



Covid-19 Impact

How Lockdown has Changed Us

In early March we made the difficult, but necessary, decision to act quickly to close our doors to all visitors & volunteers in our attempts to keep our Residents safe during this pandemic. We have also implemented many safety protocols to prevent the spread of infection and continue to follow all relevant guidelines from the CDC and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

All staff members are wearing facemasks at all times and are screened at the single point of entrance to the home before going to the Resident Households. Housekeeping is diligently cleaning frequently touched surfaces and disinfecting continuously and staff is practicing proper infection control methods. As our country begins to loosen our social restrictions, we will continue to be vigilant in



Sister Marguerite helps Resident Anceda Dugan speak with her son Tom Dugan.

keeping our Residents protected by restricting visitors and monitoring everyone's health. Be assured that we are doing all we can to care for our Residents, keep them active, healthy and connected to loved ones.

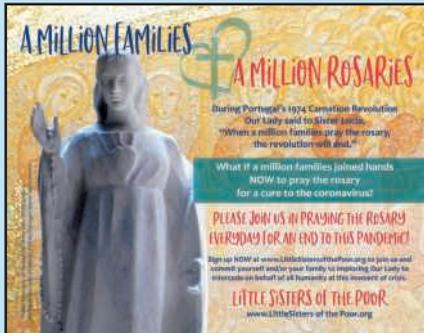
While this has been a challenging time for all of us, it is also a time



Resident Machiko Seto and Sister Mary Ellen in front of the Gloria Chapel.

that highlights the generosity of friends that have come to our aid. Please know we are grateful for all of the support we are receiving. It is also a time when we look to our faith to carry us through. We trust in God's providential care and He is not letting us down.

A MILLION ROSARIES



Click on this image on our website to sign up to be one of a million.

Our Superior General Mother Maria, located at our Mother House in France, wrote to us early on during this pandemic and asked us to “Bombard Heaven” with our prayers to stop this serious virus. She reminded us of the Apparition of Our Lady in Fatima, when Mary appeared to Lucia (one of the visionaries over 100 years ago). Lucia, years later, prayed to the Blessed Mother, and asked her to stop the war in Portugal. Her answer was “The war will stop when a million families pray the rosary.” Her words became reality.

In our global efforts to stop this pandemic we are asking all of our friends to join us Little Sisters of the Poor throughout the world in our efforts to pray to the Blessed Mother by collectively saying one million rosaries. Please share our message with family and friends to remotely join us in saying the rosary, asking for our Blessed Mother’s brilliant light to shine on the world and end this pandemic. We are tracking our efforts as we tally the prayers to one million at the national website <http://littlesistersofthepoor.org/a-million-families-a-million-rosaries/>.

God has a plan and He along with our Blessed Mother will hear our prayers and help the world! Keep bombarding Heaven!

Pittsburgh Helpers

Pittsburgh icon Fred Rogers is well known for this famous quote “look for the helpers” during times of trouble. Here at the Little Sisters we don’t have to look far to find people helping. When we realized we needed extra medical and household supplies to prepare for a potential outbreak in our home, word travelled quickly. Scott Lammie, UPMC Health Plan Senior Vice President and member of our Advisory Board, secured surplus personal protective equipment from UPMC to share with not only our home in Pittsburgh, but with five other Little Sisters Homes across the country. These homes had confirmed Covid-19 cases and desperately needed equipment to curb the spread of the virus.

Not sure how to move 30 boxes of supplies to locations in multiple states, the Sisters once again looked to *Divine Intervention*. In came Fedex Ground with local headquarters here in Pittsburgh. Thanks to their President Henry Maier, shipping labels were

created and before the week's end shipments were on their way to where they were most needed. A true miracle that couldn't have happened without our friends.

The blessings continued when the Knights of Columbus heeded our call for help by securing and delivering food and household

“Friends have helped us from near and far. We are so grateful for everything that has arrived at our home!”

—Sister Mary Vincent, lsp,
Mother Superior

items to the home. Monetary support also arrived from multiple Western PA councils! We have been truly blessed by so many!



Fedex Ground driver loads boxes of medical supplies for delivery.



Gary Damich and Stan Glowaski from the Knights of Columbus deliver food.

New Forms of Activities



Sister Mary Ellen, Sister Mary Vincent and Resident Margaret Mitchell.



Artwork created by a Resident during lockdown.



Resident Judy Watts has a window visit with family.

Like many of you, our activities department had to quickly change the way Residents were kept active during this lockdown. Activities became less group oriented and shifted to individual tasks to keep everyone's spirits up. Through the Province, Residents were given Religious and inspirational prints to color and were also challenged to write Haiku poems to capture their thoughts during this unprecedented time.

To break up the monotony, a special candy and beverage cart made multiple appearances in the apartment building. The Sisters and staff took the cart around to each apartment providing special treats for Residents in need of a *pick me up!*

Following the example of other homes, our activities department created "window visits" just in time for Mother's Day in May. Four windows were labeled inside

and outside on the covered porch, time slots were scheduled, and all involved were appreciative. Residents remained indoors and used cell phones to hear their loved ones. Families brought signs, gifts for their moms, grandchildren and even granddogs to brighten their loved ones day. It was such a success that it continues as an option for families and Residents to interact while social distancing.

IPads Keep Us Connected

Staying connected means something completely different today than it did even four months ago. Thankfully our home had an iPad available for use for activities. Once this lockdown began, we recognized the need for additional iPads to help the Residents stay in touch with relatives and friends who were no longer allowed to physically visit.

Word travelled fast, so much so that before Easter we had four new iPads with covers ready to use. Since then four additional iPads arrived. We now have an

iPad available on every nursing household and two in the apartments.

The Residents enjoy FaceTiming and Skyping loved ones with the help of a staff member or Sister. Although it can't quite measure up to being in the same room as someone, it is a comfort to both the Resident and their family to see one another through technology. Activities has decided that even after this lockdown, we will continue to use the iPads to stay connected with out of state family or to play the occasional game.



Resident Helen Crowley FaceTimes with daughter Christine Pecikozka who lives in Amsterdam.

Serving the elderly poor in Pittsburgh since 1872.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Our home, which was once full of volunteers and bursting with activities throughout the building, has become slightly subdued in the last few months, but this has not changed our mission. In fact, we are working extra hard to continue to shower our dear elderly Residents with loving care.

Although each day has its challenges, we know we are blessed by all of the individuals and organizations who have shown us their support, offering monetary donations as well as much-needed items—everything from gloves and cleaning supplies to home-made face masks. Additionally, we really cannot thank our staff enough for being there for us, performing the care of our Residents and most importantly helping us to keep them happy and calm.

We very much look forward to when our Residents can be reunited with loved ones, our volunteers can return, and life can inch toward a new level of normal. As we forge ahead together let us remember the words of Saint Jeanne Jugan, "If God is with us it will be accomplished."

Gratefully in Prayer,

S. Mary Vincent SSP



Each day as staff members enter our home they are greeted by this sign at our Main Entrance. Staff has truly gone above and beyond with their dedication to our Residents during this time. Thank you for being an extension of our mission!

Please help keep the Little Sisters going by remembering us in your will.

To help us secure much needed items please check out our wishlist and Amazon wishlist link at:

www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org or call us at

(412) 307-1100 to find out more ways to help.

SAVE THE DATES

- June 29th
Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Feast of the Home
- August 19th
Day of Giving with The Pittsburgh Foundation
www.pittsburghgives.org
- August 30th
Feast of Saint Jeanne Jugan

OUR MISSION

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.

