



Little Sisters of the Poor

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ST. MARY'S HOME  
2325 N. Lakewood Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60614

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Little Sisters of the Poor Celebrate 150 Years in the United States**

Chicago, IL – The Little Sisters of the Poor’s St. Mary’s Home in Lincoln Park celebrates its Congregation’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the United States from Feb. 28 through April 15, culminating with an interactive open house for the general public on Sunday, April 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. to “thank all of our friends past, present and future throughout Chicagoland,” said Sr. Carolyn, administrator.

During the public event, guests will be treated to Resident- or Sister-guided tours of the home, voice-animated historical displays from the Little Sisters' earliest U.S. foundations (establishments), a slideshow of vintage photos from the Little Sisters’ early years in Chicago, live music, and a reception to meet a special mystery guest— a celebrity from the Chicago Cubs family.

The Little Sisters, founded by St. Jeanne Jugan in Brittany, France in 1839, has homes in 31 countries including 27 locations in the United States. The national commemoration began in August 2018 and will end in August 2019 so that all of the local communities where the Little Sisters reside can celebrate the milestone.

The spark igniting the flame of love for the elderly poor throughout the world came from Jeanne Jugan, who came upon Anne Chauvin, a blind, infirm elderly woman as she was begging for food on the street one cold winter evening in 1839. Sympathizing with her plight, Jeanne scooped Anne up and carried her home, giving up her own bed so that Anne would have a warm place to sleep.

The Little Sisters of the Poor is an international Catholic community of religious women with the unique mission of offering the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed and cared for as family and treated with dignity until God calls them to himself.

The Little Sisters believe that their work is more urgently needed today than ever as the United States population rapidly ages, new models of elder care emerge, and respect for the dignity of human life is challenged.

The Little Sisters of the Poor opened their first home in Chicago on July 15, 1876 and have been serving the local community for the past 142 years.

“We could never fulfill this beautiful mission without the wonderful help of all of our friends (and friends-to-be) from Chicago and the surrounding areas. We hope to welcome many of them to visit us during our open house so that they may experience first-hand the spirit of hospitality that fills our Home, and so that we might have the joy of thanking them in person for all of their goodness to us.” said Sr. Carolyn.

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