



THE ST. AUGUSTINE GUILD

Dedicated to aiding the Little Sisters of the Poor in the operation of Saint Augustine Home

www.littlesistersofthepoorindianapolis.org

Letter from our Co-Presidents Pat Kirlin and Ellen Jose

The beginning of 2020 has certainly presented new challenges for the Guild. State and archdiocesan mandates regarding COVID 19 have brought our ongoing volunteer activities to support the LSoP and residents of the Home to a screeching halt. For the time being, we are prohibited from entering the Home, and all Guild activities and meetings that take place in the home are suspended. Consequently, the Guild Day of Reflection and the Hats Off to Spring Luncheon were cancelled.

The HOTS Committee has been working behind the scenes to address ways we can partially make up the deficit in our annual contribution to the Little Sisters of the Poor. At this time, we are asking members to consider donating the cost of the luncheon and an additional amount you would spend at the luncheon to the Little Sisters as requested in an eblast you received earlier this month. More information will be forthcoming from the HOTS committee chair, Debbie Simmons.

A special thank you to those who responded to the requests to help the Home by sewing masks and donating items for the its residents. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The sisters, nursing staff, and other employees of the Home are working around the clock to address the physical and spiritual needs of the residents. While many of you have asked about the status of the residents and have heard news through the grapevine, Mother Francis Gabriel will provide us with official updates when she deems it appropriate.

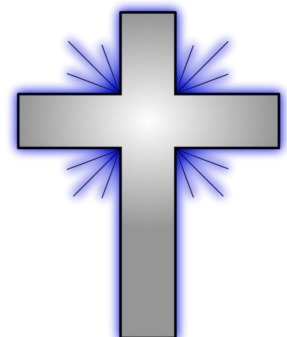
Prior to the imposed restrictions, two Guild activities brought members together. At the Mass for the Deceased on February 12th, we honored Guild members and relatives of Guild members who passed on to eternal life. A sincere thank you to Mary Patout and her committee for making this event memorable for those who attended the mass.

The General Membership Meeting took place on the evening of March 5^h. We dined on a delicious assortment of soups and salads and witnessed a heartwarming presentation by Jenny Hubbard, Director of the Women's Care Center prior to our business meeting. During the business meeting, we reviewed the proposed bylaws, answered questions, and received suggestions for clarifying language. We trust that everyone has read through the proposed bylaws. A special thank you to those who have responded with suggestions, questions, and positive comments at the meeting and by email. The Executive Committee is reviewing your input. We will make necessary changes and approve the final document before our attorney submits it and other required paperwork to become a 501(c)3 organization. Once approved, you will receive a copy of the new bylaws via email.

During the weeks ahead, let us all be mindful of others as we adopt our individual response to curtail the spread of the Corona Virus, and trust in God's Providence. While social distancing and self-imposed quarantining provides us with opportunity to catch up on sleep and tackle unfinished projects around the home, it also provides us with more opportunities for reflection and prayer. Please pray for the residents, sisters, employees of the Home, our Guild, and our country during these troubled times.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

Pat and Ellen



We Are All Membership Ambassadors

As members of the St. Augustine Home Guild, we are all called to be Ambassadors of the mission and service to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Share your experiences of volunteering at the Home with others

Share the spiritual blessings received from attending Mass and confession at the Home's chapel and the joy you find in being with the residents.

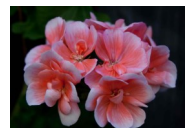
Living your life with faith and charity and a personal invitation to women of your parish will bring more women into the Guild who share our mission.

Remember that all new members must be sponsored by a Guild member. If you would like New Member registration forms, for prospective members please contact

Barb Hendrickson, New member liaison
bhendrickson526@comcast.net



Volunteer Opportunity



Guild Member Helen Dammann generously donated flowers for the HOTS Luncheon table décor.

Now that the Luncheon is cancelled, she has offered these potted spring flowers to the St. Augustine Home.

In May when weather permits, and the stay in place orders are lifted, we will need Guild volunteers to help plant them outdoors on the grounds of the Home.

If interested in helping, please contact Debbie Simmons by email: dsimmons.4708@gmail.com, phone or text: 317-294-8060.

I'll notify you when we can get started.

Mass for the Deceased

Deceased Guild members and Deceased Family of Guild members were honored at Mass on February 6

Deceased Guild Members

Marilyn Hayes, Past President

Donna O'Donnell

Donna Schelonka

Deceased Family Members of the Guild

Elaine Baker, Mother of Nancy O'Bryan

Tom Buddelmeyer, Brother of Marty Inkrott

Yvonne Cain, Sister of Cindi Fankhauser and Teri Hecht

Laverne Kukla, Mother-in-law of Debbie Kukla

Theresa Luberto, Aunt of JoAnne Spellman, Great Aunt of Suzanne and Beth Spellman

Peggy Davis Mertz, Sister of Sherry Porter

Gerold Reilly, Father of Linda Bear

Most recently deceased Guild Members include Nancy Swain, Catherine Hurtle, and Joanne Dillon Sullivan, who served as President of the Guild two times.

Hats Off to Spring (H.O.T.S.) report by Debbie Simmons, Chair

You may have seen the email from co-President Ellen Jose informing you that we had to cancel the May 6th H.O.T.S. Fundraiser Luncheon due to the gathering restrictions put in place because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

We already knew in early March that this virus had caused a closure of the St. Augustine Home to all visitors, including family and Guild volunteers. The severity of this pandemic progressed so rapidly that we ourselves became closed up in our own homes.

This is possibly the worst crisis that the Little Sisters in Indianapolis have ever endured,
BUT WE CAN HELP!
We have set up a link to the Home's website where you can provide credit card donations to help in their time of need.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=Isind&id=23>
Just copy and paste to your web browser to access this secure means of donating.

Please think about the money you helped to raise last year by buying a reservation, inviting friends, buying raffle tickets, donating gift cards for raffles, and contributing to Fund-an-Item.

If it is at all possible in these difficult times, please consider giving that money to the Little Sisters this year by donating on this website. If you prefer to write a check payable to the Little Sisters of the Poor (please put HOTS in the Memo line) mail it to St. Augustine Home, 2345 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46240. Your contributions are 100% tax-deductible.

Let's do all we possibly can to put a smile on the Little Sisters' faces when they see what the Guild has done for them and our beloved Residents of the St. Augustine Home.

We have been there for them for over 50 years. Let us be there now when they need us the most;

We are the Guild. We See. We Care. We Help.



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HOTS Patron Donations

St. Jeanne Jugan (\$1,000+)

The Gallinat Family
Sarah & John Lechleiter
Debbie & Mark Simmons

Seraphim (\$500-\$999)

Lu Ann & Bob Heitert
Friend of the Little Sisters

Guardian Angel (\$250-\$499)

Angie & Jim Bagnoli
Steve & Sue Bailey
Linda Bear
Jane & Steve Blanchard
Andrea Britton
Rob & Libby Doyle
Don & Teri Hecht

John & Bernadette Hengesbach
Mary Kay Holland Stuhldreher
Peggy Houchens
Mardy Inkrott
The Kirlin Family
Doris McKee
Jacquelyn F. Tomich

Cherub (\$100-\$249)

Marigrace Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Butcher
M. Barbara Carpentier
Nancy Jo Clapp
Karen Clark
Mary Conneally
Joanne Dyer
Beatrice Eckert/Deitchman
Robin E. Goff
Jean & Mike Guio
Beth Hansen
Jeannine Hong

Pat Jackson
Liz Johnson
Pat Kopek
The Kukla Family
Stan & Susan Kwiatkowski
Marilyn Lally
Jeannette Lee
Nancy Lee
Joan Kirkhoff Leucht
Bill & Sally Littlejohn
Kitty McGinity
Anonymous (p)

Sherry L. Porter
Suzanne Pulawski
Bill & Mary Reid
Ann Riegner
Josette Snellen
Charlene Sorrell
Lynn Spartz
JoAnne & Bill Spellman
Anonymous (s)
Mary G. Strausborger
Robert & Margaret Wente
Dorothy Yanavich

Friend of Little Sisters (to \$99)

Jan Bauman
Sharon Bosler
Jo Cheesman
In Memory of
Faye Di Nardo

Judi Hedberg
B. J. Maley
Theresa McHolland
Mary Ann Pahud
Dottie Primavera

Kay Richmond
Joan Roe
Mary A. Schliessmann
Mary Stall
Nancy Stoltz

Any donations that are currently in the mail or in process at the Home, or any online donations made after this publication will be reflected in the next Gazette.

~ Thank you for your generosity ~

Jenny Hubbard, Director of the *Women's Care Center* was a guest speaker at our general meeting on March 5. She has shared some information and wonderful stories about the current situation at the center.

The *Women's Care Center* is open and continues to serve Indianapolis' most vulnerable. As you know, in these historic times, many families are struggling as they are out of work, and because Women's Care Center is one of the few agencies that remains open, more families than ever are turning to us for emergency supplies-diapers, formula, and wipes.

They continue to see women who are considering abortion. After the Governor declared a stay at home order, Planned Parenthood called our office asking if we could see a woman who was considering abortion, but that their office was not performing procedures that day. We, of course took her in to find out that she was in a domestic violence situation and also needed housing. Since that day, we know that Planned Parenthood has reopened, but are glad to continue to be open next door continuing to help serve Moms and Babies in Indianapolis.

2019 was a record-breaking year!



3,336 women made nearly 8,000 visits to our Indianapolis center; 2,117 precious babies were born to our moms; 3,010 Ultrasounds... that's 60 per week!; March 19th we saw another record breaking 52 clients.

Then Corona hit... We weren't sure what to do. We were asking the same questions as everyone else- Do we stay open? Are we essential? How do we do our part lessen the curve?

- ◆ On the first day of the stay-at-home order, a woman came to us early that morning planning to terminate her pregnancy out of fear of the coronavirus-after talking through some of her concerns, she said she was grateful that we were here and that she felt better and she was ok now.
- ◆ On the second day, a father showed up at 9:30 in the morning telling us that his daughter had an abortion appointment next door at 10:30, and that they desperately needed someone to talk to. We took them both in and gave the daughter an ultrasound. She skipped her abortion apt.
- ◆ That Friday, a social worker called desperate to help her client find a can of formula. They drove 30 miles to our center as we were able to help her as well.

"It became apparent very early that we were essential to the continued health and safety of Moms and Babies in Indianapolis."

Our new normal:

- ◆ Ultrasounds are performed daily. Women enter through the back door to a sealed off area. Julie, our sonographer, is wearing protective gear, disinfecting between every client and staying in this quarantine area as to not expose any of the other staff.
- ◆ We are doing phone counseling which has been very effective, but also allows our counselors to work from home. Our counselors are also checking in on previous clients offering material assistance, and a much-needed friend to talk to. With layoffs, and most social service agencies closed and so much uncertainty, more and more families are turning to us for emergency tangible assistance than ever before. In the last few weeks, *we have doubled our distribution of diapers!*
- ◆ We are providing take home pregnancy tests
- ◆ We are continuing to help educate moms and dads with online parenting classes in both Spanish and English on our new You Tube Parenting Class channel.

A Woman called whose husband had been depressed after losing his job. Wife thought that this was not a good time to have a baby due to instability. Went over abortion procedures and gave an ultrasound.

All were very excited to see the baby!

Father is doing much better and says that the new baby brings hope!

