



Fond Farewells and Happy Hellos



Residents gather around Sr. Stephen to express appreciation

Together with many recent organizational changes in the Home, there have been several changes among the Little Sisters.

We are grateful for the service of Mother Sarah and Sr Stephen during the last couple of years here in Gallup. Although we still had some restrictions for activities at the time, we were able to send Sr Stephen and Mother Sarah off, each in their turn, with grateful hearts and warm thoughts. Sr Stephen

left us to join the Little Sisters in Chicago, while Mother Sarah went to Mullen Home for the Aged in Denver, CO. Before they left, there was a little party thrown in their honor. There were speeches given and tears shed by many. We will miss them.

Shortly afterwards, we welcomed Mother Theresa Louisa. She received a warm welcome on a sunny afternoon. After the rough year of 2020, it was nice to see the Residents smile again

and feel excitement in the air. Mother comes to us from our Home in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is originally from Samoa. We are happy to show her what Villa Guadalupe has to offer!

Please join us in welcoming three new Sisters to our Home. Sister Francis John came from our Home in Chicago, Sr. Christine Marie Joseph from St. Paul, and Sr. Paul from San Francisco. We are excited to have them with us!



Warm welcome to Mother Theresa Louisa



Signs of hope as we emerge from the pandemic

Oftentimes, during the spring months we see many changes in the natural world around us. This year, we are also seeing changes within the Home.

The Residents weathered many changes during the past year. They ate meals in their rooms and visited with their loved ones through a window or virtually with a tablet received from the office of Aging and Long Term-Service Department. A few visited with loved ones outdoors — socially distanced, of course — and more recently, they were able to visit indoors in the coffee shop when the weather was not favorable. Many Residents took to crafting in their rooms while the physical therapy aide went room to room to help keep them in shape.

The most recent changes from

the New Mexico Department of Health have given the Residents an opportunity to resume eating in the dining room, something that hasn't happened since April 2020. When the Residents heard that they would be welcomed back into the dining room, they were thrilled that part of their lives would be returning to "normal." Initially, they were seated one person per table. Since the beginning of June, the Residents who have been vaccinated are allowed to eat together. Considering just under 90% of our Residents have chosen to receive the vaccine, this has allowed them to feel like life is more "normal."

In addition to eating together, the same vaccinated Residents are allowed to enjoy group activities without social distancing. This is raising their spirits

and they are rebuilding relationships with others and now that we are welcoming some new Residents into the Home, they are meeting new friends.

But for the majority of the Residents, the most important change is the possibility of visiting with their vaccinated family members or friends in their rooms.

We took so much for granted and now that we are able to "open up" more within the Home, we realize how much these changes have impacted the daily life of the Residents. We continue to remember those Residents whose lives were lost due to COVID-19 and pray for all those who are suffering due to the pandemic. We remain hopeful that things will continue to improve.

Remembering with Eliane

Memorial Day is a time when we honor the military men and women who gave their lives serving their country. One thing we love about the Residents at Villa Guadalupe is their colorful pasts. If we are lucky, we get to hear about their lives firsthand.

One Resident remembers living through WWII in France. Eliane was 14 years old at the time and lived in Bétheniville, France. She lived with her parents, four sisters and little brother. The Royal Air Force established airfields in Bétheniville because of the large, rural fields. With her family, Eliane was forced to leave everything she knew and get on a bus to travel to an unknown location. Bétheniville was located close to the German border, so the residents had to evacuate without any time to prepare. While traveling, the bus broke down and everyone was forced to hide in ditches and under trees, unable to move about during the day. There were German bombs dropping all around them. They eventually caught a train to southern France and remained in the area for six months. During that time, they picked peaches to earn money.

When they were finally able to return home, they discovered life was very different. The Germans had taken over the town and residents were forced to listen to outside news in secret. Eliane's younger brother caught meningitis and died. Eliane remembers a time when a Jewish man, who owned a cloth factory, went missing after the soldiers discovered he was Jewish.

As time went on, the United States and their allies gained the upper hand, and the Germans faced defeat. A prison camp for Germans was eventually built and happier times for Bétheniville residents arrived. There were lots of dances in the surrounding surrounding towns, which



were attended by both the local citizens and U.S. soldiers. During that time Eliane would fix many of the ladies' hair. It was at one of the dances where she met U.S Army Pvt. Angelo Zanardi, a young soldier from Gallup, who would often come to dances just to see her.

Right before Zanardi was scheduled to head back to the United States, he asked Eliane for her hand in marriage. Eliane recalls her sister having their French priest contact the Catholic church in Gallup to learn about Angelo's family. They soon got married and once Eliane came to New Mexico, they started a few businesses and had two children. Unfortunately, Zanardi passed away from lung cancer.

Lung cancer would also take the life of Eliane's second husband and daughter. But despite all of the heartache and sadness Eliane has faced, she continues to remain strong. She is now at home at Villa Guadalupe.

Roof Project Update

Phase 1 of our roof project is finally finished! We are looking at starting Phase 2 of the project in the spring. This phase will focus on replacing the remaining parts of the roof — 44,000 sq feet of shingles and 3,800 sq feet of flat roof. This will include any necessary gutters, insulation, and skylights. Due to COVID and the rising price of supplies, the original estimate has increased by \$400,000. We are grateful for everyone's support in helping us provide a warm and dry home for the Residents.



New Projects

- **Install showers in four Resident rooms (received a matching grant of \$25,000 and are looking for donors to match it)**
- **Replace the HVAC system in the convent—it no longer works and is estimated to be \$70,000**
- **Re-roofing project Phase 2—amount remaining to raise: \$400,000, projected start date Spring 2022**
- **Commercial steamer for the kitchen \$10,000**

THANK YOU!

We would like to send a special thank you to all the people who have sent in donations for the Residents.

You can continue to help us by sending in juice (apple, orange, cranberry, prune), canned fruit, applesauce, flour, sugar, cream of wheat, oatmeal.

Ways to Give

Recurring Gifts:

If you donate online, you can choose to schedule donations that repeat automatically at a frequency that works best for you.

Matching Gift:

To make your donation go even further, check to see if your employer has a matching gift program.

AmazonSmile:

Signup for AmazonSmile and designate Little Sisters of the Poor of New Mexico as your charity, and a portion of your purchases will be donated to us.

Planned Giving:

Consider leaving a legacy of providing for the elderly by choosing Little Sisters of the Poor of New Mexico as a beneficiary of your will or trust.

Honorariums or Memorials:

Give a donation to honor a special person in your life, to recognize a significant achievement or anniversary, or to remember a loved one.

A Message to our Benefactors

We greatly appreciate your support. During this unprecedented time, we seek your indulgence if we are unable to thank you in a timely manner. Please know that we are grateful for your continued support. During this time, you can help us save on postage by asking us to send you a letter at the end of the year that will acknowledge the donations you made throughout the year.

Please note: we do not share or sell our donor list with other organizations.

“If God is with us, it will be accomplished... God will help us; the work is his.”

—Saint Jeanne Jugan