



Shí naashá

I am walking above where it is beautiful.

The words of this beautiful song echo in our hearts when thinking of our late Mother General Celine de la Visitation. She first visited Gallup in 1981 to consider starting our new foundation here. She passed from her joy-filled vocation on earth to be called to a seat at the table of the Lord in heaven on December 3, 2022. Now she is walking above this beautiful foundation in the Navajo land.

In 1981, Mother Assistant Celine de la Visitation represented Mother General Marie Antoinette de la Trinité when she came to this beautiful land to meet with Bishop Jerome Hastrich who suggested that the Little Sisters of the Poor should begin a foundation in the city of Gallup. In 1983, the foundation of Villa Guadalupe came to realization. We are so grateful to Mother Celine who was instrumental in the establishment of this Home. In 1992, Mother General Marie Antoinette and Mother Assistant Celine traveled from France to visit the Homes in the United States. They spent a few days here and were able to experience and appreciate the beauty of the Navajo land.

Mother Celine gave of herself selflessly to our Congregation for over 64 years. She worked tirelessly to advance the cause of canonization for our foundress, Jeanne

Jugan. She experienced the great joy of being present in Rome when Pope Benedict canonized St. Jeanne Jugan on October 11, 2009.

Mother Celine guided each Little Sister by her example of kindness and humility. She loved the elderly and placed herself at the service of others her entire life. Her gentleness, kindness, and her infectious smile touched the lives of all she met. She made everyone feel like she was their dear friend, which in spirit, she was.

Her positive attitude, welcoming smile, and listening heart made Mother Celine someone who will long be remembered. She dedicated her life to serving the elderly, faithfully lived her vows, and undertook her responsibilities until the end, just six weeks after she attended the General Chapter of the Congregation, which concluded in September 2022.

Thank you, Mother Celine, for the example you set through your life as a Little Sister of the Poor. We thank you for all that you have done for the Congregation, each Little Sister, and for our Residents. Thank you for sharing your love for Christ and his little ones with the world. Thank you! Ahéhee'

She Has “Woven Her Way” Into Our Hearts

Katherine Tso was born in 1923, the ninth of twelve children, and grew up in Hunter's Point, Arizona. Her grandfather passed on the trade of herding sheep to her father, and Katherine learned it from him.

Although her mother wanted all of her children to have an education, her father wanted Katherine to stay at home because her help was needed with the daily chores. As the middle child of the seven who survived infancy, while her siblings went to school, Katherine's days were spent doing the housework and tending to the livestock.

Her parents told her that she was the chosen one to help the family tend the sheep and that after they passed away, the sheep would be hers.

In addition to herding livestock, Katherine learned to weave. Her mother taught her this valuable skill which would become an important trade when Katherine had to support herself in later years.

The wool from the sheep was skillfully transformed into weavings. Navajo rugs are valued as a 'work of heart,' collected for the technique used in making them, and treasured for their artistic beauty. Katherine learned to add vegetable dye to the wool to get additional beautiful colors. She handspun her wool and spent years creating rugs.

Katherine came to Villa Guadalupe when she was 92. Poor eyesight was interfering with her mobility and was causing her to trip over prairie dog holes in the field.

Like her dad, who lived to be 87, and her mom who lived to be 107, Katherine had given many, many decades to herding sheep. She knew it was time for her to leave her sheep to her daughter and son and move to a nursing home.

She confided to her sister that she



wished to move to a smaller religious home because she felt the care would be better. An appointment was made for Katherine and her sister, Marie, to come and visit the Little Sisters of the Poor.

They were welcomed and given a tour, after which Katherine told Mother Thomas that she wanted to stay and not return to her home. She knew in her heart that she would be happy in this place.

She doesn't weave anymore because of her eyesight, but she enjoys listening to the Navajo channel on the radio.

Katherine also takes pleasure in conversations in her native language with staff and other Residents.

She does not speak or understand English, but is happy and at peace in her surroundings and is a joyful presence in our Home.

Unlike the days of herding sheep when she might eat one day, and miss eating on others, Katherine says that she has lots to eat here. Here she does not have to worry.

Katherine's faith is strong. Her religious journey began with the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. The first Catholic priest came to St. Michael's at the Catholic Mission and while there, he would visit people at different homes in the area.

Without realizing it, Katherine has been an imitator of St. Joseph throughout her life. She worked hard to protect her family and keep them safe.

Like St. Joseph, she used the skill of her hands to create beautiful things. She trusted in God's providence for her livelihood as she watched over her sheep and wove her rugs.

Her faith was a source of strength her entire life. Now, Katherine is pleased to be able to attend daily Mass in the chapel, with her rosary in hand.

Life experience has taught Katherine much. She looked after her family, took care of her sheep and the land, and raised two children. She created beautiful rugs and honored her culture with the skills passed on by her mom and the talents given to her by God.

Katherine has also 'woven her way' into the hearts of the family of Villa Guadalupe. Her eyes crinkle with delight as she giggles at something that entertains her.

Her smile lights up her face and she is content in the knowledge that the Little Sisters and Residents are her family.

May God bless her abundantly as she celebrates her 100th birthday on the Feast of St. Joseph, on March 19!

JOIN US FOR A G.R.A.C.E. Non-Event

The heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system of Villa Guadalupe has served our Home for the past 35 years.

But the system, which provides heat or cooling to the daily living areas and bedrooms for our Residents, is no longer reliable and in need of replacement immediately.

The HVAC system is vital to the safety and quality of life of the elderly in our care, especially in the heat of summer and the chill of winter. The replacement of the system is expected to cost about \$90,000.

Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, began her mission of care for the elderly poor over 180 years ago in France, during difficult times. She knew she could not do the work alone, thus she counted on the kindness of benefactors to help her provide what was needed for those in her care.

She relied on young women to follow in her footsteps to continue the

work she began. She trusted in God's great Providence, and in the protection of St. Joseph.

She said, "If God is with us, it will be accomplished ... God will help us; the work is his."

Your kind consideration of support for this project is very much appreciated. Your gift will help to keep our elderly Residents protected from the extreme conditions of weather that Gallup experiences.

Pope Francis, in speaking of the poor, reminds us, "Even now, they are our treasure, the treasure of the Church."

Your assistance will help us to protect the treasures that are entrusted to our care, the elderly poor of Gallup.

One of our Residents, Katherine Tso, will soon be celebrating her hundredth birthday (see previous page) on the Feast of St. Joseph. As she begins her second century, we must give our HVAC system a new beginning.

As we honor this wonderful occasion

of "neeznadiin" years for her, we also give thanks to St. Joseph for his protection over this important project.

We will be having a Non-Event to help us fund this necessary replacement. Your support of our **G.R.A.C.E.** (Generating Reliable Air Comfort for our Elderly) Non-Event will not only be bringing comfort and warmth to our home, but to the hearts of our Residents.

We hope you will be inspired to participate in our **G.R.A.C.E.** Non-Event with a gift that pays tribute to Katherine's hundred years (\$100), her second century (\$200), or in another amount that honors the protection of St. Joseph in your life.

We extend our gratitude to the many who have collaborated with us for the past 40 years to keep our Residents safe, warm, and sheltered.

We also look forward to welcoming new friends in the decades to come. Ahéhee'!

G.R.A.C.E. Non-Event

Generating Reliable Air Comfort for our Elderly

MARCH 19, the Feast of St. Joseph

- Help the Little Sisters replace the HVAC system at Villa Guadalupe
- All contributions will help fund new HVAC for our Residents
- Your intentions will be remembered in our prayers and your generosity will be gratefully accepted.

Bonus Opportunity

Formal Dress is not required
Dinner will not be served

Raffle tickets will not be offered
Entertainment will not be provided

Donations may be made by mail in the envelope provided
or online by visiting littlesistersofthepoorgallup.org



*In gratitude to St. Joseph,
for his protection and providence
for our Homes and our Congregation
and in honor of Katherine Tso's
100th birthday.*

Mother's Message

Dear Friends,

"Yá'at'ééhi!" Greetings from Villa Guadalupe! It is amazing how time flies, especially for our elderly Residents who feel like they just celebrated Christmas and now we are in the Lenten season. Our grateful hearts keep singing God's praises for all the manifestations of love that brought joy to our lives during the season of Christmas and the winter months. Our Residents were so happy to be entertained by the jovial carolers, joyful dancers, and delightful singers. They were elated with the beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts and the Santa sleigh (U-Haul) filled with assorted gifts needed for their care. A donation of a delicious catered restaurant meal added to the festivities.

God knows the gratitude of our hearts for the continued support of all our benefactors, both old and new. We are blessed by your ongoing help and your choice to share in our daily mission of caring for God's elderly children confided to us here at Villa Guadalupe. We continue to pray that the Good Lord will always reward all our benefactors, families, and friends.

We also will never forget the generosity of all those who have gone before us. Their influence remains vibrant in the lives of our Residents, Staff, and Little Sisters. We honor their memory and pray for their eternal rest. May perpetual light shine upon them for all eternity. *"Ahébee"*

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



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 to our mission go even further, check to see if your employer has a matching gift program.

Planned Giving:

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.

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

—Saint Jeanne Jugan