



# Anticipating Christmas

The weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas are the most special time of the year in our home. Advent is a wonderful season to prepare for the blessings of 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.

We come together as a family to exchange gifts and praise the gift of Jesus. Often local parishes deliver gifts for our Resident. Sometimes the gifts are even delivered in conjunction with a visit from the giver. 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. It is such a wonderful expression of the true meaning of Christmas and a thoughtful way to share God's love for us all.

As you anticipate the birth of Jesus, may you stop and reflect on the gifts we are to one another through our presence in the lives of our loved ones. If time permits, in this busy season of preparation, please consider stopping by our home to visit and give the gift of your



The Gloria Chapel beautifully decorated for Christmas Day in 2024.

presence to our elderly Residents. Daily Mass is at 11:00am and our Christmas Eve Mass starts with carols in the Chapel at 7:00pm. The decorations are beautiful!

“Our dear Residents are so blessed at our home here in Pittsburgh! May the celebration of the birth of Jesus bring you and your loved ones joy and peace,”

—Mother Loraine, lsp.

## Dorothy is 100 Years Young!

Dorothy Scheletsky celebrated her 100th birthday on October 17th. She was born in 1925 into a large Slovak family in Homestead, PA. Dorothy has clear memories of the first time she heard a radio as a child. Her neighbor was the only person she knew with a radio and she was in awe of its capabilities.

Dorothy graduated from Homestead High School in 1943. In her adult life she worked in the mailing department at Westinghouse and as a teacher's aide at Barrett Elementary. She fondly recalls all the fun she had dancing the jitterbug at the Kennywood Dance Hall. She was married in 1949 and raised three children--Dennis, Edward, and Mary Ann. She has six grandchildren and six great



Dorothy Scheletsky at 100 years young!

grandchildren. She loved volunteering at the fish fries at St. Anne's church making haluski and pierogies.

To celebrate her big day the Doo Wop Doctors performed in the auditorium for the entire home. She received a Papal Blessing from Pope Leo along with many cards and bouquets of flowers. She even had a delicious cake from Bethel Bakery decorated with her favorite colors of purple & lavender.

When asked what advice she would give to young people, she said, "Live right: Don't forget your parents and don't forget God!" Dorothy credits believing in God and following his ways as the key to her longevity. "I

thank God for all of it." May God continue to bless her!

## Treats, Sweets and Costumes

This October children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the Residents, employees, and volunteers of the Little Sisters were invited to Trick or Treat throughout our home. Over 100 children attended

dressed in costumes. The trick or treaters paraded through each floor of the nursing home. Along the way were games and prizes. Visitors admired beautifully decorated pumpkin displays in each department throughout the

home. Many Residents were also dressed in costume to hand out treats to all the children.

The Residents loved seeing the children trick or treating and everyone had a blast. It was a wonderful afternoon for all!



Resident Stella Oleska hands out candy to a Trick or Treater.



Resident Carol Clifford all dressed up and greeting kids with a smile!



Residents Marie Weaver and Mary Ann Whalen share treats on St. Michaels Household.

# Artist Showcase

Our talented Residents once again had the opportunity to show off their skills at the annual Artist Showcase. Professional art boards were used to exhibit each artist's work along with a short personal biography. Painted ceramic pieces were also on display. Every Resident was so proud to stand by his or her work during the showcase.

New this year was the collaborative "wooden quilt." Residents, Sisters, staff and volunteers were all invited to paint a small wooden square. The squares were colored



The collaborative wooden quilt on display.



Resident Antoinette D'Aco proudly poses next to her wall of artwork from the monthly painting classes.

coded to make the complete image come together seamlessly. Each participating artist was identified in the numbered key next to the display. The piece now hangs in our *Meet N Treat* for all to see! It is amazing what can be created when working together!

# Special Guest Speaker



Immaculée Ilibagiza with the Little Sisters on a recent visit to the home.

Immaculée Ilibagiza was recently in Pittsburgh to share her powerful story of faith, forgiveness, and healing. Best known for her book, "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust," Immaculée survived the Rwandan genocide by hiding for 91 days in a small bathroom with seven other women while over 500,000 people, including her family, were murdered. Her story of resilience in the face of extreme trauma was inspirational! Our home was honored to meet Immaculée prior to her visit to St. Bernard Church in Mount Lebanon. While her visit to the home was unexpected, it was a blessed moment for all the Sisters and Residents!

## A NOTE FROM MOTHER

Every November we reserve two Saturdays for the Resident Memorial Mass and Benefactor Memorial Mass. During these Masses, we remember in a special way those who have entered into the gates of Heaven this past year. These Masses were once again a glorious time to come together as a community.

Death at our home is a constant. While it is often very hard for the loved ones left behind, it is also a beautiful time to celebrate ones life and their ultimate reward in the afterlife. In addition to the Residents lost this year, we also experienced two deaths of Little Sisters within our community. Sister Jeanne at age 100 left us this spring and Sister Julienne went Home to the Lord in September. Every death is a challenge, but as our Catholic faith reminds us we will all be reunited in the Kingdom of Heaven!

Your support of our mission helps us to care for our elderly Residents in their twilight years on earth, so that they too can receive the Lord's graces and blessings. Thank you for joining in remembrance of those who have gone before us. All the Little Sisters will continue to keep you and your living & deceased loved ones in their daily prayers.

*Mother Loraine Marie Clare*



There are so many ways for you to participate in our work during this season of giving. December 2nd is *Giving Tuesday*. A generous donor has offered a \$25,000 matching gift for funds raised through this initiative.

Our Collecting Sister—Sister Rosemarie is excited to experience her first *Meat Drop* on Saturday December 13th! Please consider dropping off your donations of beef, ham, or turkey any time from 10am-1:30pm that day.

Monetary donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2025 or made online that day to receive tax credit for this year. Gifts of stock and donations directly from your IRA are also appreciated.

Our wish list includes: Gift cards to Eat N Park, Longhorn & Olive Garden for Resident "Dining Out," regular and decaf ground coffee, unscented baby wipes, copy paper,

## Year End Giving



Sister Rosemarie admiring the altar at St. Vitus in New Castle while collecting.

liquid Tide laundry detergent and postage stamps. View more items on our Amazon wishlist on our website [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org). Please use the QR code below or call us at (412) 307-1268 for more information about giving. Thank you for your support!

### Save the Date

#GIVING  
TUESDAY

- December 2nd **Giving Tuesday** with a \$25,000 match component
- **Online Holiday Craft/ Ceramics Store** through 12/31/2025, Shop for unique homemade gifts at our online store.
- **December 13th Meat Drop from 10am-1:30pm**

*Please remember the Little Sisters in your will or estate plans.*



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.