

Little Sisters Of The Poor

*Serving the elderly poor
in Cincinnati since 1868.*

Fall, 2018
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St Paul's Home
476 Riddle Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45220
513-281-8001



St. Peter's 1st Riddle Rd Home courtesy of the Cincinnati Museum Center

St. Paul's Home

Celebrating 150 years in America (Pt 3) Serving Cincinnati Residents, 1868-2018



SAVE THE DATE

150th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, October 20

Christmas Boutique

*Friday, November 9 &
Saturday, November 10*

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, November 27

Sisters Theodore Marie, Maria de Saint Therese, Joseph de Jesus, Madeleine du Sacre Coeur, Saint Barbe, Saint Nathalie, and Marie Flavie along with Mother Marie de la Conception stepped off the train in Cincinnati on October 14, 1868. Mother Marie de la Conception, known as "Mother Foundation" because she helped start so many homes for the Sisters, was the natural sister of the Mother General of the Congregation at the time. They were met by Sarah Peter who had waited ten years after her request for the Little Sisters of the Poor to begin their mission in Cincinnati.

Sarah Peter took Fr. Lelièvre and the Little Sisters to their new home in Cincinnati, a small storefront property at the corner of Fifth and Lock Street downtown. "She took us all to see the Little Sisters' new home, where she had arranged everything comfortably, even buying a stove for the kitchen," Fr. Lelièvre continues, describing Mrs. Peter as the Little Sisters "most ardent champion and benefactor."

With both Sarah Peter and Fr. Lelièvre advocating for this new group of religious in Cincinnati, the Sisters extended hospitality to more than fifty Residents within

the first few months. Throughout this time the Sisters were able to win over the confidence of the city and collected enough funds to purchase and renovate a more suitable house for the Residents. The first official Home was opened on Florence Avenue in Deer Creek Valley, St. Joseph Home, near the entrance to Eden Park. The Sisters began to build relationships with the community and visitors began to arrive with the necessary supplies.

"The Home on Florence Ave must have been used as a school or something that involved children because I remember the handles on all the doors were lower than normal" said Sr. George, a Little Sister who is currently "retired," but who was once Mother Superior at the old Home on Florence Avenue. "It was a wonderful building and great home for Residents."

The mission of offering 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 resonated with Cincinnati and soon the Sisters were in need of more space to provide their care to more Residents in the Queen City.

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**Men's and women's dining
rooms at St. Joseph Home on
Florence Ave (1930's)**

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Unseen Love throughout the Kitchen

Staff Highlight: Kitchen Staff

We have hidden warriors in the kitchen — never really seen, but always working diligently to make a better home for our Residents. The kitchen staff consists of four incredible men who help the Residents, Little Sisters, and other staff members on a daily basis. These are the guys who do all the dish washing, cleaning and organizing of the kitchen, and provide help in all other areas as well. We are blessed to have them on our team and we cannot thank them enough! We invited them to share their experience below:

I've been working in the kitchen since 2017 and I have loved every moment of it. Working for a wonderful place like this has been very enjoyable. Thank you to the Sisters for giving me this opportunity and allowing me to have a job here!

~ **David Houze**

I have been here for five years in October. I love the people I work with. I am excited to be able to retire here (hopefully). I love helping people and we have a great boss!

~ **Robert Miller**

I have been an employee for two and a half years in the kitchen. I enjoy walking outside in the fresh air. There are a lot of people here at work that help me keep peace in my life. What is best about this job are the smiles on the Resident's faces. When I see others happy, it makes me happy!

~ **Jermane Lamont Thomas**

I began my job with the Little Sisters 37 years ago! I like my job, work with great people, and have a wonderful boss.

~ **Charlie Brown**



Jermane, David, Robert, and Charlie

Volunteering at LSP, Why do it?

“I am a senior at the University of Cincinnati and have been volunteering at Little Sisters for 3 years. I started visiting the home for a class photography project. I was inspired by the residents and their stories, which I highlighted in a book for the home. It means a great deal to me to volunteer here. I am so amazed how far a smile and a conversation can go. I love bringing a little more joy into the residents' lives. I especially love listening to their stories and passing their amazing experiences on to others.”

~ **Volunteer Jessica Oldige**

Esther and I serve at the Little Sisters for two entirely selfish reasons: First, because we are commanded to. The Bible makes it clear that the second most important of all the Lord's commandments is to love and serve your fellow man. The Home makes it simple and convenient for us to obey this commandment. They provide people who are in need of service, and the vehicle through which we might provide that service. They make complying with The Lord's will almost too easy. Second, it gives us a tremendous sense of purpose. Through most of one's adult existence your life's purpose tends to center around providing an existence for yourself and your family. Building a successful career and raising your children in such a fashion that they are prepared to go out into the world and be quality, independent, functioning adults



consumes most of your time. Once you reach the point where your children are on their own, and you have sufficient assets to retire, those two purposes have been fulfilled. To be happy one must find a new purpose in life. For many, enjoying the fruits of their life's labors with travel and/or hobbies fills that need. Esther and I decided that

we would focus on serving those less fortunate than us. Volunteering at Little Sisters works for us. We receive far more in return for our efforts than we could ever give. It means a great deal to me to volunteer here. I am so amazed how far a smile and a conversation can go. I love bringing a little more joy into the residents' lives. I especially love listening to their stories and passing their amazing experiences on to others.

~ **Volunteer Dan Root (wife Esther Root)**

Years ago I read a fantastic book titled Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging by Kathleen Fischer. It opened my mind and heart to the profound beauty of being with people in their 'golden years.' Today I experience the beauty of Winter Grace each and every day when I am at the Little Sisters of the Poor! What a gift!

~ **Volunteer Patrick Welage**

Want to hear more volunteer experiences? Follow our blog on our website www.littlesistersofthepoorcincinnati.org.



Serving Cincinnati Residents continued from the front page...

A new group of Sisters temporarily used the Gest Mansion on Dayton Street on what is known as Millionaires' Row. Soon a more permanent second house was built, through the generous aid of friends, and opened on Riddle Road in Clifton Heights in 1886, St. Peter's Home. Between the two Homes, the Little Sisters were able to offer care to over 400 elderly Cincinnatians at a time.

The Sisters would venture downtown to go "begging" for goods, food, and supplies for the elderly in their care. In the mornings two Little Sisters headed to the market with baskets in hand to receive any spare food the vendors were willing to offer. They would quietly walk the various lines of vendors; very seldom would they verbalize a request. Vendors would politely decline, saying "Call again, good Sister," or motion them over to place items in their basket. In the afternoon when the markets were closed the Sisters would call on local businesses around the area for money, clothes and other supplies.

To this day the work of the Little Sisters remains the same, but with the modernization of the world and technology the Sisters now collect more checks from vendors. Many goods are still received through the relationships they have built. The process of getting the goods is a little different, with the option of requesting items and scheduling times for pickups, the Sisters no longer just show up at the market in hopes of finding items. One timeless habit of the Little Sisters is their reliance of St. Joseph. He is the foundation on which the Sisters depend with complete trust.



For over 100 years, the Sisters offered a safe place to enjoy life to Residents at both locations. By the late 1960's, St. Joseph Home had begun to show it's age with leaky pipes, inadequate electricity, and poor ventilation. Archbishop Paul Leibold helped spearhead a capital campaign for a new home to be built behind the existing St. Peter's Home on Riddle Road. St. Paul's Archbishop Leibold Home for the Aged opened in 1975 to accommodate residents from both Homes. Known as St. Paul's Home, the Little Sisters continue to serve the elderly poor at 476 Riddle Road. Join the Sisters on October 20th for a Mass of Celebration honoring their work in Cincinnati for 150 years!

The Other Side

We have many vital relationships with companies throughout Cincinnati. Without their support we would not be able to continue our work. One such company with whom we are lucky to have built a strong bond is Blue Grass Quality Meats. Every week we pick up loaves of various meat, hot dogs, metts, brats, and any other items they are willing to pass along. We asked them to share their story with the Little Sisters:

I've been at Blue Grass for almost 22 years. My cousins, Steve and Paul, have worked here much longer, 40 and 35 years. None of us were around yet when we began donating to Little Sisters of the Poor.



We are the 5th generation of Rice's to operate our family business. We reached out to our fathers, Bill and Glenn (4th generation), who seem to think that our relationship with the Sisters even predates their full time employment at Blue Grass. Bill started working at Blue Grass full time in the early 1950's and believes that we began donating to the Little Sisters of the Poor somewhere around 1950.

My grandfather, Bernie, was running the company at the time. Bernie and our grandmother, Mary, were very generous and very devoted to their Catholic faith. I can't say for sure but I wouldn't be surprised if Mary was very involved in the beginning.

My cousins and I inherited our great respect for the Little Sisters of the Poor from our fathers, who inherited it from their father. We feel very blessed to be able to visit with the Sisters on the occasions when they come along for the weekly pickup at our plant and are always reminded that they keep our business and our families in their prayers.

We feel very fortunate to be a small part of the great work that the Little Sisters of the Poor do and look forward to being able to help out for many years to come. The Little Sisters of the Poor have been regular visitors at Blue Grass for 3 generations of our family and we have every intention of maintaining our relationship into the 6th generation of the Rice family at Blue Grass Quality Meats and beyond.

~ Dan Rice

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorcincinnati.org

A Simple Note

By: Mother Superior



Dear Friends,

These last few months of the year are especially dear to us. We are celebrating our Congregation's 150th anniversary of serving the elderly in Cincinnati! On this momentous occasion we ask that you join us at our Mass of Celebration in October.

Throughout the next year we will continue to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Little Sisters in America.

Our journey began in 1839 when a humble woman in France named Jeanne Jugan opened her heart and her home to an elderly, blind and paralyzed woman in need. The wave of charity spread to the United States and we are proud to be able to continue our mission here.

It is our joy to provide for the elderly who are in most need of such care.

We are humbled everyday by all of your generosity and continued support. Please accept our gratitude for your help and know we hold your names in our hearts and prayers. I hope to see you at our Anniversary Mass. God Bless you!

Gratefully and with love,

Sr. Mary Sylvia L.S.P.

Our Needs

Our wish list is constantly changing and with the year coming close to an end we are looking ahead! Check out our most needed items:

body lotion	napkins	ink pens
body wash	mouthwash	plastic cutlery
paper towels	copy paper	plastic cups
paper plates	#10 regular envelopes	

150th Anniversary Spotlights

The Little Sisters of the Poor have been serving America's elderly for 150 years. Our house in Cincinnati, established in October 1868, was our second foundation in the United States. Stay tuned to our website and future newsletters for more events honoring the Little Sisters. Please share your experience and history of the Little Sisters with us!

Email Sarah Steffen at prcincinnati@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Upcoming Events

150th Anniversary Mass of Celebration *October 20, 11 a.m.*

St. Monica-St. George Parish, 328 W McMillan St, 45219

Join us for a Mass of Celebration honoring the Little Sisters care for Cincinnati elderly for 150 years! A reception will follow at the Parish hall.

Christmas Boutique – *November 9 & 10, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

St. Paul's Home, 476 Riddle Rd, 45220

Help support the Activity Department and shop til you drop at the Annual Christmas Boutique. Residents and Volunteers have been crafting year-round.

Baked goods, homemade items, Holiday décor and more!

Wish Tree Program – *November & December*

For over 30 years Bob Wetterer, Comey & Shepherd Realtor and founder of the program, has been helping children and elderly in the Greater Cincinnati area around the Holidays. Organizations create wish tags placed on trees in businesses throughout the area and people pluck the tags to buy items. Little Sisters of the Poor is proud to be a part of the program. For more information visit their website: www.wishtreeprogram.org.



Visit our website for more details on events: www.littlesistersofthepoorcincinnati.org.

****Did you know you could receive ONE giving receipt for all your donations at the end of the year? You can request to receive a year-end receipt only: check the box on the envelope attached or contact Sarah Steffen.**** prcincinnati@littlesistersofthepoor.org | (513) 281-8001