



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

I received the following letter of encouragement in January. It speaks to the power of prayer, the power of intercessory prayer, especially by people who are kind enough to remember our parish in their prayers and petitions. The letter reads as follows:

+JMJ

Dear Fr. Nacius,

I am a Little Sister of the Poor writing to you today from St. Joseph's Home in Palatine. You probably already know that our only mission is to welcome the neediest elderly into our home as we would welcome Christ, and to accompany them with dignity, love, and respect until the moment when Our Lord calls them to Himself. Our foundress St. Jeanne Jugan said, "making the elderly happy- that is what counts!" This has been challenging over the past two years, during which our elderly residents have faced periods of quarantine and restrictions on visits with their families and friends. At one point, we even had to restrict access to our chapel, and our residents could only participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass via a closed-circuit television channel and receive communion in their rooms. Even so, the life of prayer in our home has remained vibrant, and has seen us through this difficult time.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been blessed to have resident priests to offer Mass each day, hear confessions, and administer the sacrament of the sick. Now, many of our residents gather (socially distanced) for Mass and to pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the chapel. Together in this powerhouse of prayer, the Little Sisters and residents here have been praying not only for God's protection on our home, but also for an end to the pandemic, and for all those around the world who have been so deeply affected by the spread of the virus, for those caring for the sick, and for all who have died of the virus.

Even though restrictions have eased somewhat, the pandemic continues, and we are not "easing up" on our prayers! As daughters of the Church, we desire to see many people return to Mass, to see families thrive, and, of course, many more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. To this end, we offer at least one Mass each month for vocations, and the residents and Little Sisters often pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet for vocations. Every Sunday, at the end of Mass, we have a crucifix which is passed from one resident to another, who will offer special prayers for vocations during that week.

I am writing to let you know that we will also be praying specifically for you, for the clergy and staff of the Church of St. Mary, and your parishioners. On February 12, we will place a picture of your church in our chapel near our statue of St. Jeanne Jugan. Our prayer will be that many will see the need for God in their lives, to participate in the sacramental life of the Church, and that they will respond generously to the call to holiness and to their own vocation, whether it be to marriage, or to the priesthood or consecrated life. If you have any specific intentions for prayer, please visit our website to enter a prayer request - your request will come directly to me. The URL is www.littlesistersofthepoorpalatine.org.

Thank you, Father Nacius, for all you have been doing for the Church and the faithful during these months. We will pray for you that you will have the grace and strength to live your vocation faithfully and joyfully for many years to come!

ps. I have enclosed a special prayer for the intercession of Fr. Ernest Lelièvre, a holy priest who helped the Little Sisters of the Poor establish foundations here in America.

In the hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Sr. Amy Marie, lsp

Sr. Amy Marie, lsp

Speaking of the power of prayer, I am asking that you remember me in your prayers this coming week. I am scheduled to have knee replacement on Tuesday, February 15 followed by my healing recovery. If you see me hobbling around, don't be too concerned; but do know that I welcome your prayers and your support. Thank you!

May God bless you in 2022!

Fr. Mike Nacius