

# The JOSEPH HOUSE



## Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

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Volume 50 Number 11

November 2015

### Dear Friends of Joseph House:

November's chill often brings to mind the comfort of supper cooking on the stove. A warm kitchen and savory aromas are the perfect complement to the starkness of late autumn. Soon we will enjoy the king of all meals, Thanksgiving Dinner. And like many people, when dinner is done and the dishes are stacked in the sink we will say once again, "My goodness, I'm stuffed."

This is the time of year to count our blessings and be thankful. Being committed to serving the poor makes that easy to do. At the end of the day, when we come before the Lord in prayer, the faces of people we met who touched our hearts come to mind. **Bob** is one such person.

Bob never worries about overeating, which is actually unfortunate. We met him in the Hospitality Room at the Joseph House Crisis Center. In his fifties, Bob is homeless and does temporary manual labor whenever he can. His most recent job required steel-toed boots. To help him out, we drove him to the store and he selected a sturdy pair. The Joseph House gladly paid the bill.

But his problems were not over. You see, Bob had a stroke a year ago. He recovered, but it left him with a strange condition – he forgets to eat. As a result, he is 60 pounds underweight. He looked so gaunt we worried that he was malnourished. A doctor confirmed our fears: he recommended that Bob stop working and simply eat for two months straight. Bob was already destitute; if he stopped working, he would have absolutely nothing.

Then, out of the blue, Bob heard from his sister and her husband who live in another state. They invited Bob to come for Christmas and stay with them until he gets back to a normal weight. The invisible hand of grace was at work again.

**Every day the needs of the poor challenge us and open our eyes to reality.** The lives of the haves and the have-nots rarely meet, but we can cross the lines and make life better for everyone.

**Sue-Ellen** was facing an urgent and critical situation: her house had gone up for auction because of unpaid taxes. She had a limited amount of time to pay the \$600 tax bill before losing her home for good. Sue-Ellen worked for 38 years as a nursing assistant. That ended two years ago when she



If you want to show gratitude to God,  
be generous to others.

**Gerard Thomas Straub**



Prayer Requests: use return envelope or e-mail to [LSJM@comcast.net](mailto:LSJM@comcast.net)

**O Lord, hear my prayer:**

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suffered a stroke. Now at age 60 she lives on a limited income. She is also the sole supporter of her two grandchildren.

Sue-Ellen was distraught. She had paid off her house, but now she was going to lose it and be homeless. The highest bid on her house was only \$8,000, well below its value. Sue-Ellen was going to lose all of her equity, a lifetime of hard-earned wages gone.

We were determined not to let that happen. With out-of-pocket help from two volunteers, the Joseph House delivered the \$600 to the county.

**Miles**, age 47, is married and has four children. He and his wife both work and have a combined income of \$2,000/month. Even though that places them below the federal poverty line, Miles and his family get by with careful spending.

A recent expense wrecked their budget. Miles' nine-year-old son is autistic. He needs to go to Baltimore for some treatment sessions. This means Miles has to rent a car to take him, and the costs are adding up.

Miles received an eviction notice after falling behind in the rent. The Joseph House paid \$200 to his landlord to help stop the proceedings.

**Sasha**, 38, was laid off from her assembly job at an electronics plant. She has three school-aged children. To add to her difficulties, Sasha needed to have emergency dental surgery. The cost was \$392, paid in advance. The Joseph House contributed \$150 so Sasha could have the surgery, be free of pain, and focus on finding a new job.

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**First Vows:** After completing the novitiate, **Sr. Virginia Peckham** professed her first vows with the Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary on October 19. The ceremony took place on a beautiful autumn day in our Chapel of Divine Mercy in Princess, Anne, Maryland. Vow ceremonies are always happy occasions. Congratulations and God bless you, Sr. Virginia!

**Holiday Distribution Schedule:** Our Food Pantry will be giving out frozen turkeys and chickens on November 24 and 25.

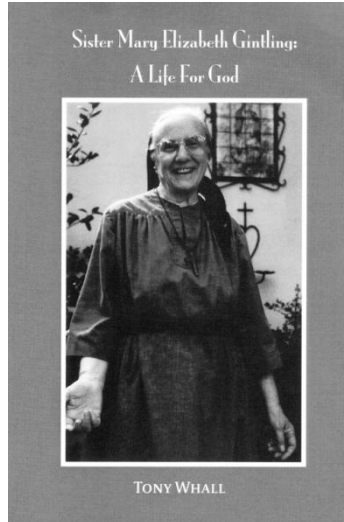
Christmas toys will be given out on December 15, 16, and 17. Donations of new and unwrapped toys for children up to the age of 14 years are needed by December 14. Toys that do not require batteries are preferred. We also ask that toy guns not be donated. Please wait until after Christmas to donate used toys.

All donations can be delivered to our convent at 411 North Poplar Hill Avenue in Salisbury. Our phone number is 410-742-9590 and our email is [LSJM@comcast.net](mailto:LSJM@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

Thank you for remembering those in need. We wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving. May love and good cheer always surround your table.

## Your Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

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**New Book on our Foundress!** SISTER MARY ELIZABETH GINTLING: A LIFE FOR GOD is the inspiring story of a woman who decided at an early age that she would live for God alone. Raised in Baltimore, "Mae" Gintling knew when she was three years old that she wanted to be a nun. For twenty-one years, as Sr. Armel de la Providence of the Little Sisters of the Poor, she tended to the needs of the elderly poor.

At age 50, she left the order to establish The Joseph House, an essential and extensive lay ministry among the poor, and then became foundress of The Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary, which has been a vital congregation of prayer and service on Maryland's Eastern Shore for 37 years.

This book tells the stirring story of Sr. Mary Elizabeth's struggles, crises and triumphs, and of the work for the poor she began and that is carried on with unceasing devotion more than ten years after her death by hundreds of her followers who learned from her to "cry the gospel with their lives."

The book is **\$10.95** per copy. To order, please fill out the form and mail with payment to P.O. Box 1755, Salisbury, MD 21802. You may use the enclosed envelope. Make checks payable to "Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary." Please add \$3.00 shipping and handling for each copy. Maryland residents please add 6% sales tax (\$0.66) for each copy.

You can also order online at our website: [thejosephhouse.org](http://thejosephhouse.org)

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