



Cemetery Project for Renewal and Restoration

When our beloved Sisters at St. Martin's pass away, they are buried at New Cathedral Cemetery in Catonsville. This sacred ground has a long history. Since 1878, the Sisters have been laid to rest in three of the four sections of the cemetery.

Section HH, the earliest burial site, dating back to 1878, includes 31 plots marked by a marble step identifying the area as The Little Sisters of the Poor.

When Section HH reached capacity, additional plots were purchased in Section II in 1965. Today, 29 Sisters rest there beneath a large marble cross that designates their section. The restoration of this section will begin in the Spring 2026.

Section KK holds special significance as the resting place of 260 former Residents whose families could not afford burial expenses. Their section is marked by a seven-foot chiseled granite cross, a gift from a grateful neighbor.

The most recent burial plots, located just steps away from Section II, extend the Sisters' presence within this sacred space.

Over time, these sacred sections showed signs of wear, with broken marble crosses, sunken granite markers, and visible deterioration. During recent visits to honor their departed Sisters, the Little Sisters recognized the urgent need to restore and preserve these holy grounds.

In response, the Development Office launched a fundraising campaign dedicated to the New Cathedral Cemetery Restoration Project. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, nearly two years of faithful giving made it possible to begin an extensive, three-phase restoration effort in cooperation with the New Cathedral Cemetery leadership team.

We are pleased to share that the restoration is well underway.

In Section HH, two continuous concrete slabs were poured and set with secure granite markers to preserve and protect the resting places of the Sisters.

In Section KK, a beautiful terrace now surrounds the granite cross, with a rosary inlaid in the concrete. Two bronze plaques honor all 265 Residents buried there, and a third plaque shares the story of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Phase III will be the most complex and costly phase of the restoration. Once the final design is selected, we will begin securing vendor quotes and plan to move forward in Spring 2026, when the weather allows work to continue.

To everyone who has supported this sacred project, we thank you. Your generosity ensures that the Little Sisters of the Poor, who have devoted their lives to serving others, will continue to be remembered and honored long after their mission here on earth has been fulfilled.



Introducing ... Rosary Walk! Monuments will be installed depicting individual names of the deceased along with the Mission Marker for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Kevin Fogarty (below) for his integral support in making this special project possible.



Volunteer Spotlight: Winter 2026

With this New Year underway, we are reviving our Volunteer Corner: “The Heart Behind the Help.” Help and support take many forms here at St. Martin’s. We have wonderful donors supporting us financially, and volunteers assisting with numerous Residents and community activities.

In this newsletter, we highlight two volunteers who brought a sack full of enthusiasm, energy, and great joy to our “Breakfast with Santa.”

Jennifer Swiatek (Elf)

God used a messy trunk and a government shutdown to lead me to St. Martin’s Home. Throughout my mother’s illness and eventual passing, I learned firsthand how lonely elderly people can become. I knew I wanted to do something to bring comfort and companionship. During the government shutdown, I found a Little Sisters of the Poor Newsletter in my car. I reached out to the Volunteer Coordinator, Marlene Sorra, and within days, I was walking through the halls of St. Martin’s. I’ve only been volunteering for a short time, but it has already been such a blessing. Every visit fills my heart as I try to brighten someone else’s day. The more I give, the more I seem to receive. Truly a God wink for me.

Shelly Kovac (Elf Squad)

I had been searching for a place to volunteer for a couple of years but hadn’t found the right fit. I was looking for something meaningful but didn’t want it to require a minimum number of hours. Still working full time, I wanted to serve without feeling obligated.

About ten years ago, I received a phone call from Sister Bernadette, and during that call, I felt a shift inside me. I was drawn to Sister Bernadette and the other Sisters. I soon realized that St. Martin’s was exactly what I was seeking.

Pope Leo Visited the Little Sisters

Pope Leo XIV visited the Little Sisters of the Poor in Istanbul on November 28, 2025, where he shared the “Secret of Charity” and emphasized the importance of living in communion with those one serves.

The Pope’s visit was a sign of his closeness to the elderly and those often marginalized in modern societies. Hemet with the Residents, staff, and benefactors, and reflected on the congregation’s name, which mirrors the life of Christ himself.

The Pope’s visit was a heartfelt gesture, reflecting his commitment to serving the elderly, vulnerable, and marginalized, bringing hope and faith to those in need.



Jennifer (left) and Shelly

As a child, I always loved being around older people. I would listen to my great aunts and uncles’ stories, completely absorbed in their storytelling and captivated by their wisdom. Volunteering at the Little Sisters felt like a natural fit, and the flexible schedule was a bonus.

What continues to draw me now is that the Mission of the Little Sisters is active and alive. Everyone is welcoming; it feels like family from the moment I walk through the doors. I’m privileged to be a Volunteer and a proud member of AJJ.





Residents Making a Difference

Residents making a difference in their communities can be found in various forms of service and support. Our Residents contribute to making a positive impact through volunteering and acts of kindness.

Residents volunteer their time for community events, helping with neighborhood clean-ups, or participating in special programs that benefit the community.

Simple acts like helping neighbors, carrying groceries, or offering to water plants can create a more caring and supportive environment.

Our Residents have been busy participating in our newest activities.



A NOTE FROM MOTHER

Dear Friends of St. Martin's Home,

At the time of this writing, it is only late January, and already, we are in full swing of 2026.

The Sisters and I renewed our Vows on December 8th, pledging our continued commitment to God and our Mission to the elderly.

During the busyness of the Christmas season, we were involved in cemetery projects, managing budgets, welcoming new residents, fundraising for a new begging van, and facing various strains of viruses circulating in our community. March isn't the only month that comes in like a Lion!

The Lord has been busy "making all things new", and we give thanks for the fortitude and grace that God alone endows us with every day.

Our Residence at St. Martin's Home continues to be a true home for our many beloved Residents. It is our hope and prayer every day that our Residents feel the warmth, dignity, and love of our hospitality in all things. Whether it is the comfort of their surroundings, the attentive nursing care provided, medications needed, nourishing meals, warm



clothes, and a variety of activities, both spiritual and emotional, we strive to surround them with compassion.

In honoring the unity of our family,

our Residents, staff, volunteers, and donors, we closed January with a prayer that gathers all of us into one shared spirit.

{O Lord, we come to You seeking the unity of the church and the bond of peace. May Your presence fill our hearts and minds, and may we be instruments of Your peace in all that we do. We pray for the love of God to be evident in our interactions and for the unity of the Spirit to guide our efforts. Gracious God, help us to overcome any divisions and work together in perfect harmony. We lift up our prayer intentions to Your intervention in healing any rifts in our community. May Your Word guide us towards unity and peace, and may our efforts be a testament to Your love and grace. Amen.}

May God bless you with unity, clarity and peace.

Mother Jeanne Mary, lsp Superior

Upcoming Events



Mafia Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

Saturday, April 18

5:30 pm

St. Martin's Home

Appetizers, cocktails, dinner, and theatre featuring

"Dinner at Nonna's"

Limited seating

Tickets \$200 per person



Nun Run 2026

Saturday, September 19

NEW LOCATION:

UMBC Campus

Mission Statement

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family, and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.



Little Sisters of the POOR
HOSPITALITY AT HEART

Wish List

Forever Stamps

Gift cards for Walmart, Giant, Amazon

Thank you to everyone whose love and kindness support the Mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor.