



“If God is with us, it will be accomplished”

We marvel at the many ways God shows his love to us each day, recognizing that without God’s help, we can’t do anything. Our Mother, St. Jeanne Jugan, showed us that confidence in God is the only way. Her words echo in us today: “If God is with us, it will be accomplished ... God will help us; the work is His.” We are instruments in the hands of God, like clay in the hands of a potter.

We are grateful for the outpouring of support that has come across the country to help us provide for our Residents. We depend upon God’s Providence to help us to be able to make ends meet, to provide for the varied of needs of the elderly, and to be able to meet the challenges that unfold with each new day.

Over the past couple of years, we have all weathered the storm of life and have been tossed by the sea of the pandemic. Although not over, we are grateful that life for the Residents is beginning to “normalize” and they are able to enjoy some of the things that had been taken for granted before the pandemic — like eating in the dining room and celebrating holidays together.

Although things continue to be done differently, the pandemic fostered creativity and growth in everyone. Each new challenge shows the resiliency and flexibility of the elderly!

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

—Saint Jeanne Jugan



BETWEEN THE ACTS

These last months have been a bit of a whirlwind — between the delta and omicron variants circulating around us. In the midst of everything, we've been able to take advantage of the opportunities to taste a bit of normalcy.

This fall, we celebrated Halloween with a parade of cartoon characters. Wheelchairs were transformed into stagecoaches and buggies. Before you knew it we had Prince Charming and Cinderella in our midst. Even the Flintstones made a guest appearance!

It may seem easy to grow plants, but our Residents soon found out that not everyone has a green thumb! In response to Pope Francis' call to care for creation, our Common Home, the Residents took up the challenge.

The perfect opportunity arrived when the Young Women's Group from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints decorated small pots in which they planted some succulent plants.

They offered these to the Residents who were then challenged to see who could get their plant to grow the best. A month later, Residents gathered in the auditorium to present their plants. Residents and staff were asked to vote for the best plant. All participants received a homemade trophy. The first place winner received the large *Laudato Si* award. Everyone had a joyful afternoon.

This year we were able to celebrate Christmas together as a family. Little Sisters, staff and Residents worked together to act out a favorite Christmas carol — which included Away in a Manger and even two visits from Santa!

During the Christmas Season, we honored Kathy Johnson, one of our long-time staff members who retired after serving at the Home for over 19 years! Kathy Johnson had worked in various areas of the Home before finding her niche in the kitchen as a cook. We will greatly miss her.



Nancy enjoying her ride in the Flintmobile.



Residents and Staff caroling "Away in the Manger."

Resident Spotlight: Benny Chischilly

When most of us think of 1953, we imagine major events like Queen Elizabeth II being crowned Queen, or the Korean War coming to an end. For Benny Chischilly, this was the year his lifelong adventure began.

Benny's older sister wanted him to have a successful future and to be skilled in an industry, so after seeing an ad for a five-year program she signed papers for Benny to go to a trade school. Benny had attended two boarding schools and wasn't sure what he wanted to do, but he knew he was leaving a life of sheep herding.

So one morning Benny boarded

a Greyhound bus at 4 a.m., unsure where he was going, but sure that an exciting experience awaited him. The bus lead him to Stewart, NV, where Benny learned to be a painter — not an auto mechanic as he hoped, because the school had no mechanics instructors. This trade eventually led him to Chicago. While there, Benny worked with Eco Sheet Metal.

After a brief time in Chicago, Benny continued his way northward and found himself in Canada. While there, he helped make dashboards for cars. Unfortunately, this trade did not pay much (just over a dollar

an hour) and one of his friends mentioned a program teaching welding. So, Benny worked his way back down into the States and began a new adventure in welding. Ten men had signed up, but only three made the cut — including Benny!

Eventually, Benny returned to the Southwest and found himself in Phoenix, AZ. While he was soaking up the sun, he began to work in a junkyard, where he helped build the outer shells of cars. He enjoyed his time in Arizona because he was a little closer to his family, but fate had other plans.



Bob dressed up as Prince Charming.



The Residents were proud of the plants they grew.



Winora won the *Laudato Si* award.



Santa and his reindeer!



Santa and Staff Caroling



Kathy retiring after 19 years.

In 1969, his “lady friend” called one day and asked him to come to Chicago because she wanted him to meet her mother before Christmas. So after nine years as a welder, Benny went off to Chicago once again.

In 1987, Benny finally returned to New Mexico and remained in the area. Eventually he found himself with the Little Sisters, becoming a Resident in 2013. When he first came, he wanted to resume his busy lifestyle and painted all the chairs!

Now, Benny enjoys spending his time walking in the halls and participating in morning exercises. In fact, he is the only person who can touch his toes when stretching!



Benny Chischilly's lifelong adventure brought him to Villa Guadalupe Home in 2013. He remains active and enjoys his daily exercise.

Mother's Message

Dear Families and Friends,

“Yá’á’ ééh!” Greetings from this beautiful Navajo Nation in the most Holy Name of God, our Creator.

It was a great joy for me when I was called to serve in this mission home of Villa Guadalupe of our dear Congregation. The Good Lord has rejoiced my heart which had been longing for mission, by sending me to serve his Elderly Poor in this charming Navajo land of majestic mountains and exquisite sunrises and sunsets. Together with my Little Sisters who are stationed here, I pray that God will continue to help us to advance in humility and charity with our eyes fixed on Him in our beautiful vocation as Little Sisters of the Poor.

The little family of Saint Jeanne Jugan here in Gallup continues to witness the wonders of love and Providence that God has never ceased to bestow on us each day. The favorite refrains of our Mother during her collecting rounds echo daily in our hearts: “Blessed be God & Thank you my God!” I am certain that each one of us can sincerely say: “Blessed be all our benefactors, families and friends who continue to support us in our apostolate.”

The invisible enemy of COVID-19 continues to prevent us from opening wide our doors to all visitors, but we will never lose hope that one day this also shall pass. The familial collaboration of our wonderful Staff and Little Sisters within our Home to come up with creative activities to make our Residents happy is something to talk about. Despite having one, two, or three positive cases among us from time to time, we do not feel so much anxiety because we have learned to work together in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. During this pandemic, we have learned to be stronger in faith, hope and love as we draw our strength and the food for our souls from prayer, especially from the Most Holy Eucharist.

On behalf of our Residents, AJs, Staff & Little Sisters, I will continue to say Ahéhee’, to all who continue to support us in our mission here at Villa Guadalupe. May the Holy Family of Nazareth continue to intercede for all of your intentions and we remember all those who have gone before us. May they rest in peace.

Gratefully in Christ,
Sr. Theresa Louisa, l.s.p.



Roof Project Update

The first part of our re-roofing project is finally complete and Phase 2 of the project will begin in just a few months. We are excited to be able to complete this project and ensure that the Residents have a warm and dry home.

We are also eager to update you on our Apartment Water Intrusion Project. Additional studies have been completed to look at how much damage the water has caused to the building. Proposals are being studied to determine the best way to address the problem and to go forward. No definite decisions have been made yet as to when any work will begin to fix this problem. We pray that St Joseph will continue to direct this project and provide the needed answers and funds to complete whatever may be necessary.

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.