

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor  
in Denver since 1917.*

Spring 2015

MULLEN HOME  
FOR THE AGED  
3629 W. 29th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80211

303-433-7221

[littlesistersofthepoordenver.org](http://littlesistersofthepoordenver.org)



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MULLEN HOME

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## One Hundred Years and Strong of Soul Resident Celebrates Milestone

Sharp as a tack, smart as a whip, and quick-witted, Isadora (Romero) Shirkey exemplifies all those things we strive for should we live to a milestone age! Born on February 2, 1915 with all the proverbial Ground Hog Day jokes to come, Isadora began her life in Monte Vista, CO. The second youngest of 12 children (four died at birth), she will tell you that she is the “last one standing,” outliving all her brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

Her father, a sheepherder, was twenty years older than her mother and it was not unusual for her and her siblings to call him “grandpa.” He would spend six months at a time away from home tending his sheep; on occasion she, her mother and youngest brother would take a horse and buggy out to his camp. There, they would feast on a wonderful meal in his large tent and then play all day

on the grassland. “I had a wonderful childhood,” she says. “I always had fun and we had horses to ride. We never owned a car.”

After finishing 10th grade, Isadora was anxious to do something different. She wrote to a Catholic hospital in Pueblo and the Sisters there readily accepted her wish to come there and work. She was 16 years old and was put to work at four in the morning working in the kitchen and dining room; after, she would go off to school, come home, work at the hospital switchboard until dinner, and off to bed at eight. It was an arduous routine that would last for three years. With

this experience and the kindly help of a doctor, she went on to the state hospital and worked for the next seven years in the doctor’s dining room and dietary department.

Isadora married Jack Shirkey in Denver on May 16, 1941. They had met at the state hospital where he was an EEG technician. After his army **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



*Isadora celebrated her 100th birthday in a fancy birthday crown.*

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

## Observing Saint Joseph's Day

St. Joseph's Day holds a special significance for the Little Sisters of the Poor since our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, chose him as patron of our Congregation. We celebrate his March 19th feast day to honor the loving protection he provides our home and our "family" throughout the year. We are blessed each St. Joseph's day to have local priests join us for Mass and then serve our Residents a special meal exemplifying the dignity of service to our Lord's eldest children.

*Reported by the Denver Post, March 1935 "Bishop Tihen served food with*

*his own hands, Thursday, to the old men and women residents of the J.K. Mullen Home for the Aged. It was the annual observance of St. Joseph's Day, when prominent Catholics don aprons and wait upon the poor – a custom that originated in France hundreds of years ago. This scene in the men's dining room shows some of the Catholic clergy and laymen passing the food to the Residents. The "waiters" are (standing behind the table), left to right: Fr. William A. O'Connell, W.P. Horan Jr., Fr. Thomas F. Gorman, Bishop J. Henry Tihen, Fr. E.J. Mannix, and Dr. J.W. Davis."*



*The Little Sisters and our Residents rely on the kindness of others to help supplement health care supplies. Above is Sister Mary Emilie with Resident Mildred Morgan ringing in the New Year!*

## A Heartfelt Thank You

to our Supporting Foundations in 2014

The Little Sisters of the Poor are forever grateful for the help we receive each year from the foundations who support our mission of caring for the elderly poor:

Boettcher Foundation  
The Catholic Foundation  
Colorado Trust  
Dominican Sisters  
El Pomar Foundation  
Frances M. Foster Fund  
Frances A. Melrose Foundation  
Harry Krammer Memorial Fund  
Holy Cross Catholic Church  
Mabel Y. Hughes Trust  
May Bonfils Memorial Trust  
J.K. Mullen Foundation  
Priester Foundation  
Jack A. Vickers Foundation  
Virginia Hill Foundation  
Walter E. Lipe Foundation  
Weckbaugh Foundation

### SAVE THE DATE:

#### **Each Friday in Lent at 4:30 p.m.:**

Stations of the Cross  
(March 27 Stations will be followed by a Lenten supper)

#### **Holy Week Services:**

#### **Holy Thursday, April 2:**

4:30 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper

#### **Good Friday April 3:**

11 a.m. – Stations of the Cross  
3 p.m. – Good Friday Services

#### **Holy Saturday, April 4:**

7:30 p.m. – Easter Vigil

#### **Easter Sunday, April 5:**

10:30 a.m. – Easter Mass



*Pauline hard at work cataloging books for the shelves. She won't brag but we will as she is the best librarian a library could have!*

## The Residents' Library: A Feast for Booklovers!

**BY PAULINE SNYDER,**  
*Resident and Mullen Home Librarian*

Thank you ... thank you ... thank you for the abundant supply of fantastic and relevant books on many, many popular topics donated by those of you hearing of our quest for books! Our new library thanks you for helping the Little Sisters of the Poor provide an educational, intellectual and spiritual relaxation for all the Residents the Sisters so honorably care for.

The library in Room 126 is not hard to miss! The door is adorned with a wooden sign depicting a bookworm winding its body around and in and out of the letters and books on the sign. It was made

for our library by the daughter of a dear friend of mine.

I would like to thank Julie, a very dear young mother-to-be, who made all of the labels for all of the books and contributed other computer needs. I also would like to thank Mother Patricia for her trust in my judgment as a librarian, and to Veronica Ramos for her loving support.

Thank you all, again ... and please know we are always accepting books to add to our library shelves. If you would like more information, please call 303-433-7221, or drop them off at our home, 3629 W. 29th Avenue in Denver. Please come and visit and see the amazing results that your marvelous donations have made!



*Isadora at eight months old in her Christening dress.*

## One Hundred Years

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** service in World War II, they lived with his parents while getting established and starting a family. Eventually, they purchased a new home in a start-up development in Aurora. "When we first moved in they hadn't installed a tub or a toilet, and what a mess with three children to attend to! Fortunately, the builder quickly remedied the situation."

Isadora was a stay-at-home mom. Son Michael was born in 1943 and twin boys, Larry and Terry, were born in 1945. Jack was busy with hospital work and assisting doctors specializing in neurological disorders. Once the boys were out of the house and on their own, Isadora worked at the local Woolworth's store in Aurora for the next 16 years. "They sold everything then," she said, "nails and hardware and whatever else you might need."

"I've had a great life," she says. "I always made sure I had fun, whatever I did and wherever I went, and I have a lot of fun here at Mullen Home." Jack passed away in 1999 after 58 years of marriage; she has four grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. And wherever she is she is always fashionably correct with manicured nails and a scarf to adorn her head – after all, she has 140 scarves from which to choose! Oh, and one more thing, she hasn't missed going to the stock show since 1941!

# A Simple Note

By: Sister Patricia Mary



Dear Friends,

Peace and blessings to you this Lenten season. We are emerging from the winter snows and beautiful though they were, we are enjoying the warm spring days. Our Residents are especially grateful that they can get out and walk the grounds and observe all the foliage coming into bloom.

This is a busy time of year for us. We will celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph during this month of March. In the Church's tradition, March is designated as a special time to honor St. Joseph, head and provider of the Holy Family. As the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph received special devotion from our Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. She considered him to be the great "provider" of our Congregation. Each and every day, we call on him for his protection and are blessed to have him looking over our Congregation and Residents.

We are also busy preparing for the glorious celebration of Easter and promise of new life in the Resurrection of our Lord. During this holy time of renewal, we pray that you will be spiritually renewed and blessed with God's great gifts of hope and joy.

As spring is a time of renewal and blessings, we especially want to thank all of you for your generous donations. Your gifts bring so much comfort and care for our dear Residents who depend on the Little Sisters and our staff during their later years.

May you be filled with the joy of God's abiding presence,

*Mother Patricia Mary, lsp*

# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoordenver.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoordenver.org)

## Please join us in supporting our Residents' needs!



Medicare, Medicaid, and other retirement benefits cover only 59% of our expenses toward a safe and comfortable home for our Residents. You can help – and be a big winner too!! Proceeds from our raffle benefit our Residents daily personal care throughout the year!

Drawing will be held on July 4th, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at Mullen Home. You need not be present to win. For additional tickets, please call 303-433-7221.

### Join us this year for our July 4th Raffle!

#### CASH PRIZES AWARDED!

1st Place Winner -- \$5,000

2nd Place Winner -- \$3,000

3rd Place Winner -- \$2,000

#### Purchase your tickets now:

**\$5 each or six for \$25**



*Resident Marjorie Gibson with Sister Cecilia.*

## Join Us!

### Visit our website:

[www.littlesistersofthepoordenver.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoordenver.org)

### Share your email with us

by clicking on "Register Here"

### Make a quick donation

by visiting our WeShare page



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**Our foundress  
Saint Jeanne Jugan**