



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.



Residents, Sisters, volunteers and staff pose for their curtain call at the end of their play on the life of Saint Jeanne Jugan.

Jeanne Jugan's Heritage

In celebration of the 224th birthday of the Little Sisters mother foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, Residents, Sisters, volunteers and staff wrote, produced and performed a wonderful play about Jeanne's life and charism. The show was an excellent tribute to her heritage and connections to the present day as the Catholic Church celebrates this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*.

The play highlighted St. Jeanne's spirit and deep devotion to her faith through her work to care for the elderly poor. Humility and littleness were ways she often described herself and how she encouraged her fellow sisters to live. A scene from the play focused on St. Jeanne's complete reliance on Divine Providence a Resident, Mary Bartholomew starring as St. Jeanne, delivered her words, "It is so beautiful to be poor, to have nothing, to depend on God for everything!" In fact, Jeanne was consulted as the congregation deliberated on whether to create an endowment for future needs or remain dependent on God's Providence for

the care of their elderly. Her signature and her words, to this day, still guide the actions of all the Little Sisters in that no home shall have an endowment and must rely on Divine Providence.

Another scene portrayed the vow of hospitality that both Jeanne and all the Little Sisters who joined her order have always professed. Residents and Sisters are gathered around the table in the present day expressing how they are part of a family here at the home and everyone who collaborates with the Sisters in their work is part of the extended family as well.

The performance was very meaningful for all involved. The actors captured the significant moments in Jeanne's life, the Resident choir provided beautiful sacred music in between the scenes and the audience learned more about the foundress of the Little Sisters and her mission of mercy to the elderly poor. The after party included a birthday cake and ice cream to honor the blessing of St. Jeanne's life!

Save the Dates:

- December 3rd
Turkey, Ham or Roast Drop
- December 16
Resident Christmas Program
- December 24
Christmas Eve Mass 7:00pm

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Vol. XXIV No. 4
Winter 2016

Little Sisters of the Poor



The group of pilgrims from the Pittsburgh home on the steps of the National Shrine.

Year of Mercy Pilgrimage

Wednesday October 12th a bus loaded with excited pilgrims set forth to Washington DC. Sister Judith led a group of Little Sisters, Residents, volunteers, and staff for a visit to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the St John Paul II Center as part of this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*.

While the pilgrimage started early and ended late, it was an enjoyable trip for all involved. Upon arriving in DC the first stop was to the St. John Paul II Center for Mass with the home's chaplain, Father John Geinzer.

Afterward everyone toured the newly renovated space dedicated to Saint John Paul II. The exhibit allows pilgrims to immerse themselves in the life and teachings of this pope and saint. Pilgrims can reflect on his early years and the maturing of his vocation as a priest and bishop amidst some of the darkest moments of the twentieth century. The Center was updated through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus throughout North America and includes detailed mosaics and many of the pope's personal artifacts. It is the Knights' hope that this building and all of its exhibits

will serve the life of the Church in the Americas and the universal Church around the world. A first class relic of a vial of St John Paul II's blood is also on display for all to venerate. With the help of volunteers all the Residents on the pilgrimage, even those wheelchair bound, were able to touch the relic and pray over it. The rosary was said by the pilgrims in the Luminous Chapel where there is a magnificent depiction of the Luminous Mysteries given to us by St. John Paul II during his papacy.

Continuing the pilgrimage, the group headed down the street to the Little Sisters Washington DC home where lunch with the Washington community awaited. After a delicious meal the pilgrims were off to the National Shrine where they walked through the official Holy Door for the *Year of Mercy*, toured the various chapels, and perused the gift shop. There was just enough time for a group photo on the steps of the Basilica and then it was back on the bus for the four hour journey back to Pittsburgh.

"It is not easy taking 45 people, including Residents, far away from home on a day long pilgrimage. Even though it was an exhausting trip for most, it was well worth the effort to see these two important churches dedicated to the Catholic faith in our country," shared Sister Judith, Administrator.

Turkey, Ham or Roast Drop December 3, 2016

Mark your calendar for Saturday December 3rd for our fourth annual Turkey, Ham and Roast Drop to be held from **9:00am to 2:00pm** at the Little Sisters. Sister Margaret Mary and her "elves" will be ready to graciously accept donations of frozen turkeys, hams or roasts in the auditorium. Local celebrity WTAE news anchor Mike Clark will once again be our *celebrity turkey taker*. Stay for some cookies and hot chocolate and bring the kids as Santa Claus will be handing out goodies to all the little ones.

Maybe you have an extra turkey taking up too much freezer space or you received a free ham for the holidays that you do not need, however you come across an extra turkey, ham, or roast your donation to us would be appreciated.

If this date doesn't work with your schedule we are very willing to accept meat donations at any time. So while you are out and about before Christmas please consider dropping by the Little Sisters and help us to fill our freezer for Christmas and beyond!



Resident Nancy Moran enjoys lunch with employee Sharon Shean at the Washington DC Little Sisters' home.

Around Our Home



Sister Judith visits with the employees of Shepherd's during their customer appreciation day.

Shepherd's Event

On October 15th Shepherd's, a gift store in the north hills of Pittsburgh, hosted their annual customer appreciation event to benefit the Little Sisters. Linda Wagner, store owner, and her staff worked tirelessly prior to the event by collecting items to be used for a raffle with all proceeds given directly to our home. The store also had a collection jar at the cash register for donations, which Shepherd's then doubled. 10% of all sales that day were also donated to the Little Sisters. Teaming up with other merchants in the area, T-Bones and Ace Hardware employees grilled food for the Saturday morning shoppers in exchange for good will offerings to the Sisters. Altogether over \$5,400 was raised for our mission. Many thanks to all who were involved in making this event a huge success!

Sister Martha's Gift

Sister Martha Lieb, lsp was born and raised in Pittsburgh. She was a Little Sister for many years and was stationed in Pittsburgh for about nine years. Sister Martha was blessed with many God given artistic abilities. During her time in Pittsburgh she began drawing Christmas Card sketches of the Blessed Mother and the new born baby Jesus. These cards have become a favorite of our friends near and far. Sadly, Sister Martha passed away at the Provincial home in Baltimore on March of this year. She will always be remembered through her artwork and her lifelong commitment to serving the elderly poor throughout the United States. This year we are offering a card created from a never before used sketch by Sister Martha and hope to release future cards using her previous sketches for years to come.



Sister Martha stands next to Sister Jeanne. Inset of the sketch for this year's Christmas card.



Art & Paul Groll sorting canned goods in the garage.

Volunteer Spotlight

When Art and Paul Groll were growing up, their father worked at a restaurant supply store in Pittsburgh's Strip District. Their dad would often see the Little Sisters there begging for items to care for their elderly Residents. He would give them kitchen equipment and help repair it at their home on Benton Avenue. So from a young age the Groll brothers were shown the example of giving back to those in need.

Flash forward to many years later, Art and Paul had just lost their mother, whom they had cared for during her final years of life. They were looking for a way to memorialize her and contacted the Little Sisters seeking naming opportunities. After deciding to dedicate the Activities Room in their mom Doris' memory their connection to the Sisters strengthened. A few months later the Easter Seals program for adults with disabilities that Paul was participating in closed and both Art and Paul were looking for a way to honor their deceased mom by helping other elderly "moms" and decided to become regular Little Sister volunteers.

Every week the brothers save collecting sister, Sister Margaret Mary, hours of time by sorting through donated canned goods and other commodities. Art and Paul enjoy feeling welcome at the home and part of the extended family that the Sisters have created here. Both have a great respect for our mission and are happy to help out as they can.

"Art and Paul are a great asset to our home. Although sorting canned goods is not a glamorous volunteer opportunity, it is still a necessary part of our work. People of all abilities are able to contribute to our mission in many ways. That is the beauty of this work and how St. Jeanne Jugan intended it to be—working together to care for the elderly poor in a compassionate, loving way," shared Sister Judith. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Valerie Beam at 412.307.1139 or volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

A Note From Mother



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

Dear Friends,

It is that beautiful season of the year once again, when hearts are a glow with the joy of Christ's birth. He came to bring us "His Peace" a peace the world cannot give. How appropriate that we should pray that, throughout the world, all may enjoy the Peace & Joy that is the true spirit of Christmas. As we begin to prepare for Christmas, we can lose track of the true meaning of this season by becoming caught up in the hustle and bustle of the "holidays." However, if we stop to reflect on the many blessings that we have received and continue to receive it is easy to recognize God's Providence caring for us. He showers us with gifts throughout the year.

For us Little Sisters, our greatest gift is every Resident who calls our house a home. They are the reason for our mission and we feel privileged to welcome them as family. We are also immensely grateful for our donors, benefactors, volunteers and staff whose generosity, commitment, and service allow us to provide a loving home where each Resident feels loved and accepted. These "presents" are far more precious to us than any gifts waiting under a Christmas tree.

We are grateful for the many ways you have helped us in 2016! Your generous gifts of financial support, the many collections of canned goods, paper products, and donated foods as well as other commodities that are needed every day by the Residents are greatly appreciated. I surely must express also our deep gratitude for the many hours of gracious volunteer time that makes each day here better for our Residents—for all of this we promise to keep you in our daily prayers during the upcoming Christmas season and beyond! We look forward to 2017 with joyful enthusiasm and know nothing is impossible with God!

Gratefully in prayer,

Sister Judith, Isp

Year End Giving

Each year we publish our annual wish list of much needed items in our home. This year we decided to create an online wish list in addition to what we have listed below. If you are interested in purchasing items for us either review the items below or visit smile.amazon.com and search wish lists by using this email adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org. You can have items sent directly to our home. By using Amazon Smile .05% of all your purchases is donated back to us. Just be sure to select Little Sisters of the Poor of the State of Pennsylvania as your designated charity on smile.amazon.com.

Here are a few of our wishes:

8 foot long plastic tables from Sam's
gift cards to Giant Eagle or Kuhn's
postage stamps
Uline Plastic platform truck
Little Giant multi position ladder
copy paper
reclining wheelchair with leg rests
nightgowns, all sizes

There is still time to act for the 2016 IRA Charitable Rollover program. If you are 70 ½ or older and able to share a portion of your annual withdrawal from IRA, the Little Sisters is a qualified charity to accept it. See your financial advisor for more information.

As always we appreciate your gifts of cash, check, stock, or matching gifts. Donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2016 to receive tax credit for this year. Please go to www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org/donate to give online. Also visit our website to see if your employer may match your gifts by visiting our new "double your donation" link.

If you would like more information on any of these ways to help please contact Kathleen Bowser in the Development Office at (412) 307-1268 or adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



Sister Margaret Mary, our collecting sister, with her companion Sister Monquie unload the begging van full of donated produce.

**You can help keep us going by
remembering our
home in your will.**

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org