



St. Joseph, Pray For Us

As we continue to reflect on St. Joseph during this special year dedicated to him, we wanted to share another connection our congregation has to this Fatherly Saint. From an archived book about St. Joseph we found a chapter entitled “Patron of a Happy Death” which begins with the following, “Saint Joseph is justly admitted to be above all, the faithful assistant of the dying; he who had the happiness of dying in the arms of Jesus and Mary’ said Pope Benedict XV in July 1920. Our infirmary Sisters can prove every day of their lives the truth of this assertion, it is especially at the bed side of the dying that we feel most grateful to our Holy Protector.”

From the early days of the Little Sisters and continuing today, even during this tenuous time of a pandemic, it is the height of this vocation to be with the dying. Some Residents initially move into our independent living apartments active and vivacious, while others



Resident Nancy Leach and Sister Augustine admire a painting of St. Joseph by artist Kendra Burton.

join our family when care is no longer possible in their previous living situation. Whichever way they first arrive, most leave us in a similar fashion.

During a Resident’s final days, the Sisters watch them around the clock—trying to not leave them alone. Accompanying the dying involves prayers, assistance to the families present, and

providing a feeling of comfort for all.

Often these prayers are to St. Joseph, who has time and time again answered our prayers for our home, but also comes to our aid when praying for a peaceful journey to Heaven for our Residents. He, along with the Blessed Mother, provide much comfort for our Residents and their families throughout this precious time.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Judy Bendtsen with Resident Maureen Derigner.

After retiring in December of 2012, Judy Bendtsen searched for a volunteer opportunity close by. She only had to look beyond the brick wall at the end of her street, which surrounds the Little Sisters property, to find the perfect spot. Right away Judy felt comfortable helping with activities and interacting with Residents.

Today Judy is involved in much more. She escorts Residents to activities, sorts canned goods, participates in exercise class, helps with special events like the Rummage Sale and even helped with family visits in the auditorium during the pandemic. Through all this her favorite part remains getting to know the Residents and hearing their personal history.

Judy teases that the best part about volunteering is the “free lunch” that coincides with the Sisters vow of hospitality, but in reality it is “Seeing the smiling faces of the Residents, Sisters, Staff and other volunteers even with masks on!” Not only does Judy enjoy her time here, she is also an excellent advocate of our mission, encouraging fellow members of the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation and those at the local YMCA to offer their time and talent to help the home. Judy, thank you for your tireless efforts and all that you do!

Together Connected

Throughout this pandemic friends from near and far have responded to our needs and we are so grateful for the support. One item that has been so helpful in keeping Residents connected to loved ones and friends are iPads. This summer our home was contacted by an organization called “Together Connected.” They donated two brand new iPads to our home through the help of WTAE's Mike Clark.

A nonprofit organization in Long Island, New York, Together Connected was born after patriarch Tom Costello died in a nursing home from stroke complications in June 2020. His daughter, Suzanne Wagner, and sons, Michael and Joseph, and their mother, Pearl, found it difficult during the pandemic to be with him in person throughout his stays in the hospital and nursing facilities. Tom was isolated and the only way to communicate was through the personal devices of staff members. Following Tom's death, the Costello

family worked together to buy an iPad for the nursing facility where he spent his final days. From there they decided to give iPads to any facility in need, including the Little Sisters.

The iPads are in use in our home connecting Residents to their

“My dad would think this is great. This is a beautiful home and we feel honored to be able to give these iPads to such a deserving place.”

—Suzanne Wagner,
Together Connected

loved ones every day. Many thanks to the entire Costello family for bridging this communication gap for so many.



Suzanne Wagner and Pearl Costello present two iPads to Sister Mary Vincent in front of WTAE's Mike Clark.

Picnicing & Praying at North Park



The bus loaded with Residents and ready to head out!



Resident Daniel Schrecengost enjoying the view.



Residents Anna Pastin and Marion Roach ready for the picnic.

Each summer the activities staff like to take the Residents to many outings. Last year, we were unable to go many places outside of the home, but this summer we had the delight of taking nursing Residents to North Park for a picnic. It felt great to load up the handicapped bus and take 15 Residents to a Picnic Shelter on

North Park's lake. Sisters, staff, and volunteers helped the Residents find a good spot to watch the kayakers and fishermen.

A few Residents were disappointed that they had to miss the daily rosary to participate in the outing. Well the Blessed Mother must have noticed this because as soon as the group

settled into the picnic shelter someone noticed a set of rosary beads hanging from a pillar inside the pavilion. Everyone recognized this as a sign for all to say the rosary together during the outing! After the meal the rosary beads were hung up on the same pillar for the next person or group to use.

Teamster Horsemen 2021

For over 12 years, the Teamster Horsemen Motorcycle Club has been organizing a summer ride to benefit the Little Sisters. The rides typically begin at their union hall in Lawrenceville and end in the front driveway of the home where Sisters and Residents welcome the bikers, with delight. In 2020 due to the pandemic, the Motorcycle ride was cancelled. Thankfully this year the ride returned with some adjustments.

The bikers were unable to stop and have lunch on the home's porch. Instead they made a drive-by the front parking lot to wave to the many Residents and Sisters waving American flags and then headed off to another destination for a blessing of the bikes ceremony. Even though the ride had to be adjusted for 2021, we are so grateful that the Teamster Horsemen Motorcycle Club remembered our Residents and raised funds for our home with this fun drive-by event! Thank you!



Residents and Sisters cheer on the bikers as they ride past the home.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

On August 30th we joined Little Sisters throughout the world as we celebrated the Feast of our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan.

You may know her story, but if not here is a brief summary. In France on a cold winter's day in 1839, Jeanne encountered an elderly, destitute, blind woman named Anne Chauvin begging on the street. Instead of ignoring her, Jeanne picked Anne up, carried her home to place her in her own bed, caring for her until Anne's death. This act of love led to the founding of the Little Sisters and the establishment of homes for the elderly poor throughout the world, including Pittsburgh in 1872 (150 years in 2022!). St. Jeanne Jugan's message remains the same today as it was in 1839, to serve the elderly poor with dignity, respect, and love.

As we celebrated her feast day, we remembered all our benefactors who give so generously to our mission and help us to continue St. Jeanne's legacy. We are thankful for everyone's concern during this difficult time and know that St. Jeanne Jugan will hear our continued prayers.

S. Mary Vincent SSP



Resident Bobby Vasil with nurse Gary Cummings. Looking for a job? We have many open positions. Please visit our website littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org or call (412) 307-1100 for more information.

How You Can Help

We are grateful for your support in many ways! Be on the lookout for employee giving campaigns this fall. Our United Way SWPA Code is 244, our Combined Federal Campaign is 47173 and our State Employee Campaign number is 4601-0017.

Act now while there is still time to plan for a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA to the Little Sisters. Gifts made directly from your IRA to the Little Sisters will reduce your 2021 taxable income. Call Kathleen Bowser at (412) 307-1268 for more details on how you can support this mission!

SAVE THE DATES

- October 1-15th
**Holiday Boutique
Online Sale/Auction
Fall and Christmas
Crafts & Ceramics**
- November 11th
Big Cash Raffle
- November 30th
Giving Tuesday
- December 11th **Meat Drop**

Visit littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org for details on any of the above.

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.

