

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

VILLA GUADALUPE

Serving the elderly poor in Gallup, New Mexico since 1983



New Life! New Life

He came to bring us new life!

"Almighty ever-living God, be present by the mysteries of your great love and send forth the spirit of adoption to create the new peoples brought to birth for you in Baptism, so that what is to be carried out by our humble service may be brought to fulfillment by your might power." Vigil Mass of Easter



Jerry with his sponsor Lorraine received his Baptismal Candle.

We have had the joy of welcoming two more of our Residents into the family of the Church! Jerry Kelm and Herman Ebbens were both baptized, confirmed and received their first Communion on February 2, 2018 at a Mass celebrated by Bishop James Wall. On first glance, you may not guess how active Jerry is around Villa Guadalupe. He grew up on a cattle ranch helping his parents so he has been a cowboy his whole life. He even passed on his work ethic and love of ranching to his own family. Jerry is still a worker. After some morning coffee and breakfast, he takes Maxie, our resident dog, out for a nice long walk. Throughout the day, he enjoys tending to the landscaping. In his interactions with the Sisters, it's clear that he loves others immensely. He'll make others laugh with little jokes and comments and will always give a firm handshake. In the time leading up to his reception of the sacraments, Jerry was a regular in the chapel for Mass, praying enthusiastically. His desire to learn and understand the faith was unshakeable.

Herman grew up in a Baptist family. His wife and children were Catholic, but he never found his way to the Church. He often spoke of his family's respect for his personal liberty, saying that his son told him to think about it, but only take that step if he truly wanted it.

Herman expresses his newfound joy by always greeting people with a warm smile and good conversation. And he's got some great stories! As his Baptism and Confirmation approached Herman's excitement was evident; we could see it in his eyes. He would brighten up whenever he was asked if he was looking forward to his reception into the Church. His joy-filled expression said it all.



"Herman, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

We couldn't be happier that Jerry and Herman will be joining us as Catholics this Easter as "we proclaim the great message: 'The Lord is truly risen, as he said!' May Jesus, who vanquished the darkness of sin and death, grant peace to our days and New Life to us all!" (Pope Francis).

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Thank you dear friend

The annals of our mission home here in Gallup tell us that on the second day after the Little Sisters arrived in Navajoland “Mrs. Peggy Martinelli arrived mid-morning with four big boxes of groceries for us.” This was only a symbol of the many hours Peggy would be willing to spend here at Villa Guadalupe and the many ways she would help us. She has worked hard as a volunteer with our mailings, even before we were computerized, as well as with many other tasks.

Peggy was a faithful member of the Association Jeanne Jugan since May 1, 2006. After two bouts of cancer, Peggy went peacefully home to God on December 28, 2017. On January 5, 2018, we had the honor and privilege of having her funeral Mass here in our chapel, which was filled to overflowing. We are confident we have another intercessor in heaven.

Peggy - Muchas Gracias, Ahe’hee’, Merci.

May you rest in peace!

Love is the Language We All Speak

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Every year we participate in the octave of prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25 by inviting our local priests and leaders of other Christian communities to come celebrate in a special way with us. This year we were joined by Father Pio, O.F.M who was assisted by Fr. Hugh O’Neill; Pastor, Gloria Erickson, Pastor of the In the Word of His Grace Church and Mr. Robert Keen, chaplain of Alliance Hospice. After the service, all of those who attended were invited to share a meal of thanksgiving.

Although the various Christian denominations differ in their theology, this week of prayer invites us to share what we all have in common — charity. Theological differences are forgotten when one encounters someone without a jacket in five degree weather. Charity is a universal language written on the heart. Love is a language we can all speak and that is what this week is for — to pray with one another and together to serve the world. In Gallup, Christian Unity is not relegated to one week per year, but remains a prayer in our hearts as we minister to those around us.



Outside Looking In A personal reflection by Ethan Kaste

Dear Friends of the Little Sisters,

To be honest, I had never heard of the Little Sisters of the Poor until I found out that I was getting sent to Gallup, NM to stay with them for a month as part of my 30 day Immersion.

It may be true that the Little Sisters of the Poor might not be as well-known as the Missionaries of Charity, but I am not surprised because it is a fitting likeness to their foundress, who was not known as the founder for the last twenty-seven years of her life. Even though these Sisters remain little and poor in the face of the world, they are utterly rich in charity, a wealth of charity that is not exhausted when shared with others. I have been surprised and blessed to witness this reality lived out in two ways.

The first was witnessing how they keep vigil with a Resident who is dying. In addition to making vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, they make an additional vow of hospitality, which is integral to their charity. In my opinion, this vow is best lived out in how they care for the dying. When someone is dying they keep vigil with the person. Dying is the most important part of our life; it is the point where we see God, and the Sisters try to make this passing as comfortable as possible as they show them that they are not alone.

The second is when I see them interact with the Residents. Every morning after meditation and morning prayer, the Sisters go in haste to give coffee to the Residents. The nurses wake up the Residents' bodies, but the Sisters wake up their hearts as they come into the unit with big smiles on their faces — smiles that are



so readily received by the Residents. This interaction of smiles and affectionate banter is so contagious that Andrew Olson and I couldn't help but share the same love with the Residents. I can tell you that my love and respect for the elderly has increased daily because I can perceive that they know I love them.

I believe that it was absolutely part of God's Providence that made me experience these things. If I didn't witness it first from the Sisters, I never would have been affected the way I was.

My experience would not have been possible without your donations and support for the Little Sisters. I thank you all for having been a part of this with me and making it happen, because we all know that the Little Sisters could not continue their mission without your support. I encourage you to continue to give and encourage others to give. Thank you so much!



Sr. Fatima and Sr. Christine visiting with Alice Castillo (104 years).



Mother Rosario giving Annie Navajo a cup of coffee.



George Begay shares a story with Sr. Mary.



Welcome Fr. James Walker



We are extremely happy and honored that Father James Walker has so willingly accepted to be our chaplain here at Villa Guadalupe. He was given a royal welcome on March 1st, when he officially took up residence here with us. Father is no stranger to our home, since he was the pastor St. John Vianney parish and Sacred Heart Cathedral here in Gallup for many years. Father Walker's last assignment was as pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Blanco, NM and St. Mary Parish in Bloomfield, NM, where he graciously received the Little Sisters every year for a church collection. Father Walker is looking forward to getting to know the Residents and to be available to meet their spiritual needs. **AGAIN WELCOME**

Farewell, Sr. Lizeth

Sr. Lizeth Maria of Mercy has been at Villa Guadalupe for a little over a year and has now been called to continue her religious formation in France. As a newly professed Little Sister coming from our novitiate in Chile she entered wholeheartedly into our life here with the Little Sisters, Residents and staff. Many people noted her joyfulness and availability to help out wherever needed. She was always willing to try something new. Her expertise in technology, which allowed her to enhance the many activities we have shared during this past year, was greatly appreciated.

Sister Lizeth left on February 21st and will visit her family in Peru before

beginning her studies of French in Paris. We assured her of our grateful prayers and asked her to keep all of us in hers as she pursues her desire to follow Jesus through the gift of herself to God and the poor.



Mary Donnelley and Sr. Lizeth



Jerry Kelm listens as Sr. Catherine talks about the Home.

OUR EASTER WISHLIST

Copy Paper
Body Wash
Kleenex
Large and small paper plates
8oz Cups
Plastic Silverware
Regular ground coffee
Regular tea
Bottled Water

If you can provide any of the items listed above, please call us at 505-863-6894 or bring them to our Home at 1900 Mark Avenue Gallup, NM

We want to assure you that the intentions that you confide to us are remembered in our daily prayers especially during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Thank you for your generosity and your charitable spirit! God bless you.