



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:

- December 9
Turkey Drop
- December 15
Resident Christmas Program
- December 24
Christmas Eve Mass 7:00pm

Little Sisters of the Poor

1028 Benton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 307-1100

Vol. XXV No. 4
Winter 2017



The Nativity Scene that is a constant in the auditorium throughout the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Joseph and Mary await the arrival of baby Jesus.

Advent Season

Preparing for Christ's Birth

“Making the elderly happy—that is what counts!” are some of St. Jeanne Jugan’s enduring words to her fellow Little Sisters. The Little Sisters strive to meet this challenge everyday. One way they try to encourage happiness is through year round parties and celebrations at the home. The most special time of year in our home and probably in yours is the week leading up to Christmas. While we await the celebration of Christ’s birth, we prepare our hearts for His arrival and share His love for us with one another.

Every year we are contacted by local churches and groups who would like to purchase Christmas presents for our Residents, which is formally called “Presents for Patients.” It is such a wonderful expression of the true meaning of Christmas.

Every gift is appreciated, but a personal delivery is ideal. Many of our Residents have family living far away, so a visit from a smiling face during the Holiday season is in itself a comforting gift.

“We are so blessed at our home here in Pittsburgh. Friends and benefactors come from near and far to bring Christmas cheer to our dear Residents,” commented Sister Mary Vincent, lsp, Administrator. “If you are local, please consider joining us for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day here in our Gloria Chapel.”

Thanks to all who reach out not only to our Residents, but also visit those less fortunate in the spirit of celebrating God’s gift of Christ to us on Christmas day!

Little Sisters of the Poor



Residents Patricia Hartung and Lorna Colosimo help with a mailing in the Development Office.

For many that means volunteering. There are Residents who are Eucharistic Ministers and distribute communion along with Chaplain Father John to the nursing households prior to daily Mass. Others peel vegetables in the kitchen in preparation for dinner. Some even work in the “Country Store” which is stocked with greeting cards, personal care items and candy for daily purchases.

There are also Residents who help in the offices and are ready to lend a helping hand when called upon. As captured in the photograph to the left—multiple apartment Residents recently heeded a call for help to prepare a large mailing. Proving the old adage that “many hands make light work.” Everyone works together just as a family does.

The elderly and those with physical limitations, desire to be useful in some way and have purpose. The Sisters encourage involvement either as a participant in the activities of the home or as a volunteer contributing to the daily happenings on Benton Avenue.

Staying Active and Engaged

When St. Jeanne Jugan initially founded the congregation of Little Sisters of the Poor back in 1839 the concept was simple. Jeanne welcomed an elderly woman into her home and began caring for her in a loving and happy way. Over the next few decades this concept spread and soon there were homes throughout France and beyond. Each home imbued

a family spirit that still survives today. During the founding years of the Little Sisters, the Residents often helped in the home as they could—mending clothes, preparing food or tending the outdoor garden. Today this tradition continues but in slightly different ways.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the daily happenings at our home.

Employee Appreciation Week: A Time to Say Thank You

The Little Sisters are grateful to the staff of the home who are an extension of their hands carrying out their mission. One week a year the Sisters set aside time to thank these collaborators.

The highlights of the week include a very popular employee bingo with cash prizes, a catered luncheon, ice cream sundaes one afternoon, and a day of indoor fun & games.

All in all the events emphasize the appreciation of the Sisters for their

employees and helped to foster a spirit of comradery amongst a diverse group of employees.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in sharing your abilities with the Little Sisters please contact our Human Resources Director Stephen E. Jumba, Jr. to find out ways you can become part of our extended “family” at hrpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org or (412) 307-1100 or check out our website at littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org.



Employees fill the auditorium for a Bingo session during Employee Week.

Around Our Home



Resident Father Jerome Dixon blesses Alexis and Sister Mary Vincent before leaving for Baltimore.

God Bless Alexis

This fall the Little Sisters were thrilled to host a special Mass at our home for Alexis Park as she prepared to enter as a Postulant of the Little Sisters of the Poor at the Provincial home in Baltimore. Alexis's family and friends were on hand for this Mass along with current Little Sisters and many of their Residents. Originally from Ohio, Alexis first met the Little Sisters in Washington, DC and discerned her religious vocation. This summer she spent time at our home here in Pittsburgh and decided to enter as a postulant—the first step toward becoming a Little Sister. Please join the Little Sisters as they pray for the young ladies who are discerning God's will. May God bless them as they answer His call to humble service as a Little Sister.

Blazing a Trail of Fun

The annual *Pumpkin Trail* is a tradition started by Sister Mary Vincent when she was previously Mother Superior over fifteen years ago. Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the Residents, employees, and volunteers of the Little Sisters were invited to "Trick or Treat" indoors on the last Saturday of October. Nearly 200 children attended dressed in scary, cute, and creative costumes. The trail went through the Jeanne Jugan Pavilion apartments and led visitors to every household in the nursing home. Residents, many of whom were also dressed in costume, handed out treats to the kids.

Many thanks to the home's



Resident Nancy Regan is surrounded by volunteers Darla McCarthy, Diana Rockey, Brooks & Kerrigan Bolton dressed as *Wizard of Oz* characters.

staff, volunteers and the students who volunteered from the local Universities for making this day so special for all!



Sister Margaret is interviewed during last year's Drop by local WTAE news anchor Mike Clark.

5th Annual Turkey Drop

It is hard to believe that the Little Sisters have been hosting a Turkey, Ham and Roast Drop for five consecutive years. Each year gets bigger and better thanks to our many friends who remember us with a contribution.

"When we first started this event we weren't sure what to expect. Five years later it has grown to become an annual tradition for our home and for many of our benefactors as well. We really have you, our many friends, to thank for the support. Without your donations of turkeys, hams, roasts or frankly any kind of meat, we would not have such hearty meals for the Residents throughout the year," commented Collecting Sister, Sister Margaret Mary. "Our Dietary Department enjoys making a turkey dinner at least once a month and in order to feed all of the people living here ten turkeys are needed to serve one dinner, meaning 120 donated turkeys would cover the monthly turkey feast for all of 2018!"

This year's drop is scheduled for **Saturday, December 9th from 9:00am-2:00pm**. Just as in years past Sister and her "elves" aka volunteers will be in the home's Auditorium graciously accepting any meat donations. Surprise local celebrities will be on hand as "turkey takers." A visit from Santa Claus is also planned. Come and drop off your contribution and enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies with the Little Sisters.

Thank you to all who have participated or plan to participate in this family friendly event. If you cannot stop over on December 9th, Sister Margaret will gladly accept donations at the front desk of the home when it is most convenient to you, just call (412) 307-1100 or email colpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

A Note From Mother

Dear Friends,

"Ever living among her daughters Jeanne Jugan lives today. The humble servant of the Lord lives in us today!"

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we Sisters come together in the Chapel throughout the day for prayer. We pray and sing together and spend time with Jesus. One song that is special to us and reflects the legacy of St. Jeanne Jugan is quoted above. Our Vocation as St. Jeanne Jugan's daughters is appropriately captured in the words of the chorus as it places into context how her spirit continues today.

We recently celebrated St. Jeanne's 225th birthday with a wonderful party complete with cake and a performance by an accordion club. St. Jeanne's work is just as relevant today as it was centuries ago in France. With the growth of the elderly population, especially in the Pittsburgh region, there are many in need of our help. We, her daughters, strive to carry on St. Jeanne's work through our vocation in service to and hospitality for the elderly poor.

While some may see this as an insurmountable task, we Little Sisters know and witness the secret to our business plan—Divine Providence. It is only through our many friends and benefactors that we are able to continue our mission as St. Jeanne Jugan's daughters. This Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Seasons, we remember each of you in prayer. Divine Providence is manifested through your support now and throughout the year. Each gift given ensures that St. Jeanne's humble legacy continues. Thank you and may you receive many graces and blessings this beautiful time of year for being an integral part of our work!

Gratefully in prayer,

Sr. Mary Vincent SSP



Sister Mary Vincent Mannion, Isp, Administrator and Mother Superior of our home.



The Christmas Tree in our lobby adorned with ceramic ornaments made by Residents.

Wish List and Ways to Help

So often we are asked "how can I help?" or "Sister, I don't have much money to give, but can I buy you something to help you in your work?" Below is an easy answer to those questions—*our wish list*:

XL Twin sized cotton sheets with prints
Portable CD player and tape recorder
Pillow protectors
Queen size sheet sets and blankets
Efferdent
Fixodent
Rubbermaid housekeeping carts
Razors for men and women
Clorox wipes
Scotch tape
8 ½ by 11 or 11 by 14 white copy paper
Paper towels, plates and disposable cups
Gift cards to Giant Eagle, Kuhn's, Sam's Club

For those more tech savvy an extensive list of additional item can be found at smile.amazon.com. Search wish lists by using this email address adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org

littlesistersofthepoor.org. Wishes can be sent directly to us addressed to "Donations" or "Wish list." Remember .05% of your smile.amazon.com purchases will be directed back to the Little Sisters by selecting Little Sisters of the Poor of Pennsylvania as your designated charity. If you have questions about anything listed or how to access our amazon wish list please call (412) 307-1268.

As always we appreciate your gifts of cash, check, stock, IRA rollover distributions, gifts made in memory or in honor of someone and matching gifts. **Donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2017** to receive tax credit for this year. Please visit www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org/donate to give online, especially on **Giving Tuesday November 28th**. If you'd like more information on any of these ways to help please contact Kathleen Bowser in the Development Office at (412) 307-1268 or adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org.



Collecting Sister, Sister Margaret Mary with her helper Sister Monique unloading the home's vehicle.

You can help keep us going by remembering our home in your will.

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org