



# Mardi Gras Celebration

Mardi Gras is always a special day at the Little Sisters home. This year was no different. The day began with coffee and homemade beignets in the Meet N Treat for all to enjoy.

In the early afternoon everyone gathered for the annual parade through the first floor hall. The Doo Wop Doctors led the procession toward the auditorium as the Residents adorned in Mardi Gras colors sang “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

There the Mardi Gras court was introduced with a Resident representing each household. This year’s King and Queen were Residents Joe and Joanne Dulski. The Dulskis have been married for 67 years. Joe knew that he would marry Joanne the moment she walked past him while he was selling newspapers in front of a store as a young man. He asked her out immediately. Together they raised six sons and one daughter in the Lawrenceville neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Joe was a voting machine mechanic and is a veteran of the Airforce and Army. Joanne received her nursing degree from St. Francis Hospital attending night classes while raising her family. She worked many years in hospital recovery rooms and in private duty nursing. Joe and Joanne have lived here for about six years and feel “very blessed” by both their



Residents Queen Joanne and King Joe Dulski dressed for Mardi Gras.

wonderful family, including 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, and for being at the Little Sisters.

Following the announcement of the King and Queen Mother Loraine presented them with a ceremonial “key” to the home as they proclaimed “Let the Good Times Roll.” The lively afternoon was complete with music, dancing and indulgences of sweets including homemade traditional king cakes.

## Spotlight on Volunteers

Carol Burns's connection to the Little Sisters dates back to her 2nd grade field trip when her class visited the Residents on Benton Avenue. During the visit a female Resident gave her a flower and this small act of kindness must have really left an impression on Carol as she is now a very dependable volunteer. Carol loves to help with outings, escort Residents for weekend activities, assist with church collections and spend time with Residents one on one. Carol even requests vacation days from her full-time job at PNC to participate in certain weekday events.

Carol is pictured above with Resident Dorothy Scheletsky who was Carol's mother's best friend since 1st grade, where the two young girls shared a seat because there were so many



Volunteer Carol Burns with Resident Dorothy Scheletsky.

students in the class. Having lost her own mother a few years back, Carol has been overjoyed to reconnect with Dorothy (who was her mother's maid of honor) and often visits her to hear stories about their lifelong friendship.

Carol's favorite part of volunteering is getting to know the Residents as people and embracing their friendship. She views them all like mom and dad.

"If you have the time, I encourage you to offer it to this wonderful place. You won't regret it!" shared Carol. If you would like to join Carol and our other faithful volunteers please contact Volunteer Coordinator Valerie Beam at (412) 307-1139 or [volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoor.org).

## Olympic Winter Games

In the spirit of the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina, we hosted their own afternoon of winter competitions. While everyone was preparing to root for team USA it was team "Snowflakes" that prevailed over

team "Hard Knocks" in this spirited internal competition.

Residents were challenged in a series of small mini games including throwing soft cotton "snowballs" to knock off a cup on top of a Sister's head, tossing

Olympic rings, and shooting a hockey puck toward a cutout penguin.

Following the somewhat intense afternoon of games, everyone enjoyed hot chocolate & cookies.



Resident Josie Ficile shoots a hockey puck at the cutout penguin. She shoots, she scores!



Resident Marianne Heidish lines up a toss to knock a cup off Sister Georgia's head with a cotton snowball.

## Tunes with Tots Returns

Intergenerational activities unite the young and old with positive outcomes for both populations. The elderly often find such joy interacting with energetic youth, while youngsters' exposure to the elderly leads to early appreciation of older adults. Unfortunately, many of our regularly scheduled youth activities disappeared during the pandemic, but thankfully have returned, including a favorite for all, *Tunes with Tots*.

This winter a group of young families including volunteers and staff came to visit the Residents for a



The activity room filled with smiles during Tunes with Tots.



Tots enjoying the music with the Residents.

sing-a-long and interactive hour of fun. Although some were shy at first, the children and Residents were all smiles by the end. Activities Director Karen Jasko and Activities Assistant Piper Russell, both Music Therapists, were thrilled to reignite this monthly activity and lead the young and young at heart in songs and play. Connecting generations always brings out the best for everyone!

## Week of Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a history of over 100 years during which Christians around the world have taken part in prayer for visible Christian unity. Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21)

This January the Little Sisters invited local Christian churches from the Brighton Heights neighborhood to join the Sisters and Residents in a prayer service in the Gloria Chapel. Reverend Nicita Moses, Associate Pastor at Destiny of Faith Church down the street from the home, graciously



Reverend Nicita Moses speaking in the Gloria Chapel.

accepted our invitation and gave a wonderful reflection from the pulpit at the prayer service. Residents Father Al Semler and Bishop William Winter also participated along with Sister Amy. Residents and Sisters filled the pews of the Chapel while Sister Amanda and Karen Jasko provided beautiful instrumental worship music.

## A NOTE FROM MOTHER

As we journey through this Lenten season we turn to God with prayer, fasting, and quiet reflections on God's merciful and redeeming



love for each one of us. We, the Little Sisters of the Poor, are especially grateful for our friends and benefactors who share their material blessings with the elderly poor Residents of our home. Thank you!

Lent reminds us of the love Jesus has for His people. This season leading up to Easter is a perfect time to reflect on God's unconditional love for us and the love that we can share for one another by doing His merciful work. If we accomplish anything in love, we are doing that act for Jesus.

You are most welcome to visit us this Lenten Season. Our schedule for Holy week in our Gloria Chapel is as follows:

- Holy Thursday Service 4:30pm
- Good Friday Stations of the Cross 11:00am, Service 3:00pm
- Saturday Easter Vigil Mass 7:30pm
- Easter Sunday Mass 11:00am

The Little Sisters of the Poor and our elderly Residents pray that God grants you and your loved ones a joyful Easter. May God bless you.

*Mother Loraine Marie Clare*

## Highmark Walk



Some of the Little Sisters Walk Participants in 2025!

Mark your calendar for Saturday May 30, 2026 to participate in the "Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community" at Point State Park (new location). We need walkers to join us for the 1 mile or 5K walk or sponsor a Resident for our in house walk on May 28th. (see insert)

Other ways to help our home include shopping our Amazon Wishlist or sending a donation

directly from your IRA as a Qualified Charitable Distribution. For those who meet the age requirement, distributions made from your IRA to the Little Sisters will reduce your 2026 taxable income. Visit [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org), use the QR code below or call (412) 307-1268 for more details on how you can help! Thank you!

### Save the Date

■ April 17 & 18 Rummage Sale 9:00am-3:00pm

■ Spring Online Ceramic Flower Sale Ongoing through Summer 2026  
*new items added*



■ May 30th Highmark Walk

Visit [littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org](http://littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org) or call (412)307-1100 for details on any of the above.

*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.