



# THIS IS OUR JOY

*“Making the elderly happy, that is what counts!”* SAINT JEANNE JUGAN

by Kyla Mejia, development assistant

Pope Francis frequently speaks of the importance of caring for the elderly. He says, “The elderly pass on history, doctrine, faith and they leave them to us as inheritance. The wisdom of our grandparents is the inheritance we ought to receive. A people that does not care for its grandparents, that does not respect its grandparents, has no future since it has lost its memory.” No one understands the importance of these words better than the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Sisters have dedicated their lives to serving the elderly and dignifying the important role the aged have in the body of Christ. A while back, the Little Sisters started an initiative called Jesus + Old + Young = JOY to better highlight the importance of relationships that span generations.



Even during this pandemic, our young volunteers and family members know just how important it is to care for the older generation. Many of our young volunteers have sent us photos to share

with our Residents to remind them just how much they are missed. Through their vocation, the Sisters provide an example of love and care for the elderly that inspires relationships such as these.

Throughout this pandemic, our Residents have taught us what joy really looks like. They continue to teach us, through their own experiences, that brighter days will come and that we must weather this storm together. This is joy — an underlying, steadfast, deeply rooted sense of happiness that lends us perspective in these moments of difficulty. While we cannot be close in distance, let us remain close to one another in prayer. It is a joy to continue to serve this mission alongside the Little Sisters of the Poor and to strive to do as Saint Jeanne Jugan did and make our elderly happy.

## Wanna Give us a Lift?

Our very antiquated elevators at Mullen Home need to be upgraded. We realize that the current pandemic makes the timing of our appeal a bit awkward, but the need is truly urgent. We’ve had incidences where our vulnerable, elderly Residents have been “stuck” on the elevator, along with staff members and even the Little Sisters themselves! Will you “give us a lift” and donate to our Replacement Elevator fund? Your support is upliftingly appreciated!



Resident Honored

## Nora turns 100!

This season, it is our privilege to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of Nora Romero. Nora has been living an enriching life here at Mullen Home for seven years and we are very grateful for her presence in our Home.

In the small town of Castillo, New Mexico, a baby girl was born on September 28, 1920 and given the name Honora Trujillo. Nora was one of nine children in her family. Each child developed a strong work ethic as everyone labored to maintain the family farm. Some of Nora's fondest childhood memories are of family fishing and camping trips.

Growing up in a faithful Catholic family, Nora had the privilege of being educated by the Sisters of Mercy at their parish school. After eighth grade graduation, Nora continued working on the family farm. She later married her grade school sweetheart, Erasto Romero. Both Erasto and Nora worked on the family farm until it was sold in 1960. After the sale of the farm, Nora worked in the food service industry while Erasto was employed in healthcare maintenance as a janitor.

The Romeros were blessed with five beautiful children: Carlos (Charlie), Tomas, Wilfred, Henrietta, and Raymond. Nora says that some of her happiest memories are giving birth and receiving a new life in her arms.

Nora misses being surrounded by her devoted children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren due to the COVID pandemic. At 100, sewing has become a challenging task, but she enjoys her memories of past articles made. Nora is a life-long Catholic and she enjoys the recitation of the Rosary. She feels blessed to be part of the Mullen Home family and would not want to live anywhere else!



## Century of Service

This year, our Home celebrated the retirement of three dedicated, loving and hard-working employees. Debbie Williams, Kathy Davis, and Cindy Winters have all retired from their positions here at Mullen Home after a combined 103 years of service. While we were sad to see them go, we are so grateful for their many years of compassionate care for the elderly poor. Debbie retired from the office of Resident Accounts on March 30th after 32 years at Mullen Home. She shared many big events, including her wedding, here at the Home! Kathy Davis retired on June 12th after 40 years. She began her time here as the beautician, which developed into many other roles and finally lead to her many years at the front desk. Cindy Winters retired on July 3rd after 31 years working directly with our Residents as a nurse. There is no doubt that each of these individuals have been a great gift to us here at the Home and we are so blessed to have had so many years of their joyful service. We wish them all the best on their next adventures!



# Happenings Around the Home

Even in a pandemic, we have plenty of moments to enjoy and celebrate around our Home. The Sisters have taken very specific and intentional time to honor our hardworking staff as everyone continues to navigate through the constant changes. Over the course of a month, each department was celebrated at a special luncheon hosted by the Sisters. Each employee received a card and gift and enjoyed a nice meal provided by the Sisters. The staff was so grateful for the kindness and care that the Sisters have shown to each individual. The Sisters also hung a large banner at the entrance of our Home to thank our employees as they come to work every day. These intentional moments of thanks go a long way to support the people who are working hard to care for all of the needs of our Residents.

Another special moment of

celebration was the 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation of our Resident, John Murchison. After months of studying, praying, and preparing to receive these Sacraments, John was thrilled to finally come in to full communion with the Catholic Church during Mass on July 3rd. We welcome him with great joy to our Church family!

What would summer be without a good barbeque? This year, we were grateful to celebrate both Father's Day, as well as the 4th of July, with outdoor, socially distanced, barbeque celebrations for our Residents. The men in our Home still participated in our annual Father's Day car show. This year's drive through event was a success and a joyful way to celebrate all of the fathers. We also hosted our annual July 4th Raffle this year. The Sisters celebrated the holiday with a barbeque



for the Residents and selected and announced the three cash prize winners that day. The fundraiser was a success! These moments of celebration have been a great source of joy and a light to all of us here at Mullen Home!

## Department Spotlight:

# Medical Records

We are incredibly blessed here at Mullen Home with very hardworking and caring employees. This season, we would like to honor an employee who truly goes above and beyond in her daily work to serve and care for our elderly poor. Over eight years ago, Lee Baradi began her time here at Mullen Home. She works in our Department of Medical Records doing tasks such as aiding the Residents in scheduling their medical appointments. Since 2014, Lee and her husband Eddie have been faithful members of the Association of Jeanne Jugan (AJJ), supporting the Sisters in their mission for the care of the elderly poor. Lee does so much for the Home that often goes unseen. Recently, she has faithfully gone to the chapel every day after Mass to clean the pews and the sanctuary to help prevent the spread of infection in our Home. Once she started this task, she found an appropriate cleaner that has antibacterial properties as well as protects the wood of the pews and she donates it to the Home for the chapel cleaning. Her humble



words speak to the gentleness and love she shares with all of us, "When I'm in the chapel, I forget all worries. I love being here with the Residents, the Sisters and my colleagues and friends. They all have words of wisdom for me that I'll cherish always!" A big thank you to Lee for all that she does for our Home!

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Months have passed since we closed our doors to the outside world in an effort to protect our dear Residents. Sometimes, it feels hard to believe that it has been so long. The weight of this lockdown is an experience that none of us can avoid, a heavy weight. Yet I am constantly reminded that the Lord is with us through all of these trials. He has not abandoned us and instead, continues to call us to His everlasting joy.

The commitment of our Sisters, staff, and volunteers continues to move me as we work to protect our Residents, and each other, throughout this pandemic. We have a lot to celebrate in these uncertain times. Recently, we had three of our long-time employees retire after a collective 103 years of service to our Home. While we all miss them, I am so thankful for the years of love and care that they have shared with us. This September, we will celebrate a century of life for one of our Residents. We have countless employees, Sisters, and volunteers going above and beyond to take care of one another in this time. The struggle of the pandemic cannot dim the eternal joy that the Lord promises each and every one of us.

Our beautiful chapel continues to be the source of our joy. It is the place where we can go and visit with our Lord and give Him all of our anxieties and sufferings in return for his everlasting joy. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded of the example Jesus sets before us; "looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2). We must remember that the cross leads to the resurrection. The pinnacle moment that our entire faith depends on. Jesus conquered death and gave our suffering a purpose. I am grateful that, as Christians, we can depend on this joyful hope in difficult times such as these. May God continue to bless each of you and may He guide you on the way to heaven.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Mother Mercy Stella Theresa, L.S.P.*



## Jesus + Old + Young = JOY

And Jesus said to them,  
"Let the children come to me,  
for the kingdom of the heavens belongs  
to those, who like children—be".

And who will guide the children  
as they grow with hearts of gold?  
I thought I heard the Lord's reply,  
"It is the elders, the grandparents, the old".

There is nothing more lovely you know  
then Jesus's playful plan—  
for the young and the old together  
in every nation and land.

The children bring warmth to the old,  
the elders share more than any toy,  
Jesus brings the old and the young  
His blessing and gift of joy.



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## MISSION

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself. The Little Sisters of the Poor have always been committed to respecting your personal information and privacy. The Little Sisters of the Poor will never sell, share, trade, rent or provide personal information to any other entity. Thank you for your continued support of our mission!