

A vocation spanning seven and a half decades

Albany, New York was the home of two teenage friends, who just happened to live across the street from each other, Isabelle, and Sr. Bernard. In the early 40s, Isabelle was an active volunteer at Our Lady of Sorrows Home, operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor. Being a teenage girl, Isabelle wanted to share her interest with her friend and invited Sr. Bernard to come and visit the Home, in hopes that they could volunteer together. After declining the invitation on numerous occasions, it was on a particularly bitter cold winter day that Sr. Bernard accepted and made the frigid walk to Our Lady of Sorrows, only to announce upon arriving that she was not going in. Isabelle went inside, as Sr. Bernard continued to pace up and down the path in front of the Home. It was not long before a Little Sister would emerge and ask Sr. Bernard to "please come in;" a request she could not refuse.

The superior greeted Sr. Bernard and invited her to tour the Home. During the tour, she took Sr. Bernard into a room where a Resident was dying. They both stayed in the room together for a few minutes, then Mother left Sr. Bernard alone with the dying woman. Sr. Bernard relates, "I just stood there and prayed and prayed." When Mother came back, "about 45 minutes later," and asked if she was all right, Sr. Bernard responded, "I'm okay." Had she been afraid? "No, not really, just changed."

When the friends left Our Lady of Sorrows, Sr. Bernard made a promise to return and visit again. She kept that promise and along with Isabelle would go and volunteer at the Home nearly every day after school.

In late 1946, Sr. Bernard met with



her pastor to discuss entering the Little Sisters as a postulant; since she had not shared what was in her heart with her parents, her pastor encouraged her to do so and sent her home. After three long days, she mustered the courage to have that crucial conversation. Immediately her father declared "No, I want you home." Her mother replied, "If it is her vocation, she should go. We will not hold you back. I just want you to know if you ever feel that this is not your vocation, and you want to come home, you can, the doors are always open." With the love and support of her family, Sr. Bernard's journey began.

In July 1947, at the age of 17, her father went with her to meet with the Mother Superior at the Home. At that time, with her mother in attendance, Sr. Bernard was dressed as a postulant. As they spoke in the parlor about her vocation her mother started to cry, Sr. Bernard crossed the room and gave her mom a big hug.

She was sent to the Home in Brooklyn, NY for six months to do her postulancy, then to the novitiate in Queens Village, NY.

After her first temporary profession on December 10, 1947, Sr. Bernard served in Homes in Chicago and Los Angeles before setting sail for France. She and her companions first spent several weeks helping to restore the Home in Cherbourg, France, which had been hard hit during World War II. From there she went to the motherhouse, La Tour Saint Joseph, where she sealed her final commitment in November 1952. After professing her perpetual vows, Sr. Bernard received her obedience to returned to the U.S., where she lived and worked at several different Homes. Sr. Bernard served at the 10th Street Home in Louisville before it closed in 1977 and returned to Louisville to help reopen St. Joseph's in 1991, where she was the collecting Little Sister for several decades. Sr. Bernard has always loved the Bluegrass State.

Reflecting on her 94 years of life, she happily states that she is "just a spring chicken. People have been so good to me. I'm amazed how good God has been to me through those people. I want to return it with all my heart. I wouldn't trade my life for anything. I've always loved my vocation, as you can see by my 75 years of devotion. I couldn't have chosen a better life."



Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre Visits

On March 30, 2022, Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre was installed as the tenth bishop and fifth archbishop of the archdiocese of Louisville.

Since his installment, Archbishop Shelton has been making his way around the archdiocese, getting

to know his new flock. On June 29th, his travels brought him to our Home. He celebrated Mass for the Residents, Little Sisters, and staff members, and then spent time meeting the Residents in their rooms and dining rooms. As he greeted each one with loving

attention, it became obvious that he truly lives out his episcopal motto, "Comfort my People."

It was a special treat to have the archbishop celebrate with us and we hope it was the first of many visits. Welcome to Louisville, Archbishop Shelton!

The 29th Annual Turtle Derby was a Great Success

Covid has caused us rethink how we do things. When it came to having our most loved and popular event, "the slowest two minutes in sports," the Little Sisters Annual Turtle Derby, we assuredly had to "rethink" how to host the event and keep our beloved Residents safe. So, how do you welcome 500+ friends, neighbors and guests to an event during a pandemic? You move it outside!

This event has historically been held on the Sunday before "the fastest two minutes in sports," the Kentucky Derby. With weather being what it is in the Ohio Valley, it was decided that moving the event to June was in order. We were blessed with a picture-perfect day of comfortable temperature and sunny skies. 2022 offered other changes to the event, such as a visit from the Minis From Heaven Miniature Therapy Horses, gaming booths and pulled pork sandwiches.

We hope you will plan to join us next year when the Little Sisters will offer even more exciting new additions to this wonderful event.



The Golf Scramble returns to Woodhaven

It was great fun to be back with our friends at Woodhaven for the 30th Annual Golf Scramble on June 27th. Co-Chairs Eddie Kupper and David Wolf, along with Mike Renzi, Mike Lutes and a score of volunteers, worked tirelessly to put on a wonderful event. Just as with the Turtle Derby, we were blessed with a beautiful day to be out on the course for 18 holes of golf followed by a delicious dinner and silent auction.



Thank you Kentucky Colonels!

The Kentucky Colonels have been a source of life blood to hundreds of organizations in Kentucky since its founding in May of 1931. The Colonels made their first major impact to the state after the Great Flood of 1937 and have been making a difference ever since. There are Kentucky Colonels all over the world working toward and contributing to this effort. Mae West, Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and our own Sr. Bernard have been or are Kentucky Colonels.

This past winter the Kentucky



Colonels granted the Little Sisters half the resources needed to purchase a new dairy cooler for the kitchen that serves our Residents. Thank



you, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels for making a difference in the lives of the Residents we so lovingly support.

Little Sisters Dedication Benches

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4ft Bench with plaque \$1,200
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in Louisville,
Kentucky

Gala 2022 Canceled

Due to Jefferson County, Kentucky's RED Status in Covid cases, the Little Sisters will not be hosting the Gala in 2022. Please look for New Opportunities in 2023.

Serving the elderly poor in Louisville since 1869.

MOTHER'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

All too quickly, it seems, we find ourselves in the month of August, which means that summer is almost over. For our large family throughout the world, however, it also means that the feast of St. Jeanne Jugan is just around the corner.

As we read about her life and work, we're always amazed at how many people she drew into the large circle of friends and supporters that quickly surrounded each new foundation she made. We consider it a miracle in itself that such networks have continued to support every one of our Homes without fail since 1839!

Here at St. Joseph's Home, we've had the pleasure of making some new acquaintances and reconnecting with many of you, our loyal friends and benefactors, at two major events this summer. The Turtle Derby, described in this issue, returned as an outdoor event which had a delightful "family picnic" feel, and which raised even more funds than its last "normal" occurrence in 2019! A few weeks later, the Golf Scramble saw many players and volunteers enjoying a day of fun and camaraderie, while generously supporting the Home.

We ask your prayers, as always, for many more vocations to carry on the mission of St. Jeanne Jugan, and for the devoted employees we need to collaborate with us. Lastly, we ask your prayers for our General Chapter, which will begin later this month at our motherhouse in Brittany, France, and run through October. Nine Little Sister delegates from the U.S. will take part in these important proceedings, which will include the election of Mother General and the revision of our Constitutions.

Know that we pray with gratitude each day for your intentions, too.

God bless you,
Mother Mary Richard



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Photo from pre-pandemic



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*"Father of the
poor, you have
never refused to
hear the prayer of
the lowly." J.J*

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Facial tissues, Body Wash, Mouthwash,
Deodorant, Lotion, Denture adhesive &
cleaning tablets, stamps, (snack foods
always appreciated, too!)

Larger Needs:

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Security System Upgrade