



A salute to Sami

One hundred years young!

The long-awaited moment for our Resident, Sami “Strongbull” Daniels came on November 28, 2023. It was a day of great joy and merriment as a large number of family and friends came to celebrate her 100th birthday. Her beautiful smile warmed the hearts of all in attendance as she sliced her patriotic cake and proudly stood to honor the flag of our country.

A member of the Cheyenne tribe, Sami served in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) during World War II and knew how to hold her own with her fellow soldiers. She still proudly wears her uniform on special occasions. Sami actively continued supporting veterans in Gallup for many years, through her association with the Veterans Helping Veterans group, which promotes camaraderie and healing as well as assisting veterans in obtaining benefits.

Sami reminisced that she has always liked to take things apart and put them back together. She said that once, when she was about nine years old, she received a Mickey Mouse

watch. Curious about how it worked, Sami took the watch apart to find out. Another time, when Sami was a little older, she disassembled her father’s tractor, much to his dismay. But Sami was able to put both the watch and the tractor back together in working order. It is no wonder that she eventually became a mechanic! Sami used her skills to fix B-26 airplanes while she was in the service.

Sami was among the first group of Residents who moved into our new Independent Living Apartments on March 16, 2001. A person of many talents, she frequented our Arts and Crafts room, where she spent her days doing pottery and crafting. Sami loves nature, mountain climbing, swimming, and other outdoor activities, and those interests are reflected in some of her paintings, many of which can be found around our Home.

Since joining the little family of St. Jeanne Jugan here at Villa Guadalupe more than 22 years ago, Sami, already talented in so many ways, learned to

make rosaries. Anyone who passes through Villa Guadalupe — especially one of the Little Sisters — receives a hand-made rosary from her. The Little Sisters who have been stationed here in Gallup receive a hand-painted Christmas card from Sami each year. One of her Christmas cards was featured as the official Christmas card used by all our Homes a few years ago.

As she ages, Sami is preparing herself both spiritually and materially for her heavenly home. She happily gives items to people she thinks will appreciate them, faithfully attends Mass and just as happily, helps others whenever she can.

Sami loves to talk about many things, one of them being her love for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She may not be able to recall the exact number of them, but she prays for each one of them every day!

May God shower Sami with many blessings in this new year!

40 years of joy serving the Elderly

December is always packed with anticipation and activities prior to the celebration of Christmas. We were delighted to gather on December 12, 2023 to mark the fortieth anniversary of Villa Guadalupe. Bishop James Wall joined us for Mass and the festivities that followed. Accompanied by five concelebrants and a master of ceremonies, during his homily he spoke of the evangelizing effect of Our Lady's appearance at Guadalupe. He encouraged us to draw from this and to be evangelizers ourselves.

During the meal that followed, Miss Navajo Nation, who was raised by her grandparents, shared her reflections about the importance of our ministry to the elderly and how it bears witness to the true meaning of Christmas. A representative from the Navajo Nation shared his thoughts on what our ministry offers to the people of this land. We were honored when city representatives presented a commendation for our 40 years of service in Gallup. A Resident choir, accompanied by an employee on guitar, sang Christmas carols in English, Spanish, and Navajo, adding to the delight of the day.

We were also privileged to have Mother Provincial Julie and her councilor, Sr. Thérèse Marie with us. They came to Gallup for the canonical visit of our Home, and were joyful participants in the events during their stay (a canonical visit is an official "visitation" made by a major superior, who visits the Homes under her jurisdiction on a regular basis to ensure each community's fidelity to our charism and religious practices).

Later in the afternoon, during the closing of the canonical visit, we were surprised with wonderful news! The community learned about the collection that had been taken up in the Homes throughout the province for the



laundry equipment that we needed here at Villa Guadalupe. We were astonished to hear the total, which was enough to purchase all three industrial machines! Our laundry staff was elated with this news and we can only say to all in each of our Homes, "Blessed be God for all of you!"

The family spirit continues to reign in our Homes and with our hearts overflowing with joy, we confide all who made this fortieth anniversary so special to the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe.





Phase 2 Reroofing completed

Thanks be to God for all benefactors, families, and friends who contributed towards our Phase 2 Reroofing project, which was completed last September. We are grateful for the great job accomplished by AAA Roofing Contractors from Albuquerque. We are also thankful for the intercession of Saint Joseph to whom we confided the intention of good weather for the duration of the reroofing. He did not disappoint us. Blessed be God!



Lenten G.R.A.C.E.

Our G.R.A.C.E. (Generating Reliable Air Comfort for our Elderly) Non-Event fundraising featured in our 2023 Spring Newsletter brought in a total of a little over \$21,000. We used this money to purchase a rooftop heating/cooling package to replace the old equipment on the roof in the hallway between the medical wing and auditorium.

Now it is imperative that we fundraise for more HVAC units for other parts of the Home, which are in dire need of replacement. We appreciate your kindness and generosity in assisting us to provide our Residents with a comfortable and reliable system that will

help them during the upcoming heat of summer and beyond. Will you consider offering a 2024 Lenten G.R.A.C.E. donation for this very important project?



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.

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.

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.

*Thank you for your support and generosity!
You are remembered daily in our prayers.*

Mother's Message

Dear Family & Friends,

“Yá’át’ééh!” Greetings from Villa Guadalupe to each one of you in the joy of Jesus our Lord and Savior!

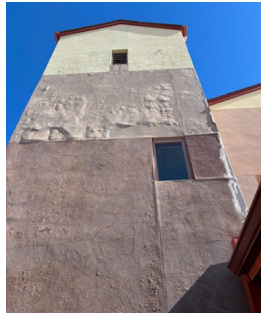
The Villa Guadalupe Family enjoyed various events in December, as you read in this newsletter. Each event was marked by the beautiful family spirit so dear to our Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, and to her daughters. One of her sayings comes to mind because it is one of my favorites: “See how Jesus, Mary, and Joseph loved one another, all three, how happy they looked, with what kindness and gentleness they spoke to each other. In our little family, it must be the same.”

The spirit of joy radiating from each person during all of these events testifies to God’s presence among us. He will remain with us if we continue to honor him in whatever we say and do. As Saint Jeanne Jugan once said to a benefactor who asked her why she burdened herself with the poor, “We will share them, Sir. You will provide for them and I will care for their needs.” We are very grateful that you choose to work together with us for the benefit of our Residents.

The Lord of Life has called to himself two beautiful souls among our Jeanne Jugan Associates, Marjorie Mares and Marilyn Benedict. Their dedication to our Home will never be forgotten. They and all the faithful departed associated with our mission will be remembered in our daily prayers.

We Little Sisters cherish our time of prayer together before the Blessed Sacrament every day because it reminds us that each day in our lives is a blessing from God. You are part of that daily blessing for us through your continued support of our mission. Our gratitude and prayers will accompany all of you always. “Ahéhee”

God bless you,
Mother Theresa Louisa, l.s.p.



Independent Living Apartments in Need of Immediate Repair

We have been working with our architects for the past few years to determine the viability of the ‘envelope’ of our low-income Independent Living Apartments for Seniors building. This key component

of construction affects the climate, energy consumption, and ventilation, as well as the protection of the interior and occupants of a building. It is what separates the interior from the exterior. We have compared the cost and effectiveness of performing repairs to remediate water intrusion at the building’s envelope versus looking at constructing a new building.

Renovations would include improvements to site grading and drainage, foundation systems, interior and exterior finishes, and reconstruction of the hallway link. The proposed total cost for this project is about \$2,500,000.

This building has served us well for over twenty years. It has protected our elderly as it endured

“Renovations include improvements to site grading and drainage, foundation systems, interior and exterior finishes, and reconstruction of the hallway link.”

the heat of summer and the cold, wind and snow of winter. Time and the elements have taken their toll, and the building envelope is now in desperate need of repair. As we look to the future and the needs of the elderly Residents in our care, we reach

out for your assistance in making these renovations possible.

We are now beginning our fundraising for these high priority renovation and HVAC projects.

Please help us in any way you can. Donations may be made online on our website www.littlesistersofthepoorgallup.org or by mail to this address: Little Sisters of the Poor, 1900 Mark Avenue, Gallup NM 87301.

Kindly consider a gift in memory/honor of someone who touched your life and/or provided protection for you in your lifetime.

We are very grateful for your support of our mission of care for the elderly. Please be assured that we continue to ask God to bless you and your generosity always.