

# Little Sisters of the Poor

Vol. XIV, No.3

Serving The Elderly Poor In Pittsburgh Since 1872

Fall 2011

## Welcome Back, Sister Judith!

Though “Back to the Future” was a movie, our Pittsburgh version comes to us in the person of Sister Judith. We are welcoming back to Pittsburgh, Sister Judith, as our Home’s new administrator. Twenty seven years ago Sister Judith was assigned to our Home. During her 10 year stay, she was first an assistant administrator and household supervisor, then the Home’s Superior. Not surprisingly, some of the very same staff and volunteers from then are still actively involved with the Home today.

Resident Anne Brennen, for example, was a volunteer who now lives in the apartments. Anne can still be seen helping out by providing assistance wherever needed. Other staff including Andy Bober, Sandy Hunter and Kathy Palmer were here then as well. From nursing to activities to laundry, there is staff in practically every department at the Home from Sister Judith’s first assignment here. Smiling as she recalls her earlier days here, Sister Judith commented the Home’s changes are mostly seen in the buildings’ renovated appearances. She goes on to say, the “heart and soul” of the Residents, staff and volunteers remains very much the same.

When asked how she first came in contact with the Little Sisters, Mother Judith said, “I was in 8th grade when a Little Sister came to talk to us about volunteering at the Home in Louisville, Kentucky. I did not want to go to hear her, but if you didn’t you had to stay in the classroom. Well, I did not want to do that, so I went. Subsequently, I volunteered—and the rest is history! I fell in love with caring for the elderly poor and entered the community right after graduation from high school. Saint Jeanne Jugan once said, ‘God has given you a great grace in calling you to serve the poor.’ I can certainly attest to that.”

Sister Judith’s journey to final vows included eight years of preparation at Homes in Cincinnati, Queens, and LaTour France. Continuing her education at St. Francis College in New York, she became a Licensed Practical Nurse and earned a degree in Health Care Management. Her other assignments included Mobile, Toledo, where she directed the building of a new Home, and most recently, Indianapolis.

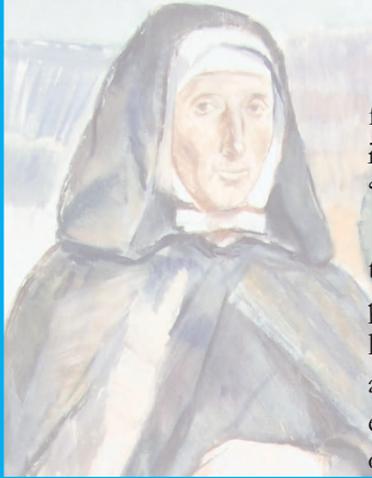
Residents have one question: “Will she switch allegiance from the Indianapolis Colts to the Pittsburgh Steelers?”



*Sister Judith with Apartment Resident Meryl Powers; Sister was greeted upon her arrival by Resident Nick Dimperio; Sister Judith and Mother Provincial enjoy the “welcome show.”*

Save the Date  
Saturday, November  
5th, 2011 will be our first  
Rock-A-Thon. Please  
call (412) 307-1268 for  
more information on how  
you can help make our  
event a success!

## Feast Day St. Jeanne Jugan



St. Jeanne Jugan gave of herself for the poor, begging for them, caring for them, and teaching everyone she came in contact with how important it was to be “little” before God.

The message has remained the same today as it was in 1839, to serve the elderly poor with dignity, respect, and love. She knew God would never forget the poor and would take care of them through her efforts, reflected in her words, “We are only the instruments of His work.”

In the running of each home, the Little Sisters seek the help of those in the local community. The generosity of millions of people has transformed one small act of kindness into a worldwide congregation committed to the sacredness of life.

As we celebrate her feast day on August 30, we invite you to be part of her mission of caring for the elderly today with your donation to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

### “The Witness”



Residents Margaret Harvey, Esther King, Nena Kochmar in costume for the play.



Residents Jessie Foley and Mary Reilly ready for their debut in the Resident production of “The Witness.”

### Paws Party



Our Home has gone to the Dogs! A “Paws Party” celebrated the dog days of summer. Resident Marie Kresak with Joey the Shih tzu; Resident Pat Lowe with volunteer Abner.

### Residents Having Fun!



Sister Gemma helps Resident Marge Macel at the Resident Big Bucks Bingo!



Resident Anna Mihalik plays a tambourine.



Residents Ross Madia and Margie Seto enjoy the “Christmas in July” Party.



*Resident Helen Bonk is being prepped by nurse Chris Costa in the in-house Dental Office.*

## The Campaign Creates Our Dental Office

We are proud to show-off one of the Home's tangible improvements resulting from the *Campaign for Compassionate Care*: Our brand new dental office! Its bright and cheery environment welcomes all who enter. It's dentistry at its best.

Located in the medical suite on the second floor of the James P. Wall Building, the office can boast state of the art equipment and furnishings thanks to the generosity of the Snee Reinhardt Charitable Foundation. At the helm of this fully equipped space is John Mangin, D.M.D. Dr. Mangin, a general dentist who has been in practice for 35 years, donates his time and expertise three days a month to perform dental services for the Little Sisters and Residents. Generosity runs in the family. His son, Christian Mangin, D.M.D., an endodontist, provides root canal therapies for the Residents. Once a month, his dental assistant, Marie Lindeman, comes to help. Dr. Mangin likes volunteering his time and says, "I really enjoy talking with the Residents about their lives as well as listening to them reminisce about their pasts."

Because good oral health is so essential for the elderly, our Residents are encouraged to access our dental office. With regularly scheduled dental care, many diseases and illnesses can be avoided. Routine exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, and dentures as well as more complicated procedures are available here.

Sister Judith, I.s.p., said, "I was so impressed when I saw our beautifully equipped dental office for the first time. Several days later, one of our Residents expressed her gratitude for the new dentures that Dr. Mangin made for her. She was so excited and proud to show us her new smile."



*Dr. John Mangin in the in-house Dental Office.*

## Ride for a Cause



*Above: Sister Judith & Teamster Lenny Boyd; Resident Jean Rectenwald with Sister Florine.*



On a sunny Saturday in July the Teamster Horsemen Motorcycle Club gathered for a ride to benefit our Home. More than 75 bikes were welcomed into our parking lot by our Residents and Sisters. It was a fun day for all! Thank you to the Teamster Horsemen Chapter 40 for organizing such a great event for our Home.

## Honoring John Cigna



As many Pittsburghers know a dear friend of the Home & local radio celebrity, John Cigna, recently passed away. John (pictured to the left with Resident Rose Kietter at last year's ride) initiated the motorcycle ride years ago. His memory will be honored the morning of September 9th at the annual KDKA "Spaghetti Breakfast" in the Heinz Hall Plaza downtown Pittsburgh. Please stop by and help us honor John's memory.

## 4 Serving the Elderly Poor

### See Your Gift Grow!

Increasing or doubling your gift to the Little Sisters isn't a magic trick! It's easy if you work for a company with a matching gift program. Also, The Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving is another way to stretch your gift.

John and Lisa Sarneso have been regular supporters of the Little Sisters for years, because they know each donation goes directly toward the care of our elderly Residents. The Sarnesos go the extra mile and increase their gifts to the Home by having their employers match the funds. "Matching gifts are empowering. As an employee you have the opportunity to direct your company's funds to the charity of your choice," shared the Sarnesos.

You can be like the Sarnesos by checking with your company's Human Resources department to verify the the Little Sisters' eligibility and acquiring a matching gift form to include with your next gift.

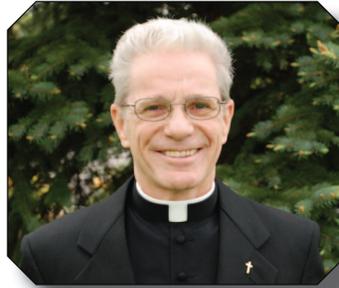
If your employer does not match gifts you can still increase your donation to the Little Sisters by participating in The Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving on Tuesday October 4, 2011. All credit card gifts made via [www.pittsburghgives.org](http://www.pittsburghgives.org) within that 24 hour period will be matched with a prorated amount from The Foundation. Be sure to direct your gift to the Little Sisters of the Poor that day to benefit our Residents!

For help with matching gifts or more information on the Day of Giving, call us at (412) 307-1268.

Donate your Vehicle  
to support the  
Little Sisters.  
(412) 307-1268



### Welcome, Father John!



Father John Geinzer

Reverend John Geinzer, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed by Bishop David Zubik as the new chaplain of the Home. Father John moved in on June 6, 2011. Father John captured his experiences by referring to scripture,

*"In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus says, 'The poor you will always have with you; but you will not always have Me.' I think of that scripture passage in reference to this new ministry of mine. Here at this home administered by the Little Sisters of the Poor, I have both the poor and the Lord with me. For in ministering to the poor in the name of Christ, I am in the presence of the Lord as well."*

The Little Sisters  
will once again be  
offering Christmas  
Cards designed by  
Sister Martha, lsp.



Previous Cards

Look for an order form in our next  
newsletter or call (412) 307-1268

### Yesterday & Today



Keep Us Going  
Remember Us in Your Will

