



# 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.*



Residents Margaret Mitchell, Cathy Vonderau, and Marion Roach with Sister Mary Vincent at Scripture Sharing.

## Sharing Scripture Together

“They are so eager to hear the word of God. It is a joy to spend time with them every week in anticipation of Sunday’s Gospel,” commented Sister Mary Vincent, Mother Superior and Administrator, in reference to her recent addition of Wednesday afternoon Scripture Sharing. A dedicated group of Residents meet to discuss the upcoming Sunday Scripture, with Sister Mary Vincent guiding discussions.

In our home there are always many activities, parties and celebrations to make the elderly happy, but often the elderly Residents desire making personal and spiritual connections as well. The Little Sisters welcome the elderly of all faiths—the majority are Catholic, but some are other denominations or have little to no faith when they move in. It is amazing to see how treating all of the Residents, regardless of religion, with love and respect shows a witness of faith. For many elderly,

even those who come to the home with little religion, there is a desire to create or deepen spiritual connections.

With this goal in mind, Sister Mary Vincent launched this weekly scripture sharing session with a handful of apartment Residents. The group has blossomed with over ten attendees who reside in both the apartments and the nursing home. Using the “*Living with Christ*” booklets as a guide, Sister begins the hour with a prayer and together they explore the words of the upcoming week’s readings and discuss the context in today’s world.

“I could sit and listen to Sister Mary Vincent speak all day,” shared Resident Margaret Mitchell. Resident Marion Roach echoes this enthusiasm for scripture sharing, calling it the highlight of her week. This special activity is a wonderful time to bring the Residents closer to the Little Sisters, to one another and most especially to the “Word of God.”

## Save the Dates:

- April 11-13  
**Rummage Sale**  
10:00-4:00pm
- April 21  
**Easter Sunday**
- August 11  
**Celebration of  
Little Sisters 150  
Years in America**

**Little Sisters of the Poor**  
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# Little Sisters of the Poor



Federated Investors employees Ed Koontz and Paul Uhlman present a check to Sister Mary Vincent and Sister Mary Ellen at the Federated annual sales conference.

One of his favorite and most enduring ideas was presented at a Little Sisters Advisory Board meeting many years ago. When the call was made for any new business, Dick reached in his pocket and placed a simple tin peanut can overflowing with quarters on the table. He claimed every man he knew had a container on his nightstand where he emptied his pockets of change each night. Why not give everyone a tin peanut can with the Little Sisters name on it so that they can collect their loose change for the poor. Well the idea spread! To date 1000 cans have been distributed with over \$36,000 raised and counting. A simple idea, performed with love and for a good cause, was an easy sell for Dick.

## A Tribute to Richard Fisher

Richard B. Fisher, chairman of Federated Investors, passed away in October 2018 at the age of 95. He was truly one of a kind and is greatly missed by many. Dick was a dear friend of the Little Sisters of the Poor having served on the Advisory Board and co-chairing the most recent capital campaign at the home. Dick's connection to the Little Sisters dated all the way back to his childhood, when he would see our Sisters collecting in the Strip District for food donations to feed the elderly Residents.

Dick not only generously supported the Little Sisters' efforts, but he also used his unparalleled salesman talents to approach donors near and far on our behalf. Twice he hosted events for the Little Sisters in Florida where he encouraged all in attendance to support us. Closer to home he hosted dinners asking attendees to contribute toward our mission of caring for the elderly poor. He also offered challenge gifts at various events to entice others to join him with financial support.

Over the years the entire Fisher family has done so much for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Recently Sister Mary Vincent and Sister Mary Ellen were invited to attend the annual Federated sales conference downtown where a check was presented for over \$21,000 raised from Federated colleagues in Dick's memory. The Sisters very much appreciate this act of kindness and this fitting tribute to a remarkable man who will remain in the hearts and prayers of all the Little Sisters!

### August 11th Anniversary Mass— Save the Date

August 2018 opened a jubilee year marking the 150th anniversary of the Little Sisters arrival in America.



During this anniversary year each Little Sisters Home across America will have a celebration commemorating this milestone. Please save the date for **Sunday, August 11th** when our home will welcome friends for a special Mass and Open House. More details will be in the next newsletter, but stay connected at (412) 307-1268 or [adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org) for up to date information.



Dick Fisher carrying his cans to Sister Mary Vincent at one of the many events he hosted to support the Little Sisters over the years.



# Around Our Home



Residents Kay Canyock and Maddie Pinkerton enjoy tea and refreshments.

## Valentine's Day Tea

Valentine's Day this year was fortunately not during Lent, which meant the activities department was free to plan a party. An *Afternoon Tea* was held in the auditorium on February 14th. Chocolate dipped strawberries, which were prepared by Residents the day before, hors d'oeuvres, and delicious cakes were on display for all to sample and enjoy. Residents were serenaded by Music Therapist Karen Jasko as she performed "classic" love songs with her guitar. Each Resident also received a goody bag filled with a stuffed animal and some delicious chocolate treats. Everyone in attendance truly felt the love that day!

## Our Freezer is Full

Saturday, December 1st our home held its 6th Annual Turkey, Ham and Roast Drop. Sister Margaret along with volunteers greeted friends as they donated 91 turkeys, 61 Hams, 33 beef roasts and 21 pork roasts to fill our freezer and feed our Residents. WTAE News Anchor Mike Clark spent most of the morning as the celebrity *Turkey Taker* and even interviewed Sister Mary Vincent for that evening's news. The young and old had the chance to visit with Santa and enjoy some hot chocolate and treats. The Little Sisters are so grateful for the generous outpouring of support from the community for helping us to fill our freezer. Save the date for this year's Drop—December 14th!



Sister Margaret with a shopping cart full of donated meat is filmed by a WTAE News cameraman.



Volunteer Mike Byrnes unloads boxes of donations with Sister Margaret in the garage.

## Volunteer Deja Vu

From 1973 until 1978, Mike Byrnes had the perfect college job. His commute was quick, his hours were flexible, and his employer was always saying "God bless you." Mike, having grown up around the corner from the home, has fond memories of his years working part-time at the Little Sisters of the Poor. As a young adult Mike would help scrub the floors, pick up food donations, work overnights as a guard and do just about anything that was asked of him. His employment at the Sisters helped with tuition expenses while attending the University of Pittsburgh (although he missed every home Pitt Football game in college due to his work commitments). After graduation Mike stayed living locally to raise his family and have a career as a safety consultant and underwriter.

Two years ago Divine Providence was in action when newly retired Mike sat next to Tom Dugan at a grade school reunion. Mike was looking for a place to volunteer and unbeknownst to him Tom, his childhood classmate, volunteers at the Little Sisters with the Volunteer Coordinator. Tom encouraged Mike to apply and see how he could help. Within a few weeks of the reunion Mike was reviving many of the jobs he once accomplished as a college student in the 70s.

Twice a week he spends his day driving for Sister Margaret. He takes a van to pick up food donations, delivers it back to the home and unloads the haul. While it is a bit like *déjà vu*, Mike feels good about working with the Sisters again and "paying them back" for all of the kindness shown to him as a youngster. We are blessed to have his help and the help of all of our many selfless volunteers. If you would like to learn more about volunteering please contact Volunteer Coordinator Valerie Beam at (412) 307-1139 or [volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org).

# A Note From Mother



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

Dear Friends,

After dealing with snow, ice and the polar vortex this winter, we rejoice that Spring is here with all the warmth and beauty of creation that accompanies it. The budding flowers and sprouts of new grass are gentle reminders of how Spring and Lent coincide. The rebirth in nature reminds us of our Lenten journey toward the Risen Lord. Our hearts are full of joy as we await the celebration of Easter and accept once again His invitation to live in Him, to pray in Him, and to rise again in Him.

Our community of Little Sisters will journey through Lent and Holy Week hand in hand with our extended family—our dear elderly Residents, their families and friends, our dedicated lay staff, our volunteers, and our many benefactors and supporters. We pray that your Easter may be filled with joys and blessings in an abundance of love bestowed by our risen Jesus. We are grateful for all that you add to the life in our home as our faithful collaborators. Please join us this Lenten season as we pray and thank God for all who exercise a Lenten sacrifice to help the elderly poor.

You are welcome to join us during Holy Week in our home's Gloria Chapel. Our schedule is as follows:

- Holy Thursday Liturgy begins at 4:30pm, Eucharistic Adoration at 8:00pm
- Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 11:00am, Services at 3:00pm
- Saturday Easter Vigil Mass is at 7:30pm
- Easter Sunday Mass is at 11:00am

Gratefully in prayer,

*S. Mary Vincent SSP*

## Ways to Help—IRA Distributions

There are a variety of ways you can support the Little Sisters of the Poor in their ministry to care for the elderly poor. Gifts of cash, check or stock are always appreciated. A very popular giving vehicle in recent years has been the Qualified Charitable Distribution from a personal IRA. If you are older than 70 ½ and have an IRA, there is a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that you have to withdraw each year.

Under current tax law, you may get a very attractive tax break if you make a donation directly to the Little Sisters of the Poor as part of that RMD. Donations from your IRA to a qualified charity will be excluded from your Adjusted Gross Income when it's time to file your next tax return.

The specific impact depends on your personal income tax circumstances, and should be reviewed with your tax advisor. If you have funds available

to share with us please consult your financial advisor or the custodian of your IRA. To ensure your gift is directed here, use our IRS name: Little Sisters of the Poor of the State of Pennsylvania (EIN 25-0974310) at 1028 Benton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15212.

Remember, one of the simplest and most effective ways to give is by including the Little Sisters in your estate plans. Naming the Sisters in your will or as beneficiary of your life Insurance, annuity or a Retirement Plan is simple and often beneficial for your estate. Using the information above ensures that your bequest will be directed to the home here in Pittsburgh.

Please contact Kathleen Bowser in the Development Office at (412) 307-1268 or [adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:adevpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org) if you have questions about any giving opportunity.



The horse and buggy that the Little Sisters used to collect donations for their Residents until the mid-1900s.

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

Give Online at [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org)