

A Note From Mother



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



A statue made in our
Ceramics Room.

Dear Friends,

Both Lent and Easter give us much for which we can be grateful. The Lenten road, no matter how we travel it, will bring us to the Resurrection. Very soon, we will all sing the glories of our Risen Lord.

Each Lenten Season reminds us of the love Jesus has for His people. Our Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, would say to her novices, "Let us sing the glory of our Risen Jesus." She found happiness in Jesus, and we, as Little Sisters, find our happiness in serving Him in the elderly poor. Our service to our Residents is one little way of thanking Jesus for His sacrifice of love made for each and every one of us.

In his final Lenten message of 2013, Pope Benedict XVI offered these inspirational words, "Faith is knowing the truth and adhering to it; charity is 'walking' in the truth. Faith is genuine only if crowned by charity." As we move through Lent, during this "Year of Faith," toward the wonderful day of Easter, our prayers of gratitude are with him as he now serves the Church in a private life of prayer and sacrifice. Let us all heed his words and grow together in our faith. May our daily actions reflect both our faith and charity.

We are grateful to all benefactors who share their faith and charity with us. It is only with your support that we are able to give quality care to our Residents. May the Easter season be for you and your loved ones a time of increased hope, love and joy.

Gratefully in Prayer,

Sister Judith, Isp

WAYS TO HELP--DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

Last October the Little Sisters were blessed to host "A Heavenly Feast" fund raiser. Beyond the fun of mingling with the "celebrity chef" priests and many friends of the home, the Sisters were in awe of the funds raised to support their 140 year old mission of serving the elderly in Pittsburgh. During the event a plea from Sister Judith for operating support was made to all attendees as part of the evening's "Needs Auction". Adding to the appeal was our dear friend and board member, Richard Fisher, who graciously offered a challenge—if the Little Sisters could raise \$100,000 through the "Needs Auction" he would match that amount dollar for dollar. While the audience that evening was quite generous the response was \$66,000 short of the goal. This challenge is now being extended to you.

Won't you please help us to double your contribution by participating in this

matching gift challenge. Just check the "Needs Auction" box on the enclosed gift slip and return it with your donation or donate via our website at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org. Gifts of any amount are appreciated and will be used to continue to provide quality care for our elderly poor Residents. Our mission of caring for the elderly poor of Pittsburgh would not have lasted over 140 years without your support. You are an integral partner in our work. While you may not be physically here to work with us, you are at our side caring for each Resident through your financial support. Help us meet this challenge with your gift today!

For more information on how you can help please contact the Development Office at (412) 307-1268 or adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



Sister Margaret, Isp and kitchen employees Chris Malara & Fatime Shabani with donated produce to help feed our Residents.

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

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Serving the elderly poor in Pittsburgh since 1872

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.

Save the Dates:

- March 19
Feast of St. Joseph
- March 31
Easter Sunday
- April 11-13
Rummage Sale
- May 11-24
Airport Collecting

Little Sisters of the Poor

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Left: Residents Ruth Blaney and Marge Macel share their reflections on faith after the first "Catholicism" DVD showing. Right: Sister Mary Joseph leads a small group discussion with Residents Irene Lankiewicz and Lois Hallstein.

YEAR OF FAITH

Sharing the Journey

October 2012 marked the opening of the "Year of Faith" in the Catholic Church. In this special year, the Little Sisters are acting on the opportunity to help Residents strengthen their personal relationship with Jesus and deepen their faith. The "Year of Faith" challenges each of us to explore our faith through reflections, actions and prayer. The Little Sisters have organized many activities to help our Residents do just that.

The Sisters are inviting Residents to reflect on their own faith with monthly viewings of the Father Barron DVD series "Catholicism" followed by small group discussions involving Sisters, Residents, Association Jeanne Jugan members, volunteers and staff. "This will be a time for sharing and learning from one another about ways to deepen our personal relationships with Jesus," noted Sister Judith, Administrator. The first session was a success with many Residents coming together in small groups to share their reflections on the DVD and add personal stories about faith.

The "Year of Faith" activities won't stop there. Residents will have the opportunity to attend pilgrimages to local churches and shrines of spiritual significance within the Diocese of Pittsburgh. These shorter trips will culminate with a bus trip to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. in September for Residents, staff and volunteers. Additionally, the Sisters have planned to write, direct, and perform a Resident play on the life of St. Jeanne Jugan and several other saints, have scheduled a presentation on the symbolism of the stained glass windows in our home's chapel with explanations from the artist about the biblical scenes they represent, and have organized ecumenical services to include our Residents who are not Catholic.

Even though you may not be able to physically join us in these "Year of Faith" activities you are welcome to spiritually join us by personally rediscovering and renewing your own relationship with Christ and His Church during this year of reflection and action!

Little Sisters of the Poor



L-R: Residents Roberta White, Carol Massucci, Bobbie Moriarity, Dean Moriarity, Chuck Massucci with his grandson Blaise, and Resident Nick Poljak

Mardi Gras

Our annual Mardi Gras celebrations were bigger than ever this February. The party started with a Coronation Ball on the eve of Fat Tuesday. Here members of the Mardi Gras court took center stage in front of a full house in the purple, green and gold decorated auditorium. The crowns and staves were handed down from past King and Queen, Dick and Pat Hartung, to this year's reigning couple, Residents Dean and Bobbie Moriarity. Bobbie, a native of New Orleans, felt right at home amidst the revelry. Other members of the court included Residents Roberta White, Nick Poljak, Carol and

Chuck Massucci, Margaret Harvey, Mary Lubarski, Virginia Lentini, and court jester Nena Kochmar. Each member was dressed in his or her finest outfit adorned with either a rose bouquet or carnation corsage.

On hand to join in the festivities of the evening were student volunteers from the University of Pittsburgh, Robert Morris University and Franciscan University of Steubenville. The students helped to escort the members of the Mardi Gras court into the auditorium and most importantly kept the party lively by encouraging

Residents to dance to the "old time" tunes provided by a DJ. Their enthusiasm was contagious and helped everyone to have a grand time at the ball.

The party didn't stop then as it continued into the next day beginning with homemade beignets (French donuts) and cafe au lait in the home's Meet 'N' Treat ice cream parlor. Later in the afternoon a parade of the Mardi Gras court decked out with beads, boas, and parasols processed through the halls of the home to the grand finale party in the auditorium where sweets, snacks and more fun awaited them.

After playing some games including the New Orleans tradition of searching for the hidden baby in a "King cake" the party wrapped up. By the end of the celebrations all the Residents had their fill of sweets and treats to last them through the entire forty days of Lent.



Resident Mary Lubarski escorted by her daughter Maryann during the Mardi Gras parade.

GUIDING OUR DAILY ACTIONS

We recently updated our mission statement to better define our work and spirit to reflect "who we are" within the current culture. The new statement is as follows "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." As you can see, our focus of serving the neediest elderly remains the same.

Our vision... "is to contribute to the culture of Life by nurturing communities where each person is valued, the solidarity of the human family and the wisdom of age are celebrated, and the compassionate love of Christ is shared with all," expresses what we hope to achieve in our mission. While our values, which guide us in our work amongst the elderly, are defined by these five areas: **Reverence, Family Spirit, Humble Service, Compassion, and Stewardship.**

Around Our Home



Resident Tony Comport and Volunteer Nadine Jedlicka with the new wheelchair accessible van.

Transportation Made Easy

Last summer we held our second annual Rock-A-Thon with a goal to raise funds to purchase a handicapped accessible van. We are pleased to report that the success of the Rock-A-Thon event enabled us to secure the van last November. Now our home has the ability to transport up to three wheelchair bound Residents along with three passengers to doctor's appointments or special outings. Resident Tony Comport was the first passenger on the van's maiden voyage.

Since the van's size is just slightly larger than the size of a mini-van and does not require a commercial license to operate it, employees, Sisters or volunteers all have the ability to drive it. The accessibility of the new van will be especially useful when transporting wheelchair bound Residents for the monthly "Dining Out" or shopping trips. Thank you to all who contributed to our event and made this van a reality.

Manifesting the Kingdom

Sister Margaret, lsp, our home's collecting Sister, was recently honored with the Diocese of Pittsburgh's *Manifesting the Kingdom Award*. This recognition is given to lay or consecrated men and women who demonstrate the presence of Jesus in their lives. Individuals who have participated in exceptional service to the Church through their actions or ministry are nominated for these awards. In her daily tasks for our home, Sister Margaret can be seen collecting produce from the Strip District, meats from the local grocery store, and speaking at local parishes "begging" on behalf of our Residents. This honor is a fitting tribute to her tireless efforts! Congratulations Sister!



Bishop David Zubik and Sister Margaret holding her *Manifesting the Kingdom Award*.



Resident Virginia Lentini with volunteer Bill Vogtsberger.

Spotlight on Volunteers

The Little Sisters home is blessed to have a faithful contingent of volunteers who help carry out our mission to compassionately care for the elderly. Among one of our "newer" volunteers is Bill Vogtsberger. Bill describes himself as a "Jack of all trades" and in our home he really is!

His connection to the Little Sisters began three years ago after his parish priest, Father Walt Rydzon, encouraged Bill and his fellow parishioners at St. Justin's parish to support the Little Sisters by volunteering their services at our home. At first Bill was nervous to begin something new especially at a place where he did not know anyone. Immediately, Bill was put to work manning the Resident country store. It soon became apparent that Bill was very capable and comfortable helping out in many other ways.

On any given day during the week Bill can be seen driving Residents to doctor's appointments, driving the home's collecting van to pick up produce in the Strip district, or helping out with special events. His third shift position in engineering at West Penn Hospital allows Bill the time during the day to volunteer at the Little Sisters. He has even recruited his wife, Cynthia, to start working with Residents in the Ceramics room. Bill truly does anything and everything that is asked of him and always does it with a warm smile even after a long night shift at the hospital.

When asked what he enjoys most about his volunteerism at the home, Bill replied, "It's the people. The Residents, Sisters, staff and fellow volunteers make the experience so enjoyable." Looking back at when he first began volunteering and remembering how nervous he initially was makes Bill laugh now. Little did he know at the time how quickly he would become part of the Little Sisters family. Thank you Bill for your commitment to our home and Residents!