



Centennial Celebrations

On Sunday July 14th over 100 guests joined Sisters and Residents to fill the Gloria Chapel to celebrate the James P. Wall Home's centennial anniversary! Bishop David Zubik was the main celebrant for this special Mass. Friends, volunteers, benefactors, family members of past and present Residents were in attendance.

During Mass, Activities Director Karen Jasko sang "If these Walls Could Speak" written and composed by Jeanine Hong, Jeanne Jugan Associate from Indianapolis, for the meditation hymn. The beautiful lyrics capture how this building is a Home as the first stanza states: "If these walls could speak, they'd tell the story of memories made, of faces seen, Of friends who grow into a family. If these walls could speak, they'd say the Holy Spirit lives in every heart That warms this place And turns this house into God's home."

After Communion Mother Loraine expressed her gratitude to



Little Sisters of the Poor with Bishop Zubik in the Gloria Chapel. Photo courtesy N. Kelsch

God for everyone in attendance and explained how St. Joseph answered the Little Sisters' prayers over a century ago by inspiring Patrick and Catherine Wall to see to the construction of this building which was dedicated in July 1924 in memory of their only son James. Mother's remarks concluded by adding a verse to the song above. "If

these walls could speak, they would tell of the countless acts of kindness and sacrifice made by you on behalf of our family here. If these walls could speak, words of thanks would echo and re-echo. If these walls could speak, they would repeat with Saint Jeanne Jugan: Blessed Be God, Thank You, My God and Glory Be to God!"



100 YEARS YOUNG

Sister Jeanne de la Croix is currently the oldest Little Sister in Pittsburgh. Just like our building, Sister Jeanne turns 100 this year. Originally from the midlands of Ireland, Sister was the second oldest in a family of eight children. Sister Jeanne still has her charming Irish Brogue and warmly engages with anyone at the Home—Residents, visitors and staff.

She entered the Little Sisters as a young woman and made first vows in 1946. She spent all of her religious life in the United States following her perpetual vows. She has lived in many Little Sisters Homes over the decades, spending the last ten years here in Pittsburgh.

This summer, Sister's family, including her two biological sisters, and many nieces & nephews, gathered in Pittsburgh for a small celebration. The day started with Mass in the chapel, then a lovely dinner with all the Little Sisters and concluded with Irish music performed by our activities department.

"When I started visiting the home in Dublin so many years ago, I never thought I'd be here in Pittsburgh at 100 still serving the face of Jesus in the elderly Residents," reflected Sister Jeanne. God bless you Sister!

Summertime Fun

Each summer the activities staff take the Residents to many outings for a change of scenery. This Summer's calendar was brimming with trips. The Residents were able to attend multiple Pirate's games at PNC Park, cruise the three Rivers on the Gateway Clipper and even had two off site picnics at North Park and Moraine State Park.

On a beautiful day in June staff loaded up the Home's bus and escorted Residents to a picnic shelter on North Park's lake, where they enjoyed a cookout. Sisters, staff, and volunteers helped the Residents find a good spot to watch the kayakers and boaters.

In August the Residents headed farther away and drove out to Moraine State Park in Butler County. Again, they had a delicious lunch prepared by volunteer Tom Ranallo. They even had the chance to roast marshmallows for s'mores

over the charcoal grill. The picnic shelter was near a dock facing Lake Arthur and the Residents enjoyed seeing the pontoon boats pass by on the water. Being outside and near the water brought joy to all the Residents.

"It is so important to do what we can to take the Residents out and about. Age and physical limitations should not be a deterrent in providing these opportunities for our elderly. The joy they receive from these outings is incredible.—"
Mother Loraine Marie Clare



Employee Esther Holloway with Resident Nora Tokarczyk and Volunteer Janet Scotti.

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage



Resident Gloria McNabb boards the bus to the Eucharistic Procession.



The Little Sisters join the procession starting at Resurrection Church in Brookline.



The Eucharistic starts the mile procession to St. Pius Church.

You may have heard about the enormous gathering this summer in Indianapolis for the Eucharistic Congress, the first one in the USA in over 80 years. Thousands of faithful joined together for Mass and conferences focused on the Eucharist. While our Sisters and Residents could not make the trip to Indianapolis, they did have the opportunity to participate in the

pilgrimage in June as it passed through the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

On a warm sunny day this summer the Little Sisters, Residents, and volunteers joined the procession from Resurrection Church to St. Pius in Brookline. Hundreds followed as the pilgrims carried the monstrance through the city streets, singing songs of praise and leading to adoration.

Inspired by these efforts, the Sisters and our Chaplain Father Bill Feeney returned the next day to conduct a Eucharistic Procession through our Home. They visited each floor of the nursing home and apartment building, blessing Residents outside their rooms. The processing concluded in the Gloria Chapel with Adoration.

Volunteer Spotlight and Paint Party

Maria DeSimone Prascak, a professional artist and daughter of Resident Anna DeSimone, has been teaching a Resident painting class for almost 10 years. She loves to interact with the Residents and staff. "They are a joy and I love hearing their stories!" shared Maria "It feels like family. I wish I could be here all the time." Beyond the monthly painting classes, she loves to join the Residents on outings, decorate for Christmas, and has even done face painting for children at the annual family picnic.

Maria is always sharing the good news of the Little Sisters with others and connecting people in her life to the Little Sisters. In fact, over the summer Maria volunteered her time to teach a paint party fundraiser for the Home. A great time was had by all attendees as she instructed them on



Volunteer Maria DeSimone Prascak with her mother Resident Anna DeSimone.

how to paint a beautiful floral design on a tote bag.

Contact Valerie Beam at 412.307.1139 or volpittsburgh@littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

The recent events over the summer, including the celebration of our 100 years on Benton Avenue and the Eucharistic Procession along with the everyday activities that give our Residents purpose and happiness, draws me to reflect on the true meaning of our mission—our dear Residents. I know my fellow Little Sisters will join me in saying that their smiles and our interactions with them on a daily basis are some of the most rewarding parts of our everyday work.

As a Little Sister it is also an honor and a special blessing to be present in their twilight years and most especially to be a peaceful, prayerful presence when God calls them home. While death is a difficult reality for many, it is also a moment filled with the love and joy of our Lord. We, as Little Sisters, are committed to being a loving and supportive presence in these moments of life. It is truly the height of our vocation to be with the elderly in their final moments.

Thank you for being a support to our work so that we can support our elderly Residents!

Sr. Lorraine Maria Class, LSP



Resident Meryl Powers with Sister Mary Matthew.

Staying Connected

The Little Sisters have updated their website to align with the national site. Please visit www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org or scan the QR code below to get all the latest news and updates. Be on the lookout for employee giving campaigns this fall. Our United Way SWPA Code is 244, our Combined Federal Campaign is 47173 and our State Employee Campaign number is 4601-0017.



There is still time to donate using a **Qualified Charitable Distribution** from your IRA. Distributions made directly to the Little Sisters from an IRA will reduce your 2024 taxable income. Call (412) 307-1268 to discuss ways to stay connected!

SAVE THE DATES

- September 20th & 21st **In-person Holiday Boutique**
9am-3pm *Unique & Beautiful items made at the home.*
Following the sale items will be posted online for purchase as well.
- November 11th **Big Cash Raffle** *(tickets previously mailed in August. If you need more contact us.)*
- December 3rd **Giving Tuesday**

Visit 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.

OUR MISSION

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.

