



# 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:

- November 8-21  
**Airport Collection**
- December 13  
**Turkey, Ham  
or Roast Drop  
9:00am-2:00pm**
- December 24  
**Christmas Eve Mass  
7:00pm**

## Little Sisters of the Poor

1028 Benton Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
(412) 307-1100

Vol. XXII No.4  
Winter 2014



photo credit Franciscan University

Top Row (l-r): Father Richard Davis, Srs. Therese, Constance, Mother Provincial Loraine Marie Clare, Srs. Therese, Christian, Mother Judith, Father Sean O'Sheridan University President. Front Row(l-r): Srs. Rosario, Robert, Mother Provincial Maria Christine, Srs. Dorothy and Margaret Mary.

## A Special Honor

### Sisters Receive Poverello Medal

The Little Sisters of the Poor were recently honored with the Franciscan University of Steubenville's Poverello Medal. The University's highest non-academic honor, the Medal is bestowed on individuals and organizations who imitate St. Francis of Assisi by their strength of character, practical Christian charity, and love and service for the poor. The University's Board of Trustees chose to honor the Little Sisters' mission of caring for the elderly poor as well as their protection of human life, especially the fragile elderly. A delegation of Little Sisters, including the provincial superiors from the Baltimore and Chicago provinces and members of our Pittsburgh community were on hand for the award ceremony.

In accepting the Poverello Medal Mother Provincial Loraine Marie Clare reflected, "I see in this medal the symbol of all the things which matter: to be little, poor, humble and merciful to all those we serve; to treat others

as Christ himself and to live in a manner that reflects his very life."

Sr. Constance Carolyn, the Little Sisters' communications director, gave a talk entitled "Our Hundred Foot Journey: Kissing the Leper, Smelling Like Sheep," in which she used the title of a recent film to relate the lives of St. Francis and St. Jeanne Jugan. She encouraged students to engage in the new evangelization by making the spiritual journey from self-absorption to other-centeredness and concluded with a plea for young people to reach out to the elderly.

"Make the hundred-foot journey from self to other-centeredness and join in building a culture of encounter," Sr. Constance said; "a covenant between generations where, in the words of Pope Francis, 'the young give the strength which enables a people to move forward, while the elderly consolidate this strength by their memory and their traditional wisdom.'"

# Little Sisters of the Poor



Resident Marie Gaver with Volunteer Kelly Krah rocking.

## Rocking to Celebrate a Saint

Jeanne Jugan was officially declared a Saint on October 11, 2009 by Pope Emeritus Benedict. Little Sister Pilgrims-Residents, Sisters, volunteers, employees and friends--from around the globe convened at the Vatican to witness this monumental event. This October 11th marked the fifth year anniversary of the canonization and our home decided to celebrate this special occasion by having our annual Rock-A-Thon.

As with previous Rock-A-Thons, the Auditorium was bursting with rocking

chairs ready for the flurry of activity. Rockers from 7 months to 95 were on hand to rock the afternoon away.

Special thanks to this year's event sponsor UPMC HEALTH PLAN for once again providing funds to more than cover the costs associated with this event. This year's goal was to raise money for the purchase of some much needed medical supplies. We are happy to announce that the event raised nearly \$30,000! The funds will be used to purchase many new adjustable hospital beds, specialized

wheelchairs and lifts.

The entertainment for the afternoon was superb with George Suhon providing hours of live music that even had some wheelchair bound Residents dancing to the polka! This was followed by Pittsburgh's premier Elvis impersonator, Don Obusek who kept rockers rocking to the beat.

In addition to the event sponsor, the Little Sisters of the Poor are grateful to many friends and businesses who provided sponsorships, t-shirts and donated gift certificates.

"St. Jeanne Jugan would have certainly enjoyed seeing the many smiling faces of our Residents at the Rock-A-Thon. We are grateful to all who contributed to the success of this event," remarked Sister Judith, Administrator.

If you were not able to attend our Rock-A-Thon, but want to donate toward helping us secure the much needed medical supplies, please indicate that on the enclosed gift slip and return it with your donation. Thank you!

## Turkey, Ham, and Roast Drop 2.0!

Last year you heeded our call by donating 89 turkeys, 78 hams, and 18 roasts to help us feed our Residents through 2014. We are reaching out to you once again as our freezer stock pile has dwindled!

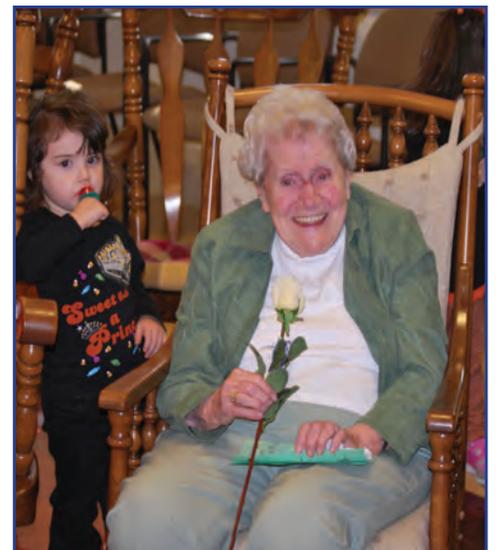
This year's Turkey, Ham and Roast Drop will be held on Saturday **December 13th from 9:00am-2:00pm** here at our home.

It is easy to participate. All we ask is that you bring any frozen turkeys, hams or roasts to our home on the 13th during that timeframe. If that is not possible call

us to make other arrangements to drop off your donation.

Any extra turkey, ham or roast you are able to donate to the home would be appreciated. Sister Margaret and her volunteers will be ready to collect what you have to donate at the main entrance of our home.

Stop in and have some Christmas treats or warm up with a cup of coffee. We would love to welcome you and personally thank you for your help!



Resident Madeline Ewing received a rose during the Elvis performance. She was joined by her great-granddaughter.

# Around Our Home



Activities Staff, Volunteers, and Residents at the Masonic Village following the group performance.

## Chime Choir on Tour

The Little Sisters Chime Choir was originally formed a few years ago when Activities Director and Certified Music Therapist, Karen Jasko, was hired. The Choir performs frequently at the home in front of other Residents, for Sisters Jubilees and for special occasions.

Karen, along with the Music Therapists from Masonic Village and Villa St. Joseph (two other nursing homes), thought it would be a wonderful idea to have the chime choirs from each home perform together. Ten of our Residents took their show on the road and travelled to the Masonic Village to meet the other two choirs. First each choir performed songs separately and then all three choirs played together accompanied by a harpist and violinist. The resulting sounds were truly heavenly. The outing was so special for all involved that the three choirs hope to keep up the "touring" aspect and rotate performance spaces so that Residents of all the nursing homes can be part of the audience.

## Feline Friends

In addition to the well loved "house dog," Joey who manages to brighten the days of many Residents in the home, the Little Sisters encourage four legged visitors (with human companions, of course). The Residents are always pleased to have friends, family members, and volunteers bring along their pets for a visit.

Volunteers from nearby Animal Friends shelter recently stopped in and brought with them some cuddly cats. The Residents were able to hold and pet the serene cats, while the cats were quite content to just lay in the Residents laps and arms. It was definitely a mutually beneficial interaction! We are hoping to have these visits continue on a regular basis. If you have a four legged friend who wants to visit for some pet therapy please contact our Activities Department at (412)307-1100.



Resident Kathryn "Kitty" Finnegan with her new feline best friend.



Linda Kristufek, 2014 Jeanne Jugan Award winner along with Kathy Butchko, Director of Nursing.

## Jeanne Jugan Award

Every year the Jeanne Jugan Award is given to one employee of the home. When completing the nomination form employees are asked to consider colleagues who most embody the spirit of St. Jeanne Jugan. Once submitted the nominations are reviewed by a committee at the Provincial home for an unbiased decision. This year's Jeanne Jugan Award winner is Linda Kristufek one of the home's dedicated nurses.

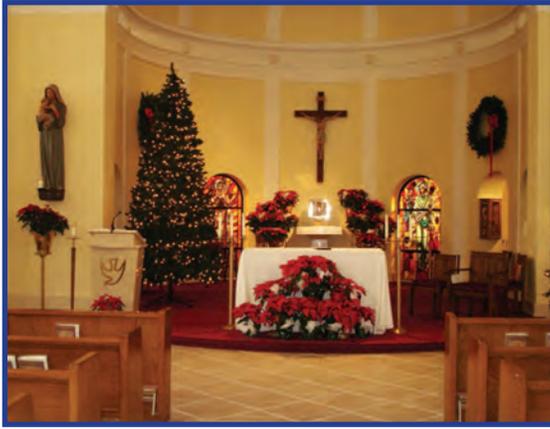
Linda has over 40 years nursing experience. She started working with the Sisters on a special day March 19th 1998, the feast day of one of their favorite saints--St. Joseph! It was more than a coincidence that she began work here that day. For more than 16 years she has been devoted to the Residents and cares for them like she would care for her own parents.

Linda goes above and beyond her duties every day. She has been known to stop on her way into work at Kentucky Fried Chicken just to pick up some chicken legs as a special treat for a Resident with a poor appetite. One night as she helped a male Resident to bed she noticed his t-shirts were thin and wearing. Instead of ignoring this, Linda showed up to work the next day with a brand new package of t-shirts just for him.

Jeanne Jugan always reminded the Sisters to "make the elderly happy, as that is what counts." It is these little things and so much more that Linda does everyday to make the Residents of this home happy and the reason why she is a deserving Jeanne Jugan award winner for 2014! Congratulations Linda and thank you for your loving commitment to the Little Sisters mission!

"I feel lucky to work here where I have the opportunity to do what I could not do while working in a hospital--really get to know the people I am helping to care for," shared Linda.

# A Note From Mother



Our Beautiful Chapel decorated for the Christmas Season.

Dear Friends,

Moving into the New Year, we pause to reflect on the many blessings of 2014. We have seen the loving hands of our Residents, volunteers, and employees embrace our mission. Our home has been alive with the activity of compassionate care. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we reminisce about the donors who have given gifts which help cover the cost of caring for our elderly Residents.

The past year brought us many blessings such as medical supplies, food, cleaning products, paper goods, personal items, and decorations for all occasions. Cash contributions translated into much needed items used to care for our elderly Residents. We are profoundly grateful to all who gave their time, talent, labor, financial support and prayers for our elderly. Many of our benefactors have told us of the joy and satisfaction they experienced from sharing their blessings with us. Without your generous spirit we would not be able to provide for our Residents in such a loving and compassionate way.

Thank you for helping us to fulfill the many needs of the elderly in our care. May 2015 be a year of peace and good health for you and your families. You will be remembered in our prayers during this blessed season of Advent as we await the celebration of our dear Savior's birth.

As a small thank you for all you have done, please consider joining us for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We would love to welcome you so that you can experience the loving environment of our home which your support helps us to create.

God bless you and your families,

*Sister Judith, LSP*

## MORE WAYS TO HELP

Thank you for being an integral partner in our work. With each gift of cash, check, stock, or matching gift you help us care for our Residents. Donations must be postmarked by **December 31, 2014** to receive tax credit for this year.

We all know about Black Friday and many have heard about Cyber Monday, now there is *Giving Tuesday* when you are encouraged to give online to charity. Mark your calendars for this year's *Giving Tuesday* December 2nd. Check out our website at [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org/donations](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org/donations).

Beyond financial gifts we would also appreciate help with any of the items from our following wish list:

Digital Camcorder with a camera bag  
Gifts Cards to Kuhn's or Giant Eagle  
Cascade Complete dishwasher soap  
4 slice toaster  
Littman stethoscopes  
oscillating table fans

standard sized pillows  
8 ft plastic tables rectangular or round  
Craftsman contractor saw or table saw  
Scotch Thermal laminator & pouches  
Corningware 1.5 quart bake ware  
serving platters  
chef aprons  
turkey roasting pans  
cake plates  
pot holders or oven mitts  
glass serving bowls  
electric carving knife  
postage stamps  
legal sized or steno sized note pads  
copy paper, all sizes and colors  
batteries, all types.

If you'd like more information on any of the above items please contact Kathleen Bowser in the Development Office at (412) 307-1268 or [adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org). You can also find more information on our website [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org)



Sisters Margaret Mary and Monique with Kitchen staff after last year's Turkey, Ham and Roast Drop.

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

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org)