



USA Welcomes Mother

Late last year Mother General Maria del Monte Auxilidora was finally able to visit America. The trip had initially been scheduled for 2020, but the complications of the pandemic postponed her travels. Mother General is originally from Spain and now resides at the Motherhouse in France.

It is customary for the Superior General to visit many homes and provinces during her term. These visits seek to inspire Sisters, Residents, staff and volunteers, and promote collaboration as one religious family.

Unfortunately, her itinerary did not include a stop in Pittsburgh, but it did include the Provincial homes of Palatine, Illinois, Baltimore, Maryland and Queens, New York. The Mother Superiors in our province had the opportunity to spend a few days of quality time with Mother General in Baltimore. Each home also participated in a Zoom call with her so that every Sister



Mother General Maria del Monte Auxilidora is greeted by a Resident of the Baltimore home.

had a few moments to say hello and introduce themselves. It was a special opportunity for all.

In every home she visited she was welcomed by Residents, Sisters and staff and was very generous with her time and appreciation for all. There were celebrations, performances and a lot of joy. Mother General and her

companion Mother Assistant Joseph Christine, who is from Scotland, concluded their whirlwind tour of America and departed New York just days before Christmas. Visits like these are a wonderful reminder of the global impact of the Little Sisters' mission.

**IN MEMORIAM
SISTER GRACE, LSP**



Sister Grace on the Gateway Clipper.

Sadly, we lost another Little Sister in November of 2021. Sister Grace Marie Josette had lived here in Pittsburgh since 2012. She had many roles during her time serving the Residents as the begging companion, the Chapel Sister, a gifted floral arranger, and most important was her role as a wonderful ambassador of Christ.

Sister was originally born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States in adulthood. After earning both a bachelors and masters degree she worked as a Social Worker for many years. Sister converted to Catholicism and eventually met the Little Sisters and entered religious life. Sister's own words best describe the way of living the beauty of a Little Sister of the Poor's vocation. "It is not just feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, attending the sick and consoling the sorrowful, but to accompany the Residents, to walk with empathy this last path of their life that the Lord designs for them."

Anytime one would see Sister Grace she always had a rosary in hand. She knew Mary as "Mother" and ran to her with absolute confidence. Her simple, thoughtful and humble presence is missed by many here at our home.

World Day of the Sick

The World Day of the Sick was celebrated on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Here in our home we had a communal anointing following daily Mass, and a portion of Pope Francis's message to the faithful on the 30th anniversary of this special day was included in the weekly bulletin. Much of his message focused on serving the sick and the role of Catholic health care institutions.

He encouraged all to be merciful like God the Father and Jesus. He invokes the image of touching the suffering flesh of Christ when addressing health care workers, "Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission. Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father."

The Holy Father goes on to praise the work of Catholic health care

and ends his message with a call to action for the faithful to "...remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ

“We are blessed to carry out this mission and serve the sick and those in need.”

—Sister Mary Vincent, lsp,
Mother Superior &
Administrator

addresses to all his disciples.” What a powerful message to not only the Little Sisters, but to all the staff, volunteers and benefactors who participate in this work of caring for the elderly poor in this home and throughout the World.



Sister Jean tends to 100 year old Resident Hermina "Minnie" Bennett.

In House Shopping



Resident Mary Reed selects a quilt.



The auditorium became LSP Mart.



Apartment Resident Jean Hahnel looks through the clothing.

One thing that has been missed by many of the nursing home Residents during this pandemic is the opportunity to go out “shopping.” Prior to the pandemic, every month activities would escort Residents with a volunteer buddy to the local Walmart or Target via the home’s bus. Many miss the experience of perusing

the aisles at a store. Since we are not yet able to restart these monthly outings, it was decided to transform the auditorium into the “LSP Mart” for a week last month.

The Residents had the opportunity to “shop” for beautifully hand crocheted and quilted blankets and lap robes, donated clothing, crossword

books, and other small toiletries. Shopping was completely free for the Residents, but contributions were accepted for the Little Sisters homes in the missions. In total the Residents collected nearly \$200, which was shared with our mission home in South America.

150 Years, Remembering Penn Avenue

As we continue to celebrate our 150th Anniversary this year of serving the elderly of Pittsburgh, we wanted to note some significant parts of our local history. When the Sisters first arrived here in 1872 they settled in Allegheny City (current day North Side). It wasn’t until 1885 when a second larger home was built on Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh’s Garfield neighborhood. Even today, many recall this prominent structure.

Sadly in July 1931 a terrible fire started in the stairwell of the Penn Avenue home and 48 Residents perished. Despite occurring at the height of the Great Depression, within weeks generous Pittsburghers of all faiths raised enough money to rebuild. This tragic night, while devastating, illustrates the depth of the Little Sisters’ strong connection to the City of Pittsburgh.

The Penn Avenue home was later consolidated into our present-day location in Brighton Heights in



The front facade of the Penn Avenue home.

1971 due to the modern day safety requirements for nursing homes. We are grateful for the years of support received at both of our locations.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Between the lingering challenges of the pandemic and the difficult weather this winter, we rejoice that spring has arrived. We welcome the new life of spring as it coincides with the Lenten journey leading to the Resurrection.

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. While we have been tested these last few years, we always acted in love and in benefit to the needs of our Residents.

We are especially grateful for what you, our dear friends and benefactors, have helped us to accomplish. Your partnership in our mission is a vital part of our 150 year history of serving the elderly of Pittsburgh. Thank you!

This Lent and upcoming Easter the Little Sisters of the Poor will remember each of you in our grateful prayers for all that you do for our Residents. May God grant you and your loved ones a grace filled Lent and a joyful Easter.

S. Mary Vincent SSP



Sister Josephine and Sister Mary Vincent accept valentines from Holy Cross Academy student Kathryn Rehtorik made by her classmates for the Residents.

How to Help

There are many ways to support our mission. Memorial gifts, donations matched by your employer, or even your used vehicles—we are grateful!

Please visit our website

www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org for more information and to find our *Amazon Wishlist*.

IRA News—The Little Sisters of the Poor are an eligible charity to accept your *Qualified Charitable Distribution* from your IRA. For those able, distributions made directly from your IRA to us will reduce your 2022 taxable income.

Call Kathleen Bowser at (412) 307-1268 for more details.

SAVE THE DATES

- April 4-22nd **Spring Online Crafts & Ceramics Sale**
- April 25th **150th Anniversary Mass** (*In House only*)
- May 7th **Highmark Walk** (*see insert for details*)
- July 15-16th **Rummage Sale**

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.

