

RESOLUTION NUMBER 162
The Little Sisters of the Poor

WHEREAS, the Little Sisters of the Poor trace their roots to very humble beginnings in Brittany, France. On a cold winter's night in 1839 in the Breton village of Saint Servan, Jeanne Jugan recognized the presence of Jesus Christ in the person of an elderly, blind and infirm woman, who suddenly found herself alone and in need. Jeanne carried her home and placed her in her own bed. In the days and weeks that followed, more old women arrived at her doorstep. Jeanne was joined by a small group of young women who were willing to help with the care of her elderly guests. The Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor was thus born from a single, hidden act of hospitality. 170 years later, over 2,700 Little Sisters of the Poor care for more than 13,000 needy elderly persons in 202 family-like homes around the world. 32 of those homes are located in North America; and

WHEREAS, May 1, 2009 marked the 140th anniversary of the arrival of the Little Sisters of the Poor in the city of St. Louis. The Little Sisters arrived in St. Louis at the invitation of Archbishop John Patrick Kenrick on May 1, 1869 and began their apostolate of caring for the elderly poor of the city. Two days later on May 3rd, the Sisters opened their doors to welcome their first elderly Resident in temporary quarters located in downtown St. Louis at what is now 9th Street and Washington; and

WHEREAS, today the Little Sisters of the Poor care for more than 114 Residents without regard to race or religion and respond to their needs by providing four various distinct, loving housing environments: Independent "Home" Living, Senior Apartments, Nursing Care and a Senior Center in Old North St. Louis City; and

WHEREAS, at the time of her beautification in 1982, Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, was hailed by Pope John Paul II as a woman of prophetic intuition whose spirituality and apostolic message were timelier than ever; and

WHEREAS, at a morning consistory on February 21, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI announced that this humble French woman, who established an international religious family dedicated to the care of the needy elderly, will officially become a saint of the Roman Catholic Church on October 11, 2009.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the Little Sisters of the Poor for their dedication and service to St. Louis and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 9th day of October, 2009 by:

Honorable Matthew Villa, Alderman 11th Ward
Honorable April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Adopted this the 9th day of October, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

