



Villa Guadalupe Welcomes Mother General

A historic event took place at Villa Guadalupe, from April 13-17, when our Mother General, María del Monte Auxiliadora, visited us together with her Vicar General, Mother Joseph Christine. This marked only the second visit of a Mother General to our Home since 1982.

Excitement was building as the Villa Guadalupe family, consisting of Little Sisters, Residents, Jeanne Jugan Associates, staff, volunteers, families, and friends, anxiously awaited the arrival of our special guests from France. Welcome signs in various languages were held by Residents, Sisters waved flags, and flowers and cards were presented. Two Residents shared words of welcome; Carol greeted our visitors in Navajo, and Kathleen spoke in Spanish. Bright smiles and joy-filled hearts created a festive atmosphere for this long-anticipated visit.

Although Mother General María's visit lasted only three days, she was able to witness a variety of events and gatherings. During the second day, Mother General and Mother Joseph visited each Resident during lunch, gifting them with special items from Italy. Warm, personal moments were

also shared with family members, Jeanne Jugan Associates, staff and friends of the Home, who also received gifts. Later that afternoon, staff and Residents performed together, dancing to "This Little Light of Mine" and singing a gospel song in Navajo. One staff member also sang a traditional Navajo song. Everyone enjoyed laughter, stories, and delicious food.



The next day, Bishop James Wall honored us with his presence and celebrated the Eucharist. A number of priests and religious also joined us for this joyful occasion. Everyone appreciated the gifts Mother General shared and had the opportunity to greet and thank her for the mission of the Little Sisters in this Land of Enchantment.

On the morning of Mother General's departure, all the Sisters and staff gathered at the front entrance

and celebrated the birthdays of two of our dear Residents. Eileen Ledford, a proud Navy nurse who has been part of the Villa Guadalupe family for eleven years, celebrated her incredible 106th birthday, and Sylvia Garcia shared this day celebrating her 73rd. Both women were serenaded by those bidding farewell to our special guests as everyone sang "Happy Birthday." It was a day to remember and cherish!

Mother General's visit was truly heartwarming. Her kindness and gentle smile reminded us that faith speaks its own universal language. She brought delight to Residents, staff, Sisters, and the community, and left a lasting impression in our hearts. We, in turn, were able to express to her the love and joy we have here at Villa Guadalupe.

During this trip of visits to the Homes in our Province, our Villa Guadalupe family was excited to share with Mother General María two important Navajo words: Yá'á'ée'h ("Hello") and Ahéhee' ("Thank you"). With grateful hearts, we say Ahéhee' to Mother General María and Mother Joseph Christine for their visit, and we promise that our prayers will accompany them always.



Spaghetti, Smiles and Success

Our second annual Spaghetti Night was a wonderful success! The planning and preparation were detailed, and the results were undeniable as we welcomed the crowd who came to spend a festive evening with us. Our Home was filled with many familiar faces of our supportive community as well as new friends who made a special trip to visit Villa Guadalupe and meet our Residents. It was especially uplifting and touching to see children

actively engaging with our elders and all generations having an enjoyable time filled with laughter, great food and camaraderie.

The Sisters and Residents shared a beautiful dance accompanied by singing and enchanting twinkling lights. A local community group performed wonderfully and American Legion Post 69 from Albuquerque offered a touching message of thanks for our mission of helping the elderly.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this event, with funds going towards the restoration of our low-income Independent Living Apartments. A special thank you goes to our sponsors and committee members whose dedication made this such a pleasant evening. Hats off to our fabulous kitchen staff who prepared the scrumptious meal. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



May Crowning & Mother's Day Luncheon

Ms. Kateri McCarthy, one of our youngest and most faithful chapel attendees, was all smiles in her beautiful floral dress as she was chosen to crown our Blessed Mother Mary on May 9. It was a touching sight to see her father, Liam McCarthy, lift her up so she could place the crown on Our Lady. Kateri then presented a lovely floral arrangement in front of the

Blessed Mother. She was proudly accompanied by her parents, Lea and Liam, her younger sister, Gioghan, and her grandparents, Bill and Cathy McCarthy.

Following Mass, our dedicated kitchen staff prepared a wonderful meal in our beautifully decorated dining room as Residents, family, and staff gathered to celebrate Mother's Day, and honor all the

women in the room. It was easy to see joy radiating on the faces of moms of all ages as the day brought together children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends celebrating the special women in their lives. The smiling faces of our Residents reminded us of the words of our Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, who taught us, "Making the elderly happy, that is what counts!"

A NOTE FROM MOTHER

Dear Families and Friends,

We extend warm greetings from Villa Guadalupe to all of you in the most Holy Name of Jesus!

This beautiful phrase: "God is good all the time and all the time God is good," continues to resound in our hearts, words and actions. We praise God for blessing us with his Divine Providence through your generous and prayerful support.

Our Home continues to be buzzing with all sorts of activities. We enjoyed the visit of our Mother General Maria, welcomed Knights of Columbus from Grants, New Mexico, and missionaries from Nebraska, Connecticut, and Chicago, who came to assist us with projects. We celebrated our May Crowning and honored generations of women on Mother's Day. The pleasure of seeing our Residents taking delight in all these visits and events makes our hearts dance with joy.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, is celebrated on July 26, the Feast of Jesus' grandparents, Joachim and Anne. Our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, chose "I will never forget you," from Isaiah 49:15, as the theme for the celebration this year. This theme was the highlight of our Residents' Day of prayer this month. It is a reminder for all of us of God's consoling presence in our lives, especially for the elderly.

Our little family of St. Jeanne Jugan here in Gallup would like to continue our promise and say, "We will never forget you, and all those who have gone before us, in our prayers and sacrifices." Please remember us in yours.

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



A Springtime Spruce Up!

This spring, we were blessed to have the generous help of volunteers from the Knights of Columbus in New Mexico.

They removed the old wheel blocks in the parking spaces and repainted our parking lot. This was an improvement that truly brightened the area surrounding our Home.

The timing couldn't have been better as the warmer weather has our Residents spending more time outdoors taking advantage of the sunshine and enjoying walks around the refreshed parking area.

We are deeply grateful for the time, energy and kindness of the Knights for the difference they have made for those who call Villa Guadalupe Home.

We appreciate your support and generosity! For ways to help visit our website <https://littlesistersofthepoorgallup.org>