



These are Our Days



As the months have passed and we have endured the challenges of lockdown and limited socialization, we have spent countless hours 'brainstorming' ways to safely engage our dear Residents. Swaying to the beat of popular music always brings joy and laughter to everyone's hearts. The popular 1960's tune, "Those Were the Days," is one of our favorites and it keeps ringing in our ears as we look back on all of the acts of kindness we've received through your generous support.

Our former employee and now Volunteer, Evy Graziano, expresses our gratitude to each of you through her poem entitled "These are Our Days My Friend." The poem reaches back to the start of our Home over 100 years ago and reminds us of sweet stories of generosity listed in our archives, dating back to 1918! Our archives contain many notes from past donors. One mentions that Mr. J.K. Mullen provided the Home with window shades. Another, that Mr. O'Fallo donated his services as our contracted plumber. Another note tells of a sweet neighbor lady who offered us her sewing machine, a gift that rendered many sewing services. The list goes on: a local farm gave us three small chickens, a



French man brought us two sacks of potatoes... Even today our vocation as Little Sisters is made possible by the generosity of every person who has provided us with even the smallest gift to allow us to care for God's neediest children – His elderly poor.

As we continue to live these challenging days in gratitude and joy, we recall the words of Pope Francis: "It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people...who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time... who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves." These are our days and we'll continue living each one knowing that God is always with us, through the good times and the bad. He gives us rest in our weariness and all of the graces that we need to continue on His way!

These are Our Days My Friend

By Evy Graziano

Once upon a time there was a vision
To make a home for friends and family
Everyone was there to come together
They showered us with generosity

These are our days my friend
We hope they never end
We'll sing and dance forever and a day
We live the life we chose
Thank you Donors and Friends the most
For we allow God's Love to lead our way

When the busy years went rushing by us
And friends stood by our side with so much hope
We could count on them to spread Joy around us
We smile at one another and then we say

These are our days my friend
We hope they never end
We'll sing and dance forever and a day
We live the life we chose
Thank you Donors and Friends the most
For we allow God's Love to lead our way

And so one hundred years are now behind us
But still the Gift of Giving is to this day
We're thankful and grateful from our Hearts forever
So please believe us when we say

These are our days my friend
We hope they never end
We'll sing and dance forever and a day
We live the life we chose
Thank you Donors and Friends the most
For we allow God's Love to lead our way





Note: The setting for this photo is very special to Sr. Carolyn. Read more in her blog article from October of 2011, "Musings of a Tree."

Department Spotlight: Administration

It is a great joy to feature our administration staff in our Winter Newsletter as we welcome Sister Carolyn back to our Home. We recently said goodbye to our long time administrator, Ruthie Horton. Our thanks to Ruthie for everything that she did during her time at Mullen Home, she will be missed! It's worth mentioning that Sister Carolyn served as the administrator of our Home before Ruthie, and she actually hired and trained Ruthie for the position nine years ago. Now she is back and it is a gift to have her here again!

As a Little Sister of the Poor, Sister Carolyn has spent her vocation serving the elderly and going wherever she is needed. In a spirit of humble service, she happily trained as a nurse and then became an administrator, and has generally served in these two specific ways. She has also been active in

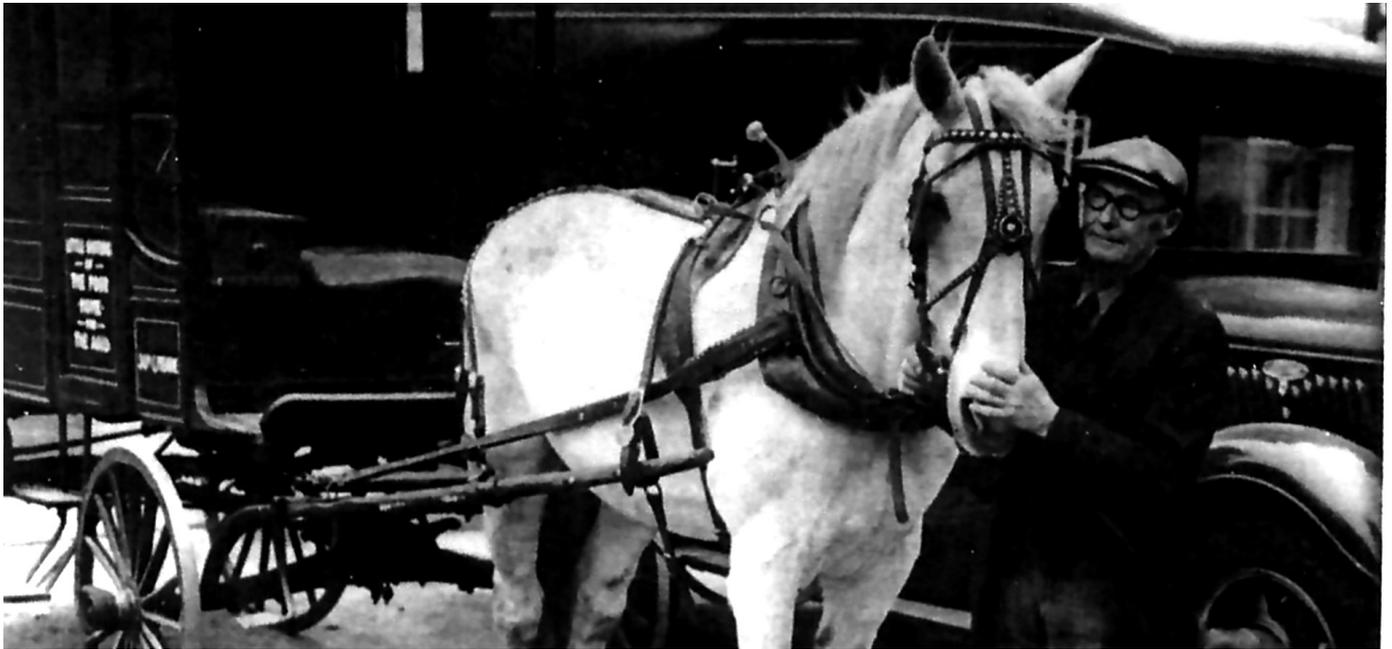
vocation outreach. Sr. Carolyn loves experiencing the family spirit that characterizes each of our Homes and the spirit of Saint Jeanne Jugan that is so evident here at Mullen Home.

Sister Carolyn celebrated her golden jubilee as a Little Sister last year, a great witness to the beauty of our mission. She says that her vocation was greatly influenced by her parents and their example of generosity, kindness, and selfless giving. She also had the privilege of learning from Sisters who taught her in grade school and still lives by the values that they instilled in her then. Pope Francis has said that "one who is called cannot help but become one who calls others," and just as she was formed by the Sisters in grade school, Sister Carolyn loves fostering the discernment of religious vocations as well. Last time she was in Denver, she served as vocations coordinator at Mullen Home

“one who is called cannot help but become one who calls others.”

and was able to walk with several young women who have gone on to become Little Sisters themselves!

Sister Carolyn loves serving the mission of the Little Sisters and especially the Residents in our Home. She says, "We serve Jesus and it takes everybody's creativity and joy to do it right!" We are very grateful to have her here with us. Welcome back to Mullen Home, Sister Carolyn!



From the Olden Days to “Our Days”

The entire mission of the Little Sisters was born in the heart of our beloved foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. She is a witness and a role model for all of us and reminds us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and to see him in every person we encounter. Many of our practices and traditions, even today, date back to the humble beginnings of our Congregation and the faithful response of Saint Jeanne Jugan to God's call. She gave up everything to serve the poor and when she had nothing left of her own, she put herself in the place of the poor and went out begging on their behalf. She entrusted all of their needs to God's providence. This was no easy task as she was not always well received on her begging rounds. But she put her pride aside for the sake of her beloved poor and continued to go out, day after day, to beg for all of their needs. Through this witness, she not only provided for the physical needs of the elderly in her care, but also opened the door of opportunity for the community to participate in her mission and in God's call to His faithful. The Lord poured out His grace on her mission, a mission that we still strive to live out today.

Saint Jeanne Jugan began the begging tradition with a basket and her own two feet. The Little Sisters of the Poor have continued her tradition through the years as we have grown and expanded around the whole world. Over 100 years ago, when the Little Sisters first began serving the elderly here at Mullen Home, the begging rounds took place with the help of a horse and buggy. In 1935, the horse and buggy were replaced by a motor truck, and our means of transportation has since become a begging van. We have always relied on our community for their support and aid as we serve our elderly in all of their needs.



It is a great gift to get to know our donors and to see them frequently on our begging rounds. The lockdown has limited our ability to leave the Home and we greatly miss going out to see our donors and to receive the goods that they have set aside for our Residents. Thankfully, our employees are still able to go out on our behalf, and our faithful donors have been abundantly generous to us. It is such a gift to see the Providence of God unfold on a daily basis and to see the ways that people have responded, even in these difficult times. Saint Jeanne Jugan taught us that the Lord will always provide what we need, we must simply rely on His Providence. What a gift to see God's promises fulfilled through the generosity of our faithful donors!

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Peace of Christ!
Through all of the challenges that we have faced over the last several months, my heart remains very grateful for all of the blessings we have experienced. Among the greatest of those blessings is the generosity that has been shared with us from our local community. We have been well provided for at the Home, even amidst the uncertainty of the world. I am grateful to announce that at the time of this letter, Mullen Home remains COVID-free! As Little Sisters, we rely solely on God's Providence in all circumstances, and His Providence never fails us. Without question, all of you have been there for us when we have needed it most and I cannot thank you enough.

There is no doubt that all of us have experienced the effects of this pandemic. It is scary and unsettling at times and has disrupted all of our lives. Our Home is surrounded by a community that knows that to survive a global crisis like this, we must support one another. Please know that in this time of crisis, we are praying for you and your intentions. Thank you for being the instruments of Christ in this world!

In his newest encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis speaks of the importance of relationships and he reminds us that, "no one is saved alone, we can only be saved together." If we can learn anything from this time of suffering and struggle, it is that we need each other. My prayer is that we can remember this as we move forward. Our salvation is communal and we continue to look to the Saints for their guidance and prayers as we walk along the way. May you be surrounded by the mercy of Christ. Thank you for your support and love!

God Bless,

Mother Mercy Stella Theresa, l.s.p.



Enhancing Resident Life and Looking Forward to the Christmas Season

Since the beginning of the pandemic we have received so much support from our outside community. Your generosity has been a great witness to us and it is truly humbling to see the ways that you have sacrificed on our behalf during these difficult days. Our needs have been ever changing over the course of the past several months and God's providence has not failed us in receiving what we need. Recently, due to the ever-changing restrictions and guidelines from the health department, we have become more conscious of our donation policy. Currently, we are unable to accept any clothing, shoes, bedding or medication of any kind. We want to keep our Residents as comfortable as possible! If you have a donation that you think would be beneficial to our Residents care or if you would like an updated list of our current needs, please contact Peggy Dietz (ext. 127) in our Development office, or Sister Joseph Marie (ext. 184), our Begging Sister.

Christmas songs ring out the theme of Joy and Peace. Our hearts turn to those parts of our weary world that are encountering incomprehensible suffering. We know that your prayers join those of our family of Little Sisters and Residents that the New Year ahead will be the fulfillment of our hope for a lasting Peace, a Peace that only Jesus, the Prince of Peace can bring to the world.

In your prayers during this Christmas season, please remember to ask Jesus, Mary and Joseph to send us many more Little Sisters as we continue our mission to the needy elderly and continue the prophetic vision of Saint Jeanne Jugan.

Thank you for being a *Christmas Angel* and may God grant you a New Year 2021 beaming with His blessings.

Many of you may be desirous of bringing joy to our Residents this Christmas Season. Despite the fact that Christmas will not be celebrated in our usual manner this year, there are a variety of ways you can support our elderly:

- Make a year-end gift through our website www.littlesistersofthepoordenver.org
- Mullen Home's Christmas Wish List: Copy Paper * Kleenex * Gift Certificates including King Soopers; Safeway; Walgreens; Wal-Mart (any gift card welcomed!)
- Pray for us and for our dear Residents!

