



Year of Saint Joseph

Our Friend and Protector

Our devotion to St. Joseph began in the early days of our congregation's founding and continues today. During this *Year of St. Joseph*, we will share stories from our history that highlight our devotion and gratitude to St. Joseph. We pray that these remembrances will give you a deeper understanding of St. Joseph, his virtuous life and his contributions to our mission!

Many homes can echo a story like this: In France in the 1890s the Residents sweetened their morning coffee with treacle (a syrup-like substance). One morning, a Sister noticed the barrel was completely empty. Without having the means to replace the barrel she placed a small statue of St. Joseph inside and



Sister Pauline and Resident Mary Ann Whalen admire the home's St. Joseph Statue.

prayed. Miraculously, the empty barrel flowed with enough treacle for the Residents' morning coffee for the rest of the week.

Another story that shows St. Joseph's influence comes from

America. One day the collecting Sisters were late for their begging rounds, but had not yet attended Mass. The Mother Superior reminded them of their daily obligation and the Sisters obeyed. After their late start the collecting was initially slow. Soon an interesting pattern emerged—a refusal was followed by a gift and so on and so forth. Despite the late start, the Sisters returned with more donations than usual and a van full of vegetables. The story concludes “Once more Saint Joseph had blessed their obedience of which he himself is a perfect model!”

We look forward to sharing more of these countless tales of our connection to St. Joseph this year!

JOIN US VIRTUALLY



This year is our first year participating in the annual "Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community." This event will be virtual, meaning participants can complete the 1 mile or 5k walk at their convenience this spring. We need your help to form teams of registered walkers or to simply donate toward this effort. Highmark will provide t-shirts later this summer to all registered walkers who raise \$30 or more! Find out more by visiting the News & Event Section at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org.

Here at the home we are planning our own outside walk around the building for Residents, staff and volunteers. We are targeting May 13th, weather permitting, and while we cannot yet welcome visitors to the walk, please know we will be walking with you in spirit on that day. If you would like to sponsor a participating Resident, please make a notation on the enclosed gift slip that your donation is designated for the Highmark Walk.

Please consider forming a team of family or friends to walk together to support the Little Sisters of the Poor. If you have questions or need help registering please call Kathleen Bowser at (412) 307-1268 or email adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org. We look forward to virtually walking with you!

Dining With Love

The Jeanne Jugan Pavilion apartments at the Little Sisters is home to 40 Residents who live independently in one or two bedroom apartments.

Covid-19 changes were implemented last March which forced the communal dining room to shift from a social meal atmosphere to a "take out" grab n go style. The Residents and staff have truly worked together to make the most of a challenging situation, but everyone was missing the camaraderie.

To lift everyone's spirits in the cold month of February, the Jeanne Jugan Pavilion staff led by Sister Mary Ellen planned a special "dinner out" to the dining room. The Valentine's Day theme helped to spread love to all of the Pavilion Residents. Veronica Bryan, Apartment Manager, planned and prepared a special menu of Beef Wellington, Italian shrimp, autumn pear salad, mashed potatoes, balsamic and honey

roasted broccoli and cauliflower, and desserts from Oakmont Bakery. There were three separate timed dinner seatings that helped to maintain social distancing.

“The Apartment Residents were so thrilled to be treated to such a delicious meal! It was a beautiful act of love by the Pavilion staff!”

—Sister Mary Vincent, lsp,
Mother Superior &
Administrator

Everyone raved about the meal and the attention to detail. It was a true act of love at a time when it was needed the most.



Apartment Manager Veronica Bryan serves Resident Dolly Panucci a first course salad.



The tables were beautifully decorated for the Valentine's Day themed meal.

Mardi Gras—Virtual Fun!



Husband and wife Jim and Kathy LeBlanc graciously accept their new roles as King and Queen of Mardi Gras.



Activities Employees Kelly Krah and Karen Jasko hard at work making French beignets.



Residents Doris Wehrin and Margaret Mitchell pose between the Jeanne Jugan Pavilion's Mardi Gras float.

Our home could not let Mardi Gras pass by without some type of celebration. While there was no Coronation Ball or lively parade down the hallways this year, the Residents still had plenty of time for fun and revelry. In preparation for the big day, the Activities Department called for each household to make a themed “shoebox” float and pre-filmed a parade on each unit.

On the morning of Mardi gras, everyone was treated to freshly made French beignets and adorned in gold, green and purple beads of their choosing. The fun continued at the afternoon’s “watch party” on each household when the “Virtual Parade Video” debuted. Residents were thrilled to watch each household's contributions (which were filmed separately), hear the life stories of

the court members, and watch the King and Queen—Residents Jim and Kathy LeBlanc be crowned in a socially distanced manner. The royal LeBlancs concluded the video by proclaiming “Laissez le bon temps rouler!” which translates to “Let the good times roll!” Head to the News & Events section of our website to watch the Mardi Gras Virtual Parade.

Covid-19 Vaccine Update

In late December 2020, our nursing department was contacted by CVS Pharmacy to coordinate our first of several Covid-19 vaccine clinics held at our home. The Pfizer vaccine was offered to all Little Sisters, nursing home Residents and staff. Thankfully there was great enthusiasm at the home to receive the vaccination.

CVS returned three weeks later to administer second doses to those who had received the first dose. They were also able to extend the clinic to include all of the Residents in the independent living apartments. Those Residents received their final dose in February. Fortunately there were minimal reactions beyond soreness at the injection site and brief chills or mild fever.

In total 100% of the Residents chose to be vaccinated along with about 80% of the Sisters & staff. We pray that this vaccination effort will help our home return to some normalcy in the near future.



Sister Josephine receives the first injection of the Pfizer vaccine during a CVS clinic at the home.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

What a challenging time the last 12 months have been. Thank you for staying with us and helping us to continue our important work of caring for our elderly Residents during this Covid-19 pandemic.

Our hope has been renewed by your unwavering support. Our positive outlook for this year was strengthened by Pope Francis' proclamation that 2021 would be the "Year of St Joseph." We feel privileged to recognize St. Joseph as our great protector and look forward to sharing more about his role in our work with you this year.

St. Joseph has always been ready to intercede on our behalf. His hand is at work through you our dear friends and benefactors and we continue to be in awe of what he can accomplish. Nothing is too large or small to ask of him.

May your connection to St. Joseph deepen this year and may he become for you, as he has for the Little Sisters, a great friend, loving provider and powerful intercessor before God.

Thank you & May God bless you,

S. Mary Vincent SSP



Allie Dolan, mother to 5 students at Aquinas Academy, organized a canned goods collection for the 100th day of school project. Her vehicle was overloaded with donations! Thank you to the Aquinas Academy students, staff and families!

Ways to Help

From sending a gift in memory of a loved one or friend, donating your used vehicle, or just simply taking the extra step to have your donation matched by your employer—we are grateful!

IRA News—The Little Sisters of the Poor are an eligible charity to accept your Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA. Distributions made directly from your IRA to us will reduce your 2021 taxable income. Call Kathleen Bowser at (412) 307-1268 for more details.

SAVE THE DATES

- April 16th-30th
Online Spring Craft and Ceramic Sale & Auction (*visit our website for details*)
- May Stamp Out Hunger Collection by the National Association of Letter Carriers (*visit our website for details*)
- May 13th Highmark Virtual Walk for a Healthy Community

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

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.

