



The Divine Mercy Family Prayer Group



Mary Jane next to her favorite picture

## A Family that Prays Together

We strive to create a family atmosphere here at the Jeanne Jugan Center. Our Residents embrace the family spirit and appreciate the many opportunities to socialize. They visit together at meals, participate in engaging activities, attend Mass, and for one special group, come together and pray.

Every day at 3:30, like clockwork, the group meets in a gathering space to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. It's a warm, welcoming space with cushy chairs and sofas and gentle light streaming in from the many windows. All are welcome to attend. Some Residents drop in from time to time, and others are regulars.

It started with Resident Mary Jane. She shared that she wasn't really drawn to the Divine Mercy Chaplet for many years. It seemed too repetitive for her.

Then last year she found out her brother was ill and was nearing the end of his life. Sister Grace suggested that they pray the chaplet together. She tried it and found much comfort in it. Her brother, who lived across the country from her, did as well. Mary Jane would

call his wife and they would all recite the prayer together over the phone. On days he wasn't up to it, he would listen as his wife held his hand. Mary Jane said it brought a sense of peace and closeness to God to all of them. Since



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then, she prays it every day. At first it was just her and Sr. Grace, but little by little more Residents joined in and the Divine Mercy Family Prayer Group was formed.

The chaplet was given to Saint Faustina Kowalska in Lithuania in 1935. In a series of visions, Jesus promised that those who pray it will receive an outpouring of God's mercy, especially at the hour of their death. People are also encouraged to pray it for the benefit of others – the sick, dying, or the whole world – for mercy, healing, and salvation.

The Residents in the group say they look forward to praying the Chaplet every day. It's a quiet respite from the world's worries and the bad news that dominates the media. It's a time to get together with friends, pray for the world, and most importantly, to get closer to God.

We are edified by our Residents' faith and touched to see them share the mercy and love that they receive with others.



Jill, Rae Lynn, Resident Marge, Curt

## A Taste of Springtime

*By Rae Lynn Vittorino, Association Jeanne Jugan (AJJ) Coordinator*

On February 20, Residents of Little Sisters of the Poor Kansas City had the pleasure of attending a presentation about our local major league baseball team, the Royals. Representatives of the KC Royals Baseball Hall of Fame, Curt Nelson, the Senior Director and Jill Seib-Schaub, the Director, provided an engaging and fascinating presentation of the Hall of Fame history and artifacts.

Among some of the artifacts they brought from the museum were

the #30 jersey worn by Yordano Ventura, the power pitcher who was instrumental in helping the Royals win the 2015 World Series; the #2 jersey worn by Alcides Escobar, the Royals infielder; and the shoes worn by Salvador Perez #13.

(Interesting fact: #13 was not only stamped on his jersey, it was also stamped on his shoes, which were also a size 13)

Curt, extremely knowledgeable in baseball facts, shared an amazing

number of details about Royals history and the artifacts and Jill, also very knowledgeable, so graciously took each item around to all the attendees for individual close-up observation. The Residents were totally engaged and enjoyed the presentation immensely.

[AJJ member] Madge Moore brought for display her collection of 13 bobble heads of the Royals players who are in the Hall of Fame, as well as a miniature of the Royals 2015 World Series trophy.



Jill shows Resident Aretta some batting gloves.



CeCe takes a close-up look.

# Busy Hands, Full Hearts

It's always a good time to reach out and help others, and our Residents are wonderful examples of how everyone can have a helping heart, no matter their age. They like to stay busy, so many of them volunteer to help around the Home. They fold towels in the laundry, peel vegetables for the kitchen, make crafts for our fall craft sale, and visit other Residents who

aren't feeling well. But their generosity doesn't stop there.

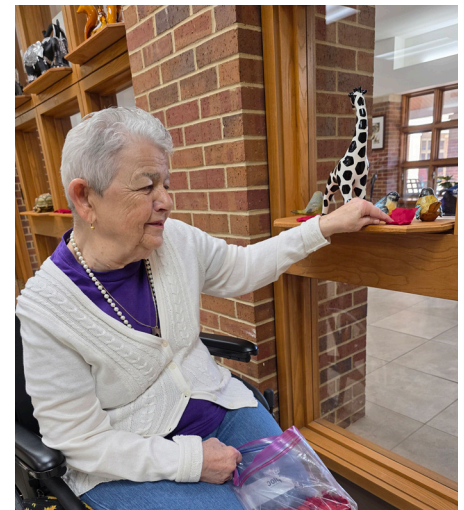
They wanted to do more, so they started a group where interested Residents come together monthly to do something for the greater community. The group has delivered home-baked cookies to the local fire department and packed hygiene kits for the homeless. They even took up

a collection of their bingo winnings (they play for quarters) and donated the money to a local non-profit food pantry.

We are always touched by our Residents' kind hearts and generosity in sharing what they have with others. What a great example of God's love!



Brenda (left) and Leticia prepare some apples for pies.



Nadine helps decorate for Valentine's Day.

## Spanish Anyone?



Gaby and Georgine practice after class.

We've been looking forward to an exciting visit this month from Mother General María del Monte Auxiliadora. She's the Superior General for all Little Sisters of the Poor worldwide and resides at the Motherhouse in France.

It has been more than 50 years since a Superior General came to Kansas City, so we want to make her visit special.

When our Residents heard that Mother is a native of Spain, they asked if they could learn some Spanish. Activities Director Gaby was happy to teach them, and so a weekly class called "Spanish Anyone?" was born.

The Residents are having a great time learning basic phrases and pronunciation. They can't wait to welcome Mother General and her assistant with a lively "Bienvenidas!" when they arrive.

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Greetings! I hope you had a spirit-filled Lent and a joyful Easter. We had a lovely Easter here and are enjoying Spring's warmer days. Our Residents are happy to be spending more time outdoors in the sunshine.

We also had a wonderful Christmas season and are grateful to all who gave so generously at the end of the year. We couldn't do what we do without your support!

We are looking forward to our Mother General's visit with great anticipation. It has been fifty years since a Superior General visited Kansas City. We are eager to share our Home's warm family spirit with her.

Thank you for being a part of our family, and for helping to make Jeanne Jugan Center a true Home for our beloved Residents. It is our hope and prayer that every day they feel God's love and compassion through everything we do.

God bless you,  
*Mother Mary Thomas*



## St. Joseph, Provider and Protector

Saint Joseph was very special to our Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. She went to him with all of her needs and chose him as patron saint of the Little Sisters of the Poor. As you can imagine, his feast day is a very special day for us. As has been our tradition for many years, this year we had guests which made the day even more meaningful.

Bishop James Johnston came and celebrated Mass, with several area priests concelebrating. It was lovely to see them all together in the chapel. Afterwards they donned their aprons and headed to the dining room, where the Bishop and priests served our Residents a delicious meal and visited with them. The Bishop even gave some of our nursing staff a blessing. It was a wonderful day!



## Did You Know?

Thanks to new tax law changes, gifts to the Little Sisters of the Poor are now tax-deductible for those who don't itemize their taxes. So if you take the standard deduction, a gift of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for a married couple) could mean a real tax benefit for you AND a real impact for our elderly Residents. It's a win-win! *Talk to your tax advisor about your specific situation.*