



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:

- April 1
Easter Sunday
- April 19-21
Rummage Sale
10:00-4:00pm
- June 9
Rock-A-Thon
1:00-4:00pm

Little Sisters of the Poor
1028 Benton Avenue
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L-R back row Stephen D'Angelo, Maria and Johno Prascak, Buddy and Sue Hobart, L-R front row Sisters Grace, Mary Ellen, Mary Vincent, Claire, Dorothy and Marguerite with "The Mannion Court" original behind them.

Art Unveiling Benefits Home

Last fall guests of Advisory Board members and Little Sisters gathered at the Duquesne Club downtown for an evening hosted by Buddy and Sue Hobart and Stephen and Sharon D'Angelo and their respective companies Solutions 21 and dck worldwide. The main focus of the event was to unveil an original painting by Pittsburgh artist Johno Prascak entitled "The Mannion Court."

Sister Mary Vincent Mannion, Mother Superior and Administrator of our home, was born and raised in Pittsburgh. Two of her brothers, Francis and Larry, became teachers and coaches in various Catholic schools around town. After they passed, former students, in particular many from Bishop Boyle High School, organized events in their memory to support the Little Sisters. These efforts resulted in the dedication of a special courtyard—The Mannion Court, here in our home in 2012.

Inspired by this space Advisory Board member Buddy Hobart, one of Francis's

former students, commissioned an original painting of the Mannion Court from Johno Prascak, a local Pittsburgh artist and son of Resident Mary Prascak. The end result, which was unveiled that evening, was beyond expectations. The 4ft by 6ft painting with vibrant colors captures a scene with two Little Sisters standing in front of the St. Francis statue in the courtyard with the brick exterior of the home as the background.

The original will stay in the Hobart's private collection, but 20in. by 24in. prints are available for purchase, so that you can enjoy this art and its connection to the Little Sisters home. Prints are \$50.00 each plus \$9.95 for shipping and can be ordered using the enclosed order form, through our website or at our front desk.

Many thanks to all who attended the unveiling which raised nearly \$50,000! Most special thanks to the hosts for a memorable night!

Little Sisters of the Poor



Residents L-R Betty Miller, Mary Lindsey, Kay Canyock, Helen Madden, Tony Comport and Ruth Blaney enjoy a bowling night with the Newman Club.

Bridging Generations

The Newman Club represents undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, and Carlow University from the Ryan Center. For many years now the Little Sisters of the Poor Residents have had the pleasure of frequent interaction with this group. Every month or so members from this Catholic based group come to the home for a variety of activities. The most recent event was a night of “bowling” in the home’s physical

therapy department. It was an enjoyable night for all, made even better by the having the younger people to pick up and re-set the bowling pins.

At Christmas time the group reached out to the home’s activities department wanting to do something special for the season. Putting their heads together it was decided that the Newman Club would sponsor a trip to see Christmas lights. On a snow covered night in December

many Residents and some students boarded a bus headed to Butler County fairgrounds. They were treated to a light display then stopped for hot chocolate on the way home.

“We love interacting with our senior friends! A few Residents are ‘regulars’ at our events, so it’s wonderful to catch up with them and form friendships. Students always enjoy hearing old stories, getting advice and opinions, and witnessing the great faith of elderly Catholics,” noted Daly Trimble, Ryan Catholic Newman Club Service Coordinator.

One of the highlights of the year is the annual Mardi Gras Ball. Students from the Newman Club and other local Universities help the Residents have one final bash before Lent. They act as escorts and keep the dancefloor full throughout the evening. In addition to their regular service opportunities here the group also volunteers at Ronald McDonald House, Operation Safety Net, Catholic Charities, and Duquesne University’s Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

“It is a joy to have the young people from the Newman Club so committed to our home and Residents. They certainly bring a youthful energy that is very much appreciated by all living here including the Sisters!” commented Sister Mary Vincent.

Rock-A-Thon Returns June 9th

Back by popular demand is our 7th annual Rock-A-Thon scheduled for **Saturday, June 9th**. If you haven’t heard of our Rock-A-thon before here is a quick explanation: Residents, Sisters, Volunteers, Employees and friends of our home will gather from 1:00pm-4:00pm on June 9th to rock in rocking chairs in the auditorium. Similar to a walk-athon, participants are encouraged to solicit friends and family to sponsor their time rocking. There will be food, prizes, baskets, an *Elvis* performance, a DJ and most

importantly a whole lot of fun! Consider joining us with your family, friends or coworkers and spend the afternoon rocking away and supporting our home. All proceeds raised from this fundraiser will help to secure kitchen equipment to keep Resident meals warm. Save the date and please see the enclosed flyer for more details. If you or your company would like to be a sponsor of this event please contact Kathleen Bowser at (412) 307-1268 or adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



Resident Helen Madden lines up the ball for a strike with the help of Newman Club members.

Around Our Home



Residents Mary Lindsey and Pat Lewis are square dancing with Volunteers Linda Roehre and Judy McConnell

Bow to Your Partner

On a recent afternoon, Residents of the home were treated to a special dance: A Wheelchair Square dance! Thanks to a volunteer who sponsored the activity, a professional caller and dancers arrived dressed and ready to conduct a square dance. With the help of volunteers and staff, every Resident could fully participate in this type of dancing. The caller gave directions to bow to your partner, do-si-do, and promenade! Cowboy hats and a western motif including wagon wheels and hay decorated the auditorium. A *root tootin'* good time was had by all!

Chalking the Door

On Sunday January 7th our home and Chapel was honored to have the presence of Pittsburgh's own Most Reverend Bishop David A Zubik celebrate the Solemn Mass. It was the Feast of the Epiphany and following the Mass the Bishop, assisted by Chaplain Father John Geinzer, climbed a ladder to write in chalk 20+C+M+B+18 over the doorway of the Gloria Chapel. 20 represents the century, while C, M, and B are the names of three Magi who travelled to Bethlehem upon hearing about Christ's birth, and 18 represents the year.

This traditional blessing was not only for the interior of the Chapel but was also a generic blessing of the home including all who reside here. What a special day for the Little



Bishop Zubik completes the blessing of the Gloria Chapel on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Sisters community on Benton Avenue. As a reminder, daily Mass is at 11:00am and all are welcome.



Volunteer Bernie Stecik escorting Resident Florence Poprocky to Physical Therapy.

Volunteer Spotlight

Bernie Stecik spent his career working primarily for school districts. He is a former CPA and was a school district Business Administrator until retirement a few years back. After he retired, he was able to spend time with his elderly mother until she passed at age 100. During the final years of her life Bernie was exposed to a multitude of issues related to aging. With more time on his hands he decided to research volunteer opportunities at a Catholic organization with a focus on aging and after an online search he found a perfect match in the Little Sisters.

Three plus years later, Bernie can be found at the home at least two days a week. He has successfully combined his interest in one to one interaction with Residents by transporting them to the physical therapy room two mornings each week. His afternoons are spent in the Development Office entering donation batches and keeping the donor database up to date. In between these two areas, Bernie likes to make individual visits with Residents. Over the years Bernie has become friends with many male Residents as they typically enjoy talking about sports just as much as Bernie does. He also tries to attend the monthly "Men's Club" luncheons.

When asked what his favorite part about volunteering is Bernie replied "It makes me a better person. I feel I am nicer because of the interaction with the people—Residents, Sisters, staff and other volunteers—it is like a second family for me." Bernie also appreciates the opportunity to attend Mass while volunteering.

If you are interested in joining volunteers like Bernie who make a difference at our home, please contact Valerie Beam at (412) 307-1139 or volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

A Note From Mother



Sister Mary Vincent Mannion,
Isp, Administrator and Mother
Superior of our home.

Dear Friends,

As we journey through this Lenten season we turn to God with prayer, fasting, and quiet reflections. Lent reminds us of the love Jesus has for His people. This season leading up to Easter is a perfect time to reflect on God's unconditional love for us and the love that we can share for one another by doing His merciful work. If we accomplish anything in love, we are doing that act for Jesus.

Each day we, the Little Sisters and our staff and volunteers, carry out many acts of love through our care of our Residents. You, by extension of your almsgiving to our mission, also share your love for the less fortunate. This Lenten season we praise God with loving gratitude for His kindness manifested through friends like you who have given generously to our Home.

If you are in the area we welcome you to join us during Holy Week in our home's chapel. Our schedule is as follows:

- *Holy Thursday Liturgy begins at 4:30pm, Eucharistic Adoration 8:00pm*
- *Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11:00am, Liturgy is at 3:00pm*
- *Saturday Easter Vigil Mass is at 8:00pm*
- *Easter Sunday Mass is at 11:00am*

The Little Sisters of the Poor and our elderly Residents pray that God grants you a grace filled Lent and a joyful Easter. May God bless you and your loved ones.

Gratefully in prayer,

S. Mary Vincent SSP

How You Can Help

"How can we help?" Our Sisters hear this question often. There are a variety of ways you can support us in our ministry to care for the elderly poor. Consider sending a gift of cash, check or stock. To stretch your gift even further, we encourage you to seek matching gifts from your employer, when eligible. Did you know many employers will match donations 1 for 1 to qualified charities like the Little Sisters from their employees and sometimes even retirees? Check with your Human Resources department before sending in your next contribution.

Are you doing some spring cleaning and want to unload a used or non-working vehicle? You can donate your car to us through the "Vehicles for Charity" program at www.vehiclesforcharity.org. Tribute gifts in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion like an anniversary or birthday are also appreciated.

If you are able, one of the simplest ways to give is in the form of an estate gift naming the Little Sisters of the Poor of Pittsburgh in your Will. Other options include creating a Charitable Remainder Trust, Annuity or Trust beneficiary, Life Insurance Beneficiary or a Retirement Plan Beneficiary.

If you are 70 ½ or older please consider sharing a portion of your required minimum IRA distribution with the Little Sisters. Check with your financial advisor for details. All of these gifts make a significant difference in the care we can provide to our elderly Residents.

Don't forget that you can save a stamp and give a donation through our website at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org. Please contact Kathleen Bowser in the Development Office at (412) 307-1268 or adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org if you have any questions.



A statue of Little Sisters Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan with her begging basket in hand. She laid the foundation for our tradition of begging that continues today.

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

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org