



The Reason for the Season

Amidst the hustle and bustle of Advent, Christmas and the holiday season, we unfortunately have a tendency to let the true meaning for the season drift from our minds. Our Residents look forward to this time of year so much and greatly contribute to the joy of these celebrations.

To remind us all of the “reason for the season,” a new tradition was started last year to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. At the start of Advent a box was placed in front of the Gloria Chapel’s entrance. The box read “Place your birthday gift for Jesus here. This will be used as straw for his crib in the Chapel.” Next to the box was a basket full of blank strips of yellow paper. Each Resident, Sister, employee, volunteer, or visitor was encouraged to write down their gift from the heart for baby Jesus. Whether it was a personal commitment to say



Resident Maggie McKissick arranges the "hay" for the infant Jesus.

a daily rosary, share kindness with strangers or forgive an enemy, it was heartwarming to collect all the entries on the small slips of “hay” to build a comfortable crib for baby Jesus.

These efforts made Christmas morning so very special as we

gathered to celebrate the birth of Jesus and our statue of the infant Jesus was gently laid in His crib built from our collective good deeds. Perhaps you can join us this Advent and either send in your "gifts from your heart" or create your own bed of kindnesses with your loved ones.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteer Janet Scotti with Resident Florence Sullivan.

Janet Scotti has been a dedicated volunteer at the Little Sisters for the last four years. When volunteers were first allowed back into the home following the initial lockdowns of Covid-19, Janet was eager to return. She is now a go-to volunteer and is here four sometimes five days a week clocking in many hours of service.

She can be found at most daily activities, on Resident outings, working in the Little Shop, and even helping to serve dinner in the independent living dining room. Her favorite activities are the monthly painting class and the weekly book club.

"I love the Residents. If I can make them smile then I feel that I have done something good," shared Janet. Although she grew up on the North Side and raised her family close by she was not involved with the home until after she retired and a neighbor encouraged her to volunteer.

If you would like to join Janet and the many other volunteers who make a difference at our home please contact Volunteer Coordinator Valerie Beam at (412) 307-1100 or volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

December 8th Vows

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a time for Catholics to celebrate the great joy of God's gift to humanity in Mary and to recognize that each and every human being has been created by God to fulfill a particular mission. December 8th has always been an important date in the lives of each Little Sister of the Poor.

In the very early days of the founding of the Congregation, St. Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters, made her Perpetual Profession on December 8, 1854! From then on this holy day became the day in which each Little Sister renews her vows of Chastity, Poverty, Obedience and Hospitality.

Continuing this tradition here in our home, the Sisters will collectively have a day of prayer on December 7th in preparation for renewing their vows on December 8th following the homily during

the 11:00am Mass. Please join us in prayer for each Little Sister, for those Sisters who have gone before us and for future Little Sisters to answer God's call to this beautiful vocation.

"Our annual renewal of vows is a special time for all of us Little Sisters. We are grateful to be called in service to God through this mission."

—Sister Mary Vincent, lsp,
Mother Superior &
Administrator



Little Sisters pose in the Gloria Chapel in December 2021, prior to their annual vow renewal.

Cruising the Three Rivers



Sister Rosana and Resident Rosemary Gilfilan.



Sister Jeanne with Residents on the bow of the ship.



Residents, staff and volunteers on the dance floor.

On September 9, 2022 the Little Sisters set sail on a Gateway Clipper luncheon cruise. The group of Residents, Sisters, staff and volunteers numbered 75 which allowed us to charter a ship—The Empress—just for us.

On board we enjoyed wonderful entertainment by the Doo Wop Doctors and a delicious hot lunch.

The perfect weather helped us to cruise along each of Pittsburgh's three rivers allowing beautiful views of Pittsburgh's downtown. Following lunch many Residents got moving on the dance floor. A favorite was "The Stroll" where everyone lined up on either side as a pair danced down the aisle. Everyone had a wonderful time!

The entire outing was underwritten by a generous benefactor who recognizes the joy that an outing like this brings to the Residents. Everyone was thrilled to be cruising again after a two year hiatus due to the restrictions of Covid-19.

Making our House a Home

You are a special part of our mission and truly help us to make our house a home for our Residents. Here are a few additional ways you could help: Our Annual Meat Drop is Saturday December 10, 2022 from 10:00am-2:00pm. Sister Josephine and her volunteers will be at the main entrance to accept donations of fresh or frozen turkey, ham, chicken and especially roasts of beef or pork. All donations will help to feed our nearly 100 Residents with delicious homecooked meals.

Maybe you can't think of a gift for someone special—look no further than our online Christmas craft and ceramics sale. We have a variety of unique wreathes and decorative Christmas items all made at the home to support the mission! Visit www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org to see all that is available from now until December 23rd.



The main entrance of our home on Benton Avenue decorated for Christmas.

One important way you can help our home is to join us as an employee. We have needs for nurses, nursing assistants, and pantry aides full or part time. Please visit our website for more information and share this message with your personal network. Thank you!

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

We are grateful to God for all the blessings that have come our way during 2022, our 150th anniversary year here in Pittsburgh. The support of our home, the love we receive with each donation, the welcoming parish communities that we visit on the weekends—we are so blessed by all these acts. You have done so much for our large family of Residents and Sisters and we are so very grateful.

Each Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas we take time to remember you in our prayers. Your support allows us to make our home rich in tranquility, security, purpose and happiness. The “presents” of your commitment, support and service are far more precious to us than any packages waiting under a Christmas tree. Thank you.

May you receive many graces and blessings this beautiful time of year for being an integral part of our mission!

Gratefully in prayer,

S. Mary Vincent SSP



Employee Karen Lawrence with Apartment Residents Mel & Mary Lee Bagley during last year's Ugly Sweater Contest.

Wish List & End of Year Giving Ideas

Gift cards to Olive Garden or local Pizza Shops for Resident "Dining In", Swiffer wet jet or duster pads, copy paper, Lysol spray, liquid Tide laundry detergent, and gently used e-readers. Find more items listed at our Amazon Smile charity list through our website www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org.

Monetary donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2022 or made online that day to receive tax credit for this year. Gifts of stock and donations directly from your IRA are also appreciated. Call us at (412) 307-1268 for more details.

SAVE THE DATES

- Through December 23rd
Christmas Online Crafts & Ceramics Store
- November 29th
Help us reach our Match Goal of \$50,000 generously offered by the Philip and Patricia Muck Family Foundation
- December 10th **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.

