



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.



Pope Francis greets Sister Marie Mathilde, 102 years old, in the Chapel of the Washington, DC home.

A Surprise Visitor

Save the Dates:

- December 12
Turkey, Ham or Roast Drop 9:00am-2:00pm
- December 17
Resident Christmas Show
- December 24
Christmas Eve Mass 7:00pm

While the city of Pittsburgh was not included in the travel plans for Pope Francis during his recent visit to the United States, Washington, DC certainly was. Fortunately for the Little Sisters of the Poor stationed in DC, Pope Francis made an impromptu visit to the home there after celebrating the canonization Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine on September 23rd. Earlier that day, three Little Sisters attended the White House 'Papal Welcome,' where they were notified by the Papal Nuncio that the Pope wanted to stop by for a private visit with all the Little Sisters.

That evening Pope Francis' entourage arrived in the home's driveway. The Mother Superior of the DC home was waiting outside the chapel door to welcome him. More than 40 Little Sisters, including novices, were eagerly awaiting his arrival in the home's chapel. The Pope moved slowly and with great care among them, taking their hands, and speaking to each Little Sister personally. Then, he spoke about the importance of our mission in a society that tends to marginalize the aged and the poor.

"Caring for the elderly is not a job that many people like to do," he said. "In the world we live in it is regarded as burdensome and useless... many of the elderly are put aside, forgotten...what you are actually doing [in caring for the elderly poor], is that you are safeguarding the memory of the church's family, the memory of faith..."

Our Lord said, whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me. When you listen to the elderly, when you pray with them, when you caress them or show tenderness, you are doing it to Christ..."

After praying a Hail Mary together, he blessed the Sisters, and then the Holy Father said, "Pray for me because I have a difficult task."

Little Sisters around the world, including all of us here in Pittsburgh, are deeply moved and encouraged by the Holy Father's words. How blessed were our Sisters in Washington DC to have the personal attention and presence of Pope Francis at their home. His trip to the United States was a blessing for all.

Little Sisters of the Poor
1028 Benton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 307-1100

Vol. XXIII No. 4
Winter 2015

Little Sisters of the Poor



Resident Norma Long with her son Tom Long wait on deck to board the Clipper.

Gateway Clipper Cruise

On a beautiful September day, the Little Sisters, many of their Residents, and their families, volunteers and staff were treated to a chartered cruise on the Gateway Clipper. The Clipper has a fleet of river boats that operate along all three of Pittsburgh's scenic rivers. The views from the ship are wonderful and so is the atmosphere on board. Pittsburghers often make a boat cruise an annual tradition. Thanks to the generosity of a wonderful benefactor the Residents at our home were afforded this same opportunity.

The morning started with a caravan of Little Sisters vehicles pulling up to

Station Square. In total 70 people boarded the ship, including many Residents in wheelchairs. Once aboard and settled in a meal was served as the boat cruised down the Monongahela river. After the meal service was complete and every Resident had their delicious lunch, the buffet line was disassembled revealing a dance floor in the middle of the boat.

The on board entertainment was provided by George Suhon, a favorite entertainer of many of the Residents. He performed many hit songs including the "Pittsburgh Polka" with the help of his accordion. The lively beats were contagious as the dance floor

was quickly flooded with Residents ready to dance. In fact, one Resident, at the young age of 98, amazed us all with her fancy footwork. For those not interested in dancing, the deck of the boat offered a wonderful breeze along with fantastic views of the shores of each Pittsburgh river, passing under bridges and familiar landmarks along the way.

When all the cruising, dining, and dancing was over the boat pulled back into the dock and the caravan of vehicles were loaded again with Residents and set off back home to the Little Sisters. Many Residents were exhausted from the fun of the day but are still talking about the outing weeks later.

"We are so thankful that our Residents have opportunities like this. It was a wonderful afternoon for everyone involved. Many thanks to all who helped make this special outing possible. It is days like these that our Residents easily forget their physical limitations and are able to enjoy a beautiful day cruising around Pittsburgh's waterfront," remarked Sister Judith, Mother Superior and Administrator.



Resident Frances Todorowski is Anchors away boarding the ship.

An Evening at Cana

The Little Sisters recently hosted a special wine tasting event at the Home. Father John Sawicki, C.S.S.P., professor of Political Science at Duquesne University offered his wine expertise and showcased wines from countries around the world where the Little Sisters mission is present. France, Spain, Italy, Colombia, and the United States were all represented in the wine selections. The event would not have been possible without Father's knowledgeable and interesting insights.

Many thanks also to in-kind donors Common Plea Catering for providing magnificent food pairings for each wine and Michael Kavic Winery who graciously donated wine from their local winery for the evening. The Sisters would also like to thank all of the attendees and sponsors, most especially UPMC Health Plan for their generous support of this fundraiser. All proceeds raised from this event have been directed to helping the Sisters with operational expenses of the home.

Around Our Home



Brooks, the home's youngest volunteer, came dressed as Yoda with volunteer Diana Rockey.

Trick or Treat Fun

On the Saturday before Halloween all children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the Residents, employees, and volunteers of the Little Sisters were invited for the annual *Pumpkin Trail*. Over 200 children aged 12 and under attended dressed in creative costumes. The trail went through each floor of the Jeanne Jugan Pavilion apartments and through every household in the nursing home building. Along the way were games, prizes, and of course fun. Each Resident, some dressed in costume, handed out treats to all the children.

Many thanks to the volunteers and staff who made this day a success! The Residents loved seeing the children trick or treating. Each child received a photo from the day to take home. It was a wonderful afternoon for all!

Turkey Drop 3.0

Its that time of year again! Mark your calendars for **Saturday December 12th** for the Little Sisters 3rd annual Turkey, Ham or Roast Drop. Just as we have done in years past, we are asking for your help to fill our freezer. From 9:00am to 2:00pm on the 12th, Sister Margaret and her volunteers will be ready to graciously accept any and all donations of frozen turkeys, hams or roasts. The Christmas spirit will be in the air. Volunteers will share hot chocolate & cookies and "Santa Claus" himself may even make an appearance.

So while you are out and about a few weekends before Christmas consider dropping off a turkey at the Little Sisters and help us fill our freezer for the holidays and throughout the new year!



Sister Margaret with Anastasia Eggers who delivered dozens of frozen turkeys during last year's drop as part of a community service project.



Resident Ruth Rudolph speaks with volunteer Wende Woodworth on a summer picnic in North Park.

Volunteer Spotlight

Wende Woodworth first heard about the Little Sisters when she was looking for a nursing home to place her mother at. Unfortunately, the Sisters did not have an empty room at that time so her mother was placed in a nearby nursing home instead. Years after her first phone call to the Little Sisters Wende was forced into early retirement after complications stemming from a car accident. For years she had worked in social service programs connected to her Evangelical Presbyterian Church downtown, where her husband Rodger was the pastor. She knew she wanted to continue to help others and recognized her love for the elderly. About a decade after her first call, Wende called the Little Sisters again, but this time for a different reason—she wanted to become a volunteer.

Wende helps out frequently at the home. She enjoys special outings which include taking Residents shopping or dining out, helping with the *Tunes with Tots* a monthly music program that brings children and seniors together, scrapbooking with Residents and sorting canned goods in November as part of the annual canned food drive.

"If the Residents are happy, than I am happy," remarked Wende. "It is a blessing to be with the Residents and hear about their life experiences and learn from their wisdom. I truly respect the dignity, peace and love that is given to each Resident at the home."

Like many of our volunteers Wende says she "gets more" out of volunteering than she gives. Over the years she has developed some wonderful friendships with fellow volunteers and staff. We are so pleased that Wende contacted us to volunteer and encourage you to do the same by calling Valerie Beam at (412) 307-1100 or volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

A Note From Mother



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



The baby Jesus from our home's
nativity scene.

Dear Friends,

As Thanksgiving and the beautiful season of Advent approach, I reflect on our many blessings especially our Residents, and all our friends and benefactors in the community whose generosity supports our mission of hospitality to the elderly poor. I have included this photograph of the *Baby Jesus* in this newsletter, so that we are all reminded of the "reason for the season" and remember the gift that Jesus' birth was for us. How fitting that God manifests His ways here on earth, the path of humility and littleness, in the form of a sweet bundle of joy.

I also wanted to turn your attention to the enclosed order form for our Christmas cards. Every year Pittsburgh native Sister Martha, lsp sketches a card of the Blessed Mother embracing the infant Jesus. This year was no exception. The love and warmth that Mary is providing to the Son of God is very inspiring. In our own way we Little Sisters strive to emulate that love and compassion to our dear elderly Residents, but recognize that none of this would be possible without your support. Your financial assistance and volunteerism have permitted us to provide our dear Residents with a secure and peaceful home. This Thanksgiving and Christmas season we extend our appreciation and deep gratitude to you and to our volunteers and staff, who share their love, time and talents with us in our apostolate.

May Christmas 2015 be for you and your loved ones a feast filled with light, grace and divine mercy, and may you experience the serenity and joy which He alone can give. We assure you of our daily prayers, and our hope that the New Year will draw abundant graces upon you and your family.

God bless you,

Sister Judith, lsp

Wish List and Ways to Help

Every year our many friends and benefactors ask how to best help us in our mission. Here is this year's wish list to help us run our home.

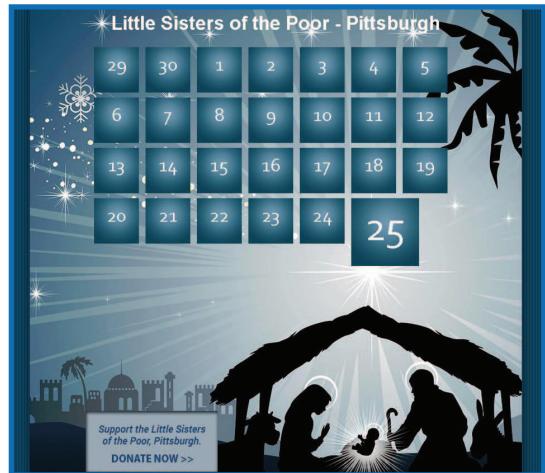
Wide four slice toaster
Big Brain Academy WiiGame
DVD/VCR Combo or Blue Ray Player
Kitchen dish towels
Silverware sets for twelve
Large *George Foreman* Grill
32" HDMI LED TV
24 eight ounce drinking glasses

Rowenta Steam Iron
Apple IPAD Mini 4
Blood pressure stand
Cordless microphone system
New Vacuum cleaners
Gift Cards to Kuhn's, Giant Eagle, or Walmart
8^{1/2} by 11 or 11 by 14 white copy paper
Postage stamps
Industrial Potato Peeler

We also need help preparing our home for Christmas. Just like in your own

home, there are trees to be decorated, outside lights to be hung, and Christmas cheer to be spread throughout the home. We are looking for help in early December to complete the decorating. You might want to help as a family or perhaps you and your co-workers may want to volunteer some time. Either way please coordinate your efforts through our volunteer office at (412) 307-1100 or volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Thank you for being an integral partner in our work. As always we appreciate your gifts of cash, check, stock, or matching gifts. Donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2015 to receive tax credit for this year. Don't forget Giving Tuesday is December 1st. Please go to www.littlesistersofthepoortppittsburgh.org/donations to give online. If you'd like more information on any of these ways to help contact Kathleen Bowser at (412) 307-1268 or adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



Check out our new online Advent Calendar starting the first day of Advent November 29th. Each new day will unlock a surprise related to the Christmas Season and the happenings of our home.

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