



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor in Pittsburgh since 1872

Mission Statement

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we care for the elderly poor in the spirit of humble service which we have received from Jeanne Jugan.

We welcome the elderly as we would Jesus Christ himself and serve them with love and respect until death.



Photo by Chuck Austin

Resident Flo Thomas with her daughter Loretta Mangin are greeted by Bishop Winter in the home's lobby after Mass.

140 Years of Caring Anniversary Mass Celebration

Save the Dates:

- July 12-14th
Rummage Sale
10:00am-5:00pm
- July 28th
2nd Annual
Rock-A-Thon (see enclosed insert)
- August 18th
Spaghetti Dinner
4:00-7:00pm

A large crowd filled the home's chapel on Sunday, April 29th, to help celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Little Sisters arrival in Pittsburgh. Retired Auxiliary Bishop William J. Winter was the presiding celebrant and homilist at Mass. In his homily the Bishop said, "This is an occasion to thank God and to make the word of God alive and meaningful. During these 140 years the Little Sisters made present the compassion and love of Jesus by word and work day after day. St. John wrote, 'you must love one another as Jesus has loved you.' The Little Sisters remind us of our responsibility to each other."

After Mass the Little Sisters and Residents welcomed guests to a reception in the home's auditorium. All food provided to guests had been generously donated by the benefactors of the home. Tours of the nursing households and independent living apartments were offered throughout the day.

It was on April 25, 1872 that seven Little Sisters arrived in Pittsburgh from France to

establish a home to care for the elderly poor. The first property was established in Allegheny City, a neighborhood later annexed by the city of Pittsburgh. For years the Sisters operated two homes in Pittsburgh—one on Penn Avenue, in Garfield, and another on Benton Avenue, North Side. During this time more than 12,000 aged poor of this region have been in the Sisters' care.

"Although this day has honored the Sisters' contribution to the city of Pittsburgh, we, the Little Sisters of the Poor, would like to return the honor back to the great people of Pittsburgh and beyond who have graciously helped us continue our mission through essential financial support," commented Sister Judith, lsp, Administrator of the home.

Without such generosity the home would be hard pressed to continue caring for the elderly poor. Everyone at the home, the Residents, Sisters, Volunteers, and Employees, is looking forward to the next 140 years of service!

Little Sisters of the Poor
1028 Benton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

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Little Sisters of the Poor



L-R: Employee Monica Milsop, Residents Ross Madia, Father John Palko, Annie Adams, Ruth Blaney, and Patricia Hartung join 6 of the 7 "Von Trapp Family" children from the North Pittsburgh Catholic Home Schoolers group.

Music Fills the Home

Scenes from Austria and a cast of Residents, employees, volunteers, and school children led to a delightful performance of snippets from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*. On May 20, 2012, the audience was introduced to our Spring Musical with a prelude by Maria (nursing assistant, Monica Milsop), who sang the title song, "The Sound of Music." Then the story began with the Reverend Mother (Resident, Annie Adams), and the Sisters (Resident, Ruth Blaney, Resident, Margaret Carr, Resident, Pat Hartung, volunteer, Margie Mandernach, and beauty shop stylist,

Kathy Wyzkoski) gathered in the Abbey. The nuns questioned how to deal with the young postulant who was constantly getting into mischief with the singing of "Maria." When Maria entered, she was told the Von Trapp Family was in need of a governess.

The Von Trapp children were played by students of the North Pittsburgh Catholic Home Schoolers. Other Residents in the cast were Ross Madia as the Captain, Nena Kochmar as the Baroness, Henry Adams as Max, and Father John Palko as the Priest. The performance included "My Favorite

Things," "Do-Re-Mi," "The Lonely Goatherd," "So Long, Farewell," and "Climb Every Mountain." Concluding with a beautiful rendition of "Edelweiss" resounding throughout the room, the spring musical received enthusiastic applause.

The Sound of Music is a great intergenerational show. "There is so much value in bringing together the Residents and the home school children," said Karen Jasko, the home's music therapist, "especially the practices and performances which provide opportunities for seniors and children to get to know one another." According to Jasko, music and drama can enrich the lives of the Residents by giving them an opportunity to share their gifts and talents, have fun together, build community, and learn something new. The Residents look forward to many ventures with the students in the future.



SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 25, 2012

Honorary chair Bishop David Zubik invites you to join him as the Little Sisters celebrate 140 years in Pittsburgh with eight local celebrity chef Priests preparing "A Heavenly Feast" of delicious food and fine wine.

During this fund raising dinner James F. Will, chairman of the Little Sisters' Advisory Board, will be recognized with the first St. Jeanne Jugan Medal awarded in Pittsburgh. Named after the Little Sisters'

foundress and presented on her birthday, this medal is the highest recognition ever bestowed by the Little Sisters. The setting for this event will be the newly renovated Cardinals' Great Hall at St. Paul Seminary.

All proceeds will benefit the Residents of Little Sisters' home. For more information or to hear about sponsorship opportunities call (412) 307-1268 or email adepvictburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Resident Annie Adams (Mother Superior) performs with Resident Ruth Blaney (Sister Catherine) in costume during the show's dress rehearsals.

Around Our Home



(Left) Residents Mary and Tony Accamando at their 25th Wedding Anniversary Celebration in 1967 and (Right) the couple today at the Little Sisters.

Enduring Love

Fond memories linger...tossing a ball at the playground in their youth, attending the same classes at Mt. Oliver School, raising three sons and one daughter, and welcoming 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. While reminiscing about their years together, Residents Tony & Mary Accamando recalled one of their favorite activities, which was running the family business called "Pizza Time." Tony had commercial experience after working for Canada Dry, Mary made the sauce, and everyone had a job to do, including the children. Their pizza shop was open for 40 years.

The love story of Tony and Mary Accamando goes on as they share life at our home. On June 6, 2012, the Little Sisters, Residents, staff, and volunteers, rejoiced with the Accamando Family as Tony and Mary celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary with a special party. Their son, Tom Accamando, said, "The home is a wonderful environment for Mom and Pop with the chapel, the delicious meals, the sing-a-longs, and other activities as well as the caring, dedicated staff."

Visit us on the Web

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website www.littlesistersofthepoortypit.org. Now you can keep in touch with all the happenings at our home through news & events and our blog. Browse through the pages to meet our family and learn more about our home, including ways you can be involved in our ministry to help the elderly.

On the site you can read about our 140 year history in Pittsburgh, check out our calendar of events, inquire about volunteering, submit prayer requests, or even make a donation. Major credit cards are accepted as well as memorial gifts or recurring contributions. Don't forget to

register your e-mail to receive up-to-date information periodically.

"We are grateful for this wonderful media outlet which gives us the ability to share the joyous experiences of daily life here in the home with our supporters no matter where in the world they are located," expressed Sister Judith, lsp.

A screenshot of the website for the Little Sisters of the Poor St. Peter and Paul Home in Pittsburgh. The header features the Little Sisters logo and the name of the home. The left sidebar has links for Main Page, Our Home, News & Events, Calendar, Contact Us, and Our U.S. Site. There is also a "Help Us" section with a "VOLUNTEER EMPLOYMENT" button. The main content area shows a photo of a resident sitting in a chair holding a small white dog. To the right of the photo is a text box with a quote from Saint Jeanne Jugan: "Making the elderly happy, that's what counts." Below the quote is a paragraph about the Little Sisters' mission and values. At the bottom of the page are buttons for PRAYER REQUEST, REGISTER HERE, and DONATIONS.

Homepage at www.littlesistersofthepoortypit.org



Above: Volunteer Peg O'Neill shows off her new Little Sisters T-shirt she received at the Volunteer Luncheon. Inset: the mug given to all volunteers.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Echoes of laughter and happiness could be heard throughout the building when 70 of the home's 150 plus volunteers gathered in the Auditorium for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This meal was preceded by Mass in the home's chapel offered for the volunteers and their intentions.

The theme was *five star* Volunteer and it certainly was a *five star* party! After the meal Sister Judith and all the Little Sisters selected random winners for a variety of door prizes. No one left empty handed as each volunteer was given a Little Sisters t-shirt and coffee mug filled with five chocolate stars. The mugs were graciously underwritten by the family of volunteer Dot Herle who had passed away last year.

"This was the best party we've ever had!" remarked volunteer Peg O'Neill.

Sister Judith joins the Sisters, Residents and staff in thanking all our dedicated volunteers who do so much for our home! According to a non-profit study, the average volunteer hour in 2011 was valued at \$21.79. The combined hours of 20,473 make our volunteers worth more than \$446,000 to our home, but in reality, a price cannot be put on what each volunteer brings to our home.

"While the dollar amount the volunteers save us each year is impressive, it is the immeasurable joy they bring to our family of Residents that holds the true value," remarked Sister Judith.

If you are interested in volunteering individually or with a group call our Volunteer Coordinator Valerie Beam at 412.307.1139 or email volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

A Note From Mother



Sister Judith Meredith, lsp,
Administrator and Mother
Superior of our Home.

Dear Friends,

In 1839 when Jeanne Jugan picked up a blind elderly woman begging on the streets of her native St. Servan, France and brought her home to care for her, I don't think she realized the future impact of that act. We, as Little Sisters, are reminded of the international magnitude of that event each and every day. Many Sisters serving in our homes come from a variety of countries. Our home is no different, as this spring we welcomed the arrival of two foreign born Little Sisters, Sister Grace of Hong Kong and Sister Marie Cecilia of the Philippines.

Both Sisters add an international element to the fabric of our home. Each have a unique story about how they became Little Sisters. Sister Marie Cecilia, born into a large family in the Philippines, studied in Hong Kong and became a buyer in the import/export business. While she rarely thought of a religious vocation her Catholic roots were deep and she prayed in a local chapel daily. One day, for an unknown reason, the chapel she frequented was closed. A stranger at the bus stop nearby directed her to the Little Sisters chapel just a few blocks away. It was God's Providence at work. Soon she started visiting the home regularly and decided life as a Little Sister was her calling.

Sister Grace's story, although a bit different, is no less providential. After moving to the United States as an adult she felt called to serve God but wasn't sure how to go about figuring out her path. With the help of the Holy Spirit she was inspired to seek the guidance of a spiritual director. Her director was familiar with the works of the Little Sisters and sent her to visit the local home. From that point on she became a volunteer and even made a trip to the novitiate in Queens, NY before she realized that this is what God was calling her to do—become a Little Sister of the Poor.

Every Little Sister's journey is different, but each one finds happiness in serving the Lord through the elderly poor Residents. You, partnering with us in our mission, allow this joy to continue. Thank you to our many friends and benefactors who assist our ministry throughout the world. Please continue to pray for religious vocations.

Sincerely,

Sister Judith, lsp

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Unexpected help comes to our home every day in a variety of ways. From the volunteers who help the Sisters to benefactors who offer surplus food and gifts, the Little Sisters are blessed with community support. One unique and beneficial way to help our mission of caring for the elderly poor is to remember our home in your estate plans.

An example of the Little Sisters trust in the providence of God and the goodness of others occurred this spring when a manager at a local bank called. An elderly customer there wanted to send us a donation from her account and needed our address. Soon after a generous check arrived with no explanation except that it was from the estate of Delores Meridith of California.

Later it was revealed that Delores had left this gift to her only surviving sister, the elderly bank customer. Instead of using this gift for her own needs, the sister immediately thought of sharing it with the Little Sisters. Years ago her husband's grandfather, a Pittsburgh Irish immigrant, had nowhere to go and the Sisters lovingly welcomed him into their home. That act was not forgotten and this gift was in gratitude for such kindness. Now Delores' estate gift through the guidance of her sister will go to help the many grandfathers and grandmothers currently living in our home. You can also make a lasting contribution by including the Little Sisters in your estate plans. Call us at 412.307.1268 for more information on how you can help us continue our mission.



Sister Marcella, lsp accepts a donation from a traveler while collecting at the Pittsburgh Airport this May.

**Help keep us going.
Remember us in your will.**