



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 18
Spaghetti Breakfast
- September 24-26
Fall & Christmas Boutique
- November 7-20
Airport Collecting

Little Sisters of the Poor

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Sister Monique with Fathers Donald Buchleitner, Jerome Dixon and Alvin Gutierrez.

Year of Consecrated Life Two Jubilarians Celebrate Vows

During this *Year of Consecrated Life* we are blessed to have two Little Sisters of the Poor celebrating special anniversaries. Sister Monique de la Presentation has reached her 70th anniversary as a Little Sister and Sister Grace Marie Josette is celebrating 25 years of perpetual vows this September.

Sister Monique was born in Colombia, South America, one of 14 children. She made her first vows in her early twenties and came to the United States in 1945 not knowing a word of English. She has served all her religious life in the USA primarily working in the kitchen of various Little Sisters homes. In her 93rd year, Sister is still very active serving morning coffee to the Residents and collecting with her basket each weekend at the local parishes.

“God has blessed me with a good life. I am thankful for the many joyful years I have had in caring for our elderly Residents,” shared Sister Monique. Her anniversary Mass was celebrated this past June.

Born in Hong Kong, Sister Grace immigrated to the United States in 1964. She made her perpetual vows at the Little Sisters Motherhouse in St. Pern, France in 1990. Here in Pittsburgh she assists in the collecting and helps with feeding and caring for the Residents. Sister also plays the organ during Mass and prepares liturgical celebrations.

“Our vow of hospitality, humble service to the elderly poor with joy, is not just feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, attending to the sick and consoling the sorrowful but it is also accompanying the Residents with compassion and understanding as they walk the last path of their earthly life that the Lord has designed for them,” Sister Grace reflected.

Congratulations to both Sisters for reaching such important milestones in their vocations! Please join us during this *Year of Consecrated Life* as we continue to pray that more young people will say yes to God’s plan and open their hearts to the possibility of a religious or priestly vocation.

Little Sisters of the Poor



Resident Ruth Blaney bakes with Summer Intern Kayleigh Gaborek.

Spring Into Service

For the past few years the congregation of the Little Sisters has been inviting young Catholic women, college age or older to participate in their “Spring into Service” program. This live-in service program is for those who wish to experience consecrated life and the Little Sisters’ mission first-hand over an extended period of time. Our home was blessed to have Kayleigh Gaborek, a Pitt junior, and Maria Mondello, a junior at Nicholls State University in Louisiana, serve here this summer. Both Kayleigh and Maria shared their youthful energy and enthusiasm. The following are some of their thoughts from their time spent here.

Kayleigh reflected, “Prior to the ‘Spring into Service’ internship, I had never before

worked with the elderly or visited a nursing home. Therefore, I was slightly nervous because I did not know what to expect. After only one day working with the Residents, any worries that I had were put to rest. All the Residents were extremely friendly and welcoming; they graciously invited me into their home and daily lives from the start. Over the past summer, I have listened to, laughed with, and learned from the Residents on a daily basis. From being doted on like a granddaughter to being confided in like a friend, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the home. Providing companionship has showed me that serving others can be simple; it only requires you to give the gift of yourself, to

give the gift of your time.”

Maria shared these thoughts, “I was glad that I took the chance and had a little faith. It has truly been one of the most beautiful, faith filled journeys that the Lord has taken me on. The elderly have shown me so much about my beautiful Catholic faith, the importance of relationships, and the gift of service (and self) to others. My days were filled with serving the Residents their meals, cutting and painting their nails, bringing them to daily mass, and helping and assisting with the fun activities that happen on a daily basis around the home. I also took Residents on walks outside on nice and sunny days. What made the work so easy was that every Resident was so appreciative of everything we did for them. I had the opportunity to serve the Residents in the most humble and simple ways that can easily go unnoticed to the world beyond the home. But yet, I am happy, and I am thanking God for this opportunity to serve a part of His body.”

We wish both Kayleigh and Maria much happiness in wherever the Lord leads them. They will always be part of the Little Sisters family. If you or someone you know may be interested in participating in our “Spring into Service” program please contact Sister Constance at serenity@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Spaghetti for Breakfast?

The Little Sisters are happy to announce that they will once again be partnering with KDKA Radio to participate in the 32nd annual Spaghetti Breakfast on Friday **September 18, 2015** from 5:00am-9:00am. The event will take place at the Heinz Hall Garden Plaza at Sixth and Liberty avenues, Downtown. Pittsburgh The KDKA Morning News team of Larry Richert and John Shumway will be broadcasting live while local

celebrities will be on hand to dish up free plates of piping-hot pasta, sausage, and bread. Sister Margaret and several Little Sisters will be on site collecting monetary donations and canned goods for the home. The event was originally started by our dear friend and former radio broadcaster, John Cigna, and now continues in his memory.

Stop by on your way to work and enjoy some free spaghetti!



Maria Mondello with Resident Ruth Pagliari.

Around Our Home



Sisters Marguerite and Dorothy help Anna blow out her candles!

100 Years Young!

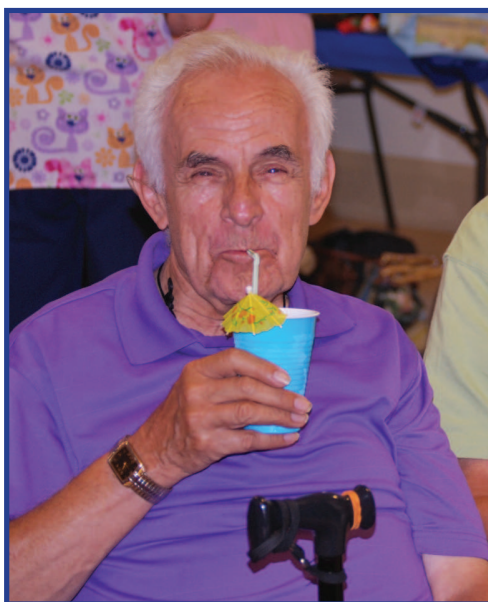
Anna Maria Roman celebrated her 100th birthday this summer with a huge party. Relatives and friends from near and far joined Anna for a wonderful birthday weekend! Originally from Puerto Rico, Anna immigrated to the United States as a young woman. She raised her two children in New York City and then went on to raise her three granddaughters after they were left orphaned.

She has lived at the Little Sisters for the last three years. Even though there is a language barrier between Spanish speaking Anna and many of the staff and volunteers at the home it does not seem to diminish her spirit. Anna's 100 years may not have been without challenges, but you would never know that from the big smile on her face during her birthday celebration! Happy Birthday Anna and God bless!

Cruise the Caribbean

Residents of the home are cherished and cared for each day, but one day every year is completely devoted to their happiness—Residents' Day! This year's theme was "Cruise the Caribbean." Every Resident received a boarding pass to enter the auditorium where the salon was open for manicures, the tikki bar was serving tropical smoothies, the gaming tables were open for business, and the outdoor mini golf was set.

The Residents enjoyed the entertainment of pianist Craig Zinger and cashing in their cruise cash for some fun prizes! It was an enjoyable afternoon and blessed day for all!



Resident Bobby Vasil enjoying a tropical smoothie during the Residents' Day Cruise.



Employees Karen Jasko and Julia Lyons team up with volunteer Diana Rockey in balloon volleyball.

Employee Appreciation

By Stephen Jumba, Jr., Human Resources Director

What a week the employees recently had at the Little Sisters. This year it was decided to have an entire week devoted to employee appreciation. Every day brought a different activity for the staff to experience. From bingo to indoor miniature golf to afternoon ice cream sundaes, there was something for everyone and there was lots of laughter and fun in the process. Something new that was introduced this year was Interdepartmental Balloon Volleyball. I did not realize the competitive nature of the employees when it came to smacking a balloon. Just like they do on a day-to-day basis, the employees put forth their best efforts to succeed. Although there was only one winning team, the true winner was that the spirit of the home was preeminent and bursting with joyful enthusiasm.

Another highlight of the week was the meal on Wednesday. Employees were invited to a buffet luncheon. The food was great and certainly filling.

All in all this week emphasized the spirit of camaraderie of this diverse group of employees, from supporting each other through competition to enjoying a meals and treats together. This is an extraordinary assembly of people that help the Sisters accomplish their work day in and day out.

From the planning with the engagement of employees and the support provided by Sister Judith and all of the Little Sisters it was a great week.

If you would like to become an integral part of the Little Sisters' mission as an employee please contact me about current employment opportunities at hrpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org or (412) 307-1100.

A Note From Mother

Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! –Pope Francis



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

Dear Friends,

What a message from the Holy Father to those in religious life! During this “Year of Consecrated Life” it is so very important to take this message and put it into action. As a Little Sister of the Poor I am a daughter of a congregation founded by a woman not afraid to answer God’s call, a woman who was a witness on how to live differently, a foundress whose legacy lives on in our home and all of the Little Sisters homes internationally. St. Jeanne Jugan certainly did her part to wake up the world not by doing anything spectacular but by doing something simple and rooted in love.

On a cold winter’s day in 1839 in France, 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 and placed her in her own bed, caring for her until her death. This small act of compassion led to the founding of the Little Sisters and the establishment of homes for the elderly poor throughout the world. St. Jeanne Jugan gave herself for the poor, begging for them, caring for them, and witnessing to everyone she came in contact with how important it was to be “little” before God. Her message has remained the same today as it was in 1839, to serve the elderly poor with dignity, respect, love, and total gift of self.

This August 30th, the Feast day of St. Jeanne Jugan, our community praised and thanked God for giving us our vocation as Little Sisters to serve Him in our elderly poor. During this “Year of Consecrated Life” we hope St. Jeanne Jugan reminds you that simple acts can truly wake up the world. Thank you for your help as we, her daughters, carry on St. Jeanne Jugan’s legacy. Please keep us in your prayers.

God bless you,

Sister Judith, lsp

WAYS TO HELP

The Little Sisters mission of caring for the elderly poor of Pittsburgh would not continue as it has over the last 143 years without your support. You, as our donor and friend, are an integral partner in our work. Although you may not be physically here to work with us, you are at our side caring for each Resident through your financial support. Here are some ways you can help:

Each Fall the United Way and employee giving campaigns begin. Our Contributor choice code for the United Way is **244**, Combined Federal Campaign Code for federal employees is **47173** 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.

Beyond work place giving there is always the opportunity to send your financial support directly to the home. Gifts of cash, check, or stock, are always appreciated. The Little Sisters are truly

blessed to have numerous reliable monthly donors as well. Some prefer to donate online through Weshare, by clicking “donate now” at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org, while others send gifts through the mail. Either way we are so grateful for the ongoing support of our work. Please consider joining this group of consistent monthly benefactors. A gift of \$25 a month becomes \$300 over a year which can cover a Dining Out trip for the Residents, a monthly gift of \$50 becomes \$600 over a year which can cover the cost of monthly Resident transportation. Together we can make a difference!

One of the simplest ways of helping the mission is by naming the Little Sisters in your estate plans. Contact Kathleen Bowser at (412) 307-1268 or adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org if you have any questions about how you can help.



The Little Sisters horse and wagon that was used in the early days for collecting.

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

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org