

# Artistic calendar in aid of the Little Sisters of the Poor

The Little Sisters of the Poor are currently engaged in a major project that involves the rebuilding of St Paul's Home for the Elderly on the same grounds in Hamrun, equipped with all the modern amenities – such as lifts and central heating – and offering easy access for wheelchairs. All this is intended to bring the comfort and care the elderly who reside there deserve.

For the purpose of raising funds towards this worthy cause, an artistic calendar has been printed, consisting of professional black and white photographs taken by

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## Joseph Paul Cassar

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Joseph A. Vella, an old friend of the home. The calendar project has been made possible through the help received from various sponsors including Stephanie Borg, Chev. and Mrs James J. Gollcher, Malta International Airport, Malta Maritime Authority, Central Bank of Malta, Shireburn Co Ltd, Lewis Press, APS Bank, Scancraft, BOV and Promotion Services Ltd.

The rebuilding project has already started and anyone wishing to help in this project may send donations directly to the following accounts:

APS: 11043210016; Lombard Bank: 01440301799; Bank of Valletta: 13817022019; HSBC: 234413279

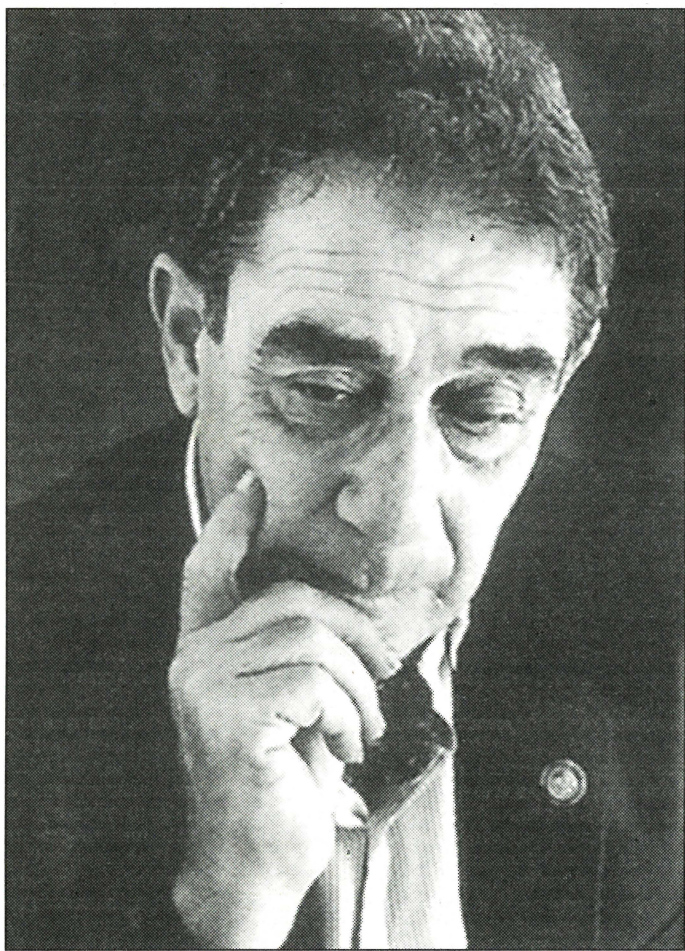
Everyone is welcome to visit the home. The Little Sisters of the Poor are also looking for volunteers who want to share their

time and talents with them on a regular or occasional basis. For further information one may contact: Little Sisters of the Poor, St Paul's Home, Hamrun HMR 08, tel: 237639.

Jeanne Jugan founded the congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor in 1839 in Brittany, France, to care for elderly poor people.

The Little Sisters of the Poor came to Malta on February 18, 1978 at the invitation of the Asphar and Galea families who

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Joseph A. Vella

# Prize-winning photos featured

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had asked the Mother General to establish this foundation in Malta. Their first home was opened at Pietà in 1880.

This became too small and they therefore moved to Hamrun, occupying an old abandoned palace of the Knights of Malta. They then built around it a much larger home.

In recent years the home has opened its doors to welcome the elderly of the neighbourhood in the day centre. Here, they share in the life of the home, such as meals, recreational facilities, the chapel, finding warmth and friendship. This service will be continued in the new home.

In their mission statement, the nuns state: "We Little Sisters of the Poor desire that our hospitaller mission of humble service to our elderly brothers and sisters, exercised in the name of the Church, witness to them the compassionate love and mercy of God."

The Mother Foundress Jeanne Jugan, faithful to her inspiration of the Holy Spirit, radiated particularly in her life gentleness and humility of heart, which enabled her to surrender herself, in simplicity, to the joy of hospitality towards the poorest.

Hospitality towards the aged poor is an apostolate which is ever more relevant and which involves the sisters directly in the struggle between the culture of death and the culture of life. "To all who are journeying towards the Kingdom, we are invited to show respect for life, of which God alone is the master..." – Constitutions, n.106.

They seek him, simply, in faith, hope and charity, and discover him in prayer. "His love urges us to serve him in the poor, and in this way to associate ourselves to his works of salvation. Thus, little by little, we will achieve in our lives a profound unity between contemplation and action". – Constitution, n.102.

The Little Sisters of the Poor have 222 homes in 31 countries on six continents, working in Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, England, France, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Scotland, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkey, United States, Western Samoa. They care for the elderly in the low-income brackets of all denominations until death; loving them and serving them in the spirit of the Gospel, mindful of authentic respect for life.

Joseph A. Vella has carefully selected a photo for every month. They depict life in the home or focus on the high definition details that capture the spirit and dignity of old age. Some of the photos in this calendar have been prize-winners in international competitions.

Among others, Mr Vella has received awards from the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (Fellowship), the Photographic Society of America (Associateship), the Malta Photographic Society (Fellowship), the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (Excellence Artiste), Image Sans Frontiere (EH.ISF). He has also been elected Master of International Photography by the International Organisation of Journalists.

Mr Vella has won the Malta Photographer of the Year Award six times and has held one-man exhibitions in Moscow (Russia), Genk (Belgium) and Blankanese (Germany) and two at the National Museum of Fine Arts (Malta). He was commissioned by the Indian government to photograph places of interest in India.

For the last six years he has been featured among the top 25 international exhibitors listed in the Who's Who of the Society of America.