



# LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

*Serving the elderly poor in Pittsburgh since 1872*

## Mission Statement

*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.*

## Save the Dates:

- September 19-20  
**Christmas Boutique**
- October 11  
**Rock-A-Thon**
- October 16-18  
**Rummage Sale**

**Little Sisters of the Poor**  
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(412) 307-1100

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Father Tom Schluep blesses Resident Anne Likarevich, age 101, with volunteer escort Lee Comport.

## A Special Blessing Newly Ordained Celebrates Mass

Mass at the Little Sisters chapel on July 6th, 2014 was a very special “coming home” celebration. Father Thomas Schluep celebrated one of his first Masses as a newly ordained priest in the diocese of Pittsburgh. Although his position at the altar was a new experience, being at the home with his parents, family, Residents and Little Sisters around him was nothing new.

Celebrating Mass was a beautiful culmination of a long standing relationship between the Schluep family and the Little Sisters home. Fr. Tom’s maternal grandmother, June Weber, was a Resident of the home for six years until she passed away in 2001. Fr. Tom remembers well visiting his grandmother and her influence on his religious formation. She even taught him to pray the rosary before he knew his alphabet. His mother, Mary Louise, worked as a certified nursing assistant nearly 30 years ago. In fact, while employed at the home she and her soon to be husband Tom

received special permission to be married in the home’s chapel, so that the Residents could share in their ceremony. Fr. Tom remembers visiting not only his grandmother, but even some of the other Residents and speaking to the Sisters about religious life and their time of prayer.

After the Mass each Resident was invited to approach the altar for a personal blessing from Fr. Tom. He noted, “I have seen the wonderful work that the Little Sisters do with the elderly both in Pittsburgh and in Rome. I was most honored to have Mass for them and the Residents from whom I learned more of what it means to trust in the Lord.”

The Little Sisters and our Residents would like to extend our congratulations to Fr. Tom and the entire Schluep family. We are blessed to have had the privilege to share in so many momentous, occasions with the Schluep family and will surely remember Father’s priestly ministry in our prayers.

# Little Sisters of the Poor



Resident Esther King and Employee Julia Lyons reminisce through newspaper articles about the Fire.

firemen. In the end, 46 elderly Residents lost their lives that night; many others sustained injuries.

A little more than a week after the fire, the final eight victims were buried at Calvary Cemetery. The bodies of these Residents had lain unclaimed at the Allegheny County morgue. "These eight friendless victims were accorded the highest honors of the Church... administered by the highest dignitary of the diocese," recounted Bishop Hugh Boyle. Their funeral Mass held at St. Paul's Cathedral was attended by over 3,000 caring citizens from the city of Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.

Survivors did not only lose their friends, they lost their home. Yet, God's Providence prevailed. Amidst the height of the Great Depression, there was an overwhelming response led by Bishop Boyle which crowned the efforts to raise a sum of \$300,000 for the Little Sisters to rebuild their home. "It is a tribute to the Christian charity and generosity... of the Diocese of Pittsburgh."

The Penn Avenue home continued to welcome the poor elderly until 1972 when federal safety codes and regulations made consolidating to the current home a necessity. The acts of bravery that fatal night and outpouring of generosity from the Pittsburgh community will always be remembered.



A couple from the Penn Avenue home circa 1930.

## Tragedy Inspires Generosity

The worst institutional fire to date began at the Little Sisters of the Poor home on Penn Avenue at 10:00pm on July 24, 1931. At the time, 213 elderly men and women lived there.

Twenty-two fire companies responded to this six-alarm fire. Prior to the screaming sirens arriving at the scene witnesses scaled the eight foot brick walls surrounding the grounds and ran to the assistance of dozens of frantic elderly faces searching for help. Many of these first responders were street-corner gang members and mobs of men from the local poolroom.

"My dad was a college student at the time and lived across the street from the

home. He used to tell me about how all of the neighborhood came together that night to rescue the Residents. After that he had a close bond with the Little Sisters," explained Elda Numrich, friend and benefactor of the home.

On the inside of the building, Mother Agatha, at the time 80 years old herself, was aroused from her sleep to the pounding of canes on the floor above her. She pulled the fire alarm herself before she and the eighteen other Sisters began rousing scores of elderly. With so many trapped inside God was their only protector. Some men jumped from first and second story windows, while police urged others to wait for the life nets to arrive with the

### Night at the Races

For the sixth year in a row a group of Bishop Boyle School Alumni are hosting a "Night at the Races" Saturday October 18th at the Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin. The idea for the event came about after beloved teacher and basketball coach Francis Mannion passed away in 2008. His younger sister was Sister Mary Vincent, the mother superior at this home at the time.

Alumni wanted to create a memorial to Francis and host an informal reunion

as well. Over the years the event has brought in thousands of dollars to support the Little Sisters mission.

Doors will open at 5:30pm and the dinner starts at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$40.00 and include dinner and drinks. You can also sponsor a horse for one of the night's races at a cost of \$25.00. The evening is a lot of fun and proceeds benefit our home. For more information please visit [www.bishopboyle.net](http://www.bishopboyle.net) or call (412) 307-1100.

# Around Our Home



Residents Marion Roach and Margaret Scanlon try their luck at a dice game.

## Residents Day!

Residents day was held June 27th this year. The theme was a *Monte Carlo Party*. Games, prizes, food and fun filled the Auditorium. Each Resident had their chance to hit it big at a variety of “gaming” stations. After winning what they could at the various games of chance the Residents traded in their earnings for some terrific prizes.

“What was so nice about the event was that each Resident was paired with either a volunteer, staff member or Resident from the apartments to help them navigate the space and receive one-on-one attention. The entire day, including special meals and the intention of this celebratory Mass, was dedicated to the Residents and their happiness,” explained Sister Judith.

## You Called Me Lord!

Saturday July 19th was a joyous day for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Three young women made their first profession of vows at St. Ann’s Novitiate in Queens Village, NY. Pittsburgh’s own Bishop David A. Zubik was the main celebrant and homilist. Profession of the vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and hospitality is preceded by a two-year novitiate. This in turn is capped off by an eight day silent retreat.

Sr. Amy Catherine Joseph received her first obedience for our Home in Philadelphia. Sr. Maria Carmen Therese is headed to the Bronx. Sr. Elisabeth de l’Eucharistie, originally from Québec, Canada, spent six weeks here at our home earlier this year. She has been assigned to Dinan, France, the third home of the Congregation.

Our prayers are with them!



Sister Elisabeth, Bishop Zubik, Sister Maria, and Sister Amy Catherine.



Tom Dugan escorts Resident Kay Canyock to a doctor’s appointment.

## A Helping Hand

Tom Dugan’s earliest memory of the Little Sisters of the Poor home dates back to the mid to late 1960s. At that time he was just a young kid living down the street from the home. He and a bunch of his neighborhood friends would climb over the brick wall on the perimeter of the Sisters property on Benton Avenue and play football and even used their land to practice hitting golf balls. A lot has changed since that time and Tom now comes to the home to accomplish much more than playing games with his friends.

Tom’s dad, Jim, became a Resident of the home in 2008 and spent the last few years of his life in the care of the Little Sisters. After his dad passed away Tom was so accustomed to visiting that he decided to become an official volunteer. Up until that time Tom was the “unofficial” photographer and could be seen behind the camera at many of the home’s events.

Nowadays Tom does just about anything and everything. He volunteers in both the Social Services and Volunteer offices by tracking and recording data in spreadsheets, helps the Sisters at various cook outs (often manning the grill), escorts Residents to doctor’s appointments, and offers weekly computer classes to Residents. Tom is also in formation to join the Association Jeanne Jugan and is preparing to make his first promise in May of 2015.

“If I can bring a smile to a Resident’s face, I feel as though I am serving God. The humility and hospitality of the Sisters’ really makes me feel at home. I am so happy to do my part to help in any way,” remarked Tom.

# A Note From Mother



Sister Judith Meredith, Isp,  
Administrator and Mother  
Superior of our home.

Dear Friends,

Why do we, as Little Sisters of the Poor, choose to serve the elderly poor? Our caring spirit comes directly from our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, whose Feast Day we celebrated on August 30th.

St. Jeanne Jugan speaks not only to the Little Sisters but to you—our friends, families, volunteers, benefactors or employees. Listen to the simple yet profound words of St. Jeanne Jugan. “Be kind, especially with the infirm. Love them well. ... Oh yes! Be kind. It is a great grace that God is giving you. In serving the aged, it is He Himself whom you are serving.” St. Jeanne Jugan understood that we find our Lord Jesus Christ by helping our fellow man, especially those who are poor and elderly.

Her Feast day is always a special time in our Home. We celebrate her life and thank her for giving us our vocation to serve the elderly poor - providing food, shelter and medical attention but most importantly giving them loving companionship. You, the collaborator in our work, are united with us in prayer on this special occasion.

Thank you for your help accomplishing our mission. You do God’s work and help us carry on St. Jeanne Jugan’s legacy. We, Little Sisters and our elderly Residents, are incredibly grateful.

Gratefully in prayer,

*Sister Judith, Isp*

## WAYS TO HELP

The Little Sisters mission to care for the elderly poor of Pittsburgh would not continue without your support. You are an integral partner in our work. Here are some examples on how you can help:

Saturday October 11th is the 4th annual **Rock-A-Thon** from 1:00pm-4:00pm! It is on the 5th anniversary of St. Jeanne Jugan’s canonization. Please consider signing up to be a *Rocker* and help us make the event a success. A flyer with more details is enclosed.

Each Fall the United Way and employee giving campaigns begin. Our Contributor choice code for the United Way is **244** and State Employee Combined Appeal number is **4601-0088**. Check with your Human Resources department to determine if you can support our home in this way. When eligible you can stretch your gift even further, by seeking a matching gift from your employer. Some employers offer a 1

to 1 match, which essentially doubles your contribution!

Memorials gifts given in memory of a friend or loved one or in honor of gifts are always welcome. Save a stamp and give online at [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org). Gifts of stock or other liquid assets are also appreciated. You can even donate your used vehicle (in any condition) to us through the “Vehicles for Charity” program by calling toll free to 1-866-628-CARS.

Please consider leaving the Little Sisters in your estate plans. Bequests, insurance policies, and charitable gift annuities are just some of the planned giving tools available to support the Home. Call us at 412.307.1268 for more information on how you can help us continue our mission of caring for the elderly poor of Pittsburgh. Thank you for your help in making our house a *Home* for our elderly poor Residents.



Little Sisters from decades ago collecting produce for the home in Pittsburgh’s Strip District.

***Help keep us going.  
Remember us in your will.***

Visit us at [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org)