



Christmas Greetings

The final few weeks of the year at the Little Sisters of the Poor are usually jam packed with excitement. There is so much going on that sometimes Advent passes in a blink! As we prepare for the birth of Jesus and all the celebrations that will accompany His arrival, we are taking time to slow down and remember the true reason for the season!

There is so much to be grateful for here at our home and these seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas remind us of all the wonderful people who contribute to our mission in both large and small ways!

Each year local parishes adopt our Residents as part of their giving and some even deliver the presents and stay for a visit. The Residents enjoy parties on their nursing households as well as one large party with the Sisters in the auditorium. There is also a wonderful Christmas program performed every year by



Resident Dolores McShea with "Summer Santa" Ray Jasko.

Residents, staff and volunteers. This year's performance is scheduled for December 17th and all are invited to join us.

Returning this year is the "Meat Drop" on Saturday December 14th. Sister Josephine and her volunteers will be at our main entrance from 10am-2pm collecting roasts of beef, pork, hams or turkeys. All donations

are greatly appreciated and help us fill our freezer and provide delicious meals for our Residents!

It truly is the most wonderful time of the year as Residents, Sisters, staff, volunteers, and friends come together to celebrate the joyous occasion of the birth of Jesus! Thank you for helping to make this time full of blessings for our Residents!



KATHY BUTCHKO RETIRES

As a young teenager in 1971, Kathy Butchko (pictured above with Resident Diane DiPerna) began her employment at the Little Sisters with an after school job as a pantry aide. At that time her mother, Pat, was the housekeeping supervisor. Following high school she became a nurses aide and then a nurse in 1979. She was married in the home's Gloria Chapel that same year.

Taking time off here and there to have her four children, Kathy continued to work as a nurse, caring for the elderly Residents until she was promoted to Assistant Director of Nursing. For the last twenty years she has been the Director of Nursing. Kathy never had a desire to work elsewhere. Getting to know the Residents and giving them that extra attention and kindness has been a highlight of her career.

Kathy recognizes the family spirit in the home and remembers when her youngest baby played "Baby Jesus" in the Christmas Show the year he was born. She also appreciates the spiritual support from the Sisters over the years while facing many personal & health challenges.

With her retirement this fall, Kathy is beginning a new chapter; one filled with more family time and volunteer activities. She cannot imagine life without the Little Sisters, so this is *see you later* instead of *goodbye*. A celebration was held with the Residents, Sisters and staff during her last week. Best of luck and God bless you for making a difference in the lives of the Residents these last 50 plus years!

Pumpkin Trail Fun

"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.

This fall the annual *Pumpkin Trail* was back. This tradition started years ago when children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the Residents, employees, and volunteers of the Little Sisters were invited to "Trick or Treat" throughout the home.

Over 100 children under 12 years old attended. They dressed in scary, cute, and creative costumes. The trail went through the nursing home and James P. Wall building. Residents, many of whom were also dressed in costume as well, handed out treats to the kids

and visited with them. Along the way were games, prizes, and fall decorations.

Happiness was all around that day and the smiles on both the children's faces and most importantly the Residents' faces made the effort worthwhile.

Afternoons like these that bring together the young and old are truly special. Our home and our Residents always enjoy visits with children and the Pumpkin Trail beautifully brings these groups together. —Mother Loraine Marie Clare



Sister Georgia with employee Clare Armstrong and her twin sons Nick and Ben dressed for trick or treating.

Octoberfest with Pets



Resident Anne Dolansky visits with the petting zoo sheep and goat.



The porch was full during the Octoberfest performance.



Sister Jeanne and Sister Mary Matthew greet a goat.

Nothing says October like a petting zoo, accordion music and strudel on the porch! These were some of the highlights this October, when the Sisters hosted the Resident Octoberfest. A wonderful petting zoo came to the home with a variety of animals. There was a large pig, goats, ducks, sheep, rabbits, and even a

beautiful turkey. The Residents had the opportunity to feed the animals and interact with them.

Octoberfest continued on the auditorium porch where local accordion player Edwardo was dressed in his lederhosen to entertain the Residents with festive music. It was a cool and sunny fall day that brought many

out for the entertainment and delicious German fare including homemade apple strudel and snacks. The Residents love interacting with animals and were happy to experience this visit. Octoberfest and a petting zoo made for an enjoyable afternoon for all!

Tabernacle Blessed

August 30th is the Feast of the Little Sisters' Mother Foundress St. Jeanne Jugan. It is always an extra special day at our home for multiple reasons.

Last year, a beautiful old tabernacle was discovered in a large crate in the attic on Benton Avenue. It is believed that this tabernacle was originally from the Little Sisters chapel of our Penn Avenue home before it closed in the early 1970s. This tabernacle most likely dates back to the late 1800s when the Penn Avenue home was first built. The tabernacle was brilliantly restored by A.T. Merhaut religious store in the north hills.

This year on August 30th, the Feast Day of St. Jeanne Jugan, the tabernacle was installed in our Gloria Chapel and blessed by Father Bill Feeny during Mass. We are so happy to continue our connection to this home where the Little Sisters served elderly Residents of Pittsburgh for nearly 100 years!



The newly restored tabernacle in the Gloria Chapel.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

This time of year is so special for all of us. Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas represent wonderful memories for our Residents. They often reflect on the years they spent celebrating these holidays with their families. We, Little Sisters, strive to continue to make memories with our dear Residents. Beyond delicious meals and visits from loved ones, we make sure each Resident receives presents and come together as a family to celebrate.

Your support blesses our home at this special time of the year. Each gift given ensures that St. Jeanne Jugan's humble legacy of caring for the elderly as family continues. This year *Giving Tuesday* on December 3rd presents another giving opportunity. A benefactor couple has pledged up to \$25,000 to match gifts received that day.

It would be an honor to have you visit our home this glorious season to see how your support impacts our Residents. Remember the annual Resident Christmas Program is Tuesday December 17th. Christmas Eve Mass begins with carols at 7:00pm and Christmas Day Mass is at 11:00am. Thank you for being an integral part of our work!

Sr. Lorraine Marie Clave, LSP



Little Sisters with young ladies at Franciscan University during a Vocation Fair.

Wish List & End of Year Giving Ideas

Gift cards to local or chain restaurants (especially Longhorn & Olive Garden) for Resident "Dining Out", copy paper, liquid Tide laundry detergent, Bounce, and postage stamps. Find more items listed at our Amazon wishlist through our website www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org.

Monetary donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2024 or made online that day to receive tax credit for this year. Gifts of stock and donations directly from your IRA are also appreciated. Call us at (412) 307-1268 for more details. Thank you for your support!



SAVE THE DATES

#GIVING TUESDAY

- December 3rd **Giving Tuesday** with a \$25,000 match component
- **Online Holiday Ceramics Store** through 12/31/2024, Shop for unique homemade gifts at our online store
- **December 14th Meat Drop returns from 10am-2pm**

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.

