

# The JOSEPH HOUSE



## Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

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### Dear Friends of Joseph House:

We hope the New Year brings many blessings to you and your loved ones.

January is a time to look ahead, believing that our attitude can make the future either better or worse. 2016 will undoubtedly be an eventful year: the latest space probe will reach Jupiter, the Summer Olympics will be in Rio de Janeiro, and of course there is the presidential election in November.

We can't remember when the candidates first started campaigning, but we still have a long way to go. Until then we will have our fill of sound bites and campaign slogans. It's too bad the promises seem to fade once someone gets elected.

In the writings of Charles de Foucauld, we found something that would make an excellent slogan for anyone, whether running for office or not. They are words to live by:

*"We must dare to be love in a world that does not know how to love."*

To be fair, the world knows how to love money and power. It's an expert at loving things and using people (instead of the other way around). But Charles is calling us to reach for greatness, to be the love we were created to be, to be the love exemplified in the life of Jesus.

Jesus did not cast stones at anyone. He made Himself a servant to others and washed the feet of His disciples. He heard the cries of the people — the sick, the hungry, the grieving — and He responded to them.

Even though it's a new year, the problems of the world are the same: violence, poverty, prejudice, injustice... What can we do? Jesus brought love to the Cross, so we can bring love to any situation. Love is the only way the ills of humanity will one day be history.

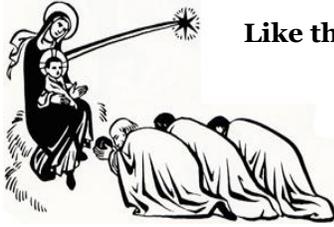
As a friend of the Joseph House, you know the power of this love, how even when it seems like a little, it has a tremendous impact on someone. It's like hearing a gentle voice in the midst of chaos.



Be sincerely kind to everyone according to the words of our Lord: "Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart."

- St. Angela Merici

Prayer Requests: use return envelope or e-mail to LSJM@comcast.net



**Like the Magi, I seek You. O Lord, hear my prayer:**

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**Claudia** was feeling lost in a storm. She is 76 and was living in her car with her two dogs. Claudia came to the Joseph House Crisis Center a few weeks ago because the heater in the car stopped working. She was cold and hungry and appeared to be in poor health. Walking was difficult for her.

We spoke with Claudia and made sure she ate a hot meal in our soup kitchen. It turns out, she had found a ground-floor apartment that she can afford with her fixed income, but she would not be able to move in for another ten days. Letting her live in her car until then was unacceptable. We located a motel that would accept pets and arranged for Claudia to stay there for a week and a half. The cost was \$550.

**Esteban** and his wife have been married for 26 years. Originally from Puerto Rico, they are now residents of the U.S. They have three children.

Esteban has a serious heart condition, and his health has deteriorated to the point where he can no longer work on the line in a chicken plant. His wife works and she brings home \$1,200 a month. That is not enough for a family of five, especially when the monthly rent is \$850 (71% of income). Esteban has applied for food stamps and that will help the financial picture. At the moment, this family's situation is precarious. He showed us a letter from his landlord threatening eviction if the rent payments are not brought up to date. The Joseph House paid the \$250 that was due.

**Malinda** works in the laundry room at a nursing home. She is 21 and has two children; the father is incarcerated. Malinda is having a tough time paying her bills. The water in her home was turned off and her furniture repossessed. The most pressing need was to get her rent paid up, so we sent \$200 to her landlord. Malinda hopes to get the water turned on with her paycheck. She is a young mother working hard to provide for her family.

### *Prayer for the New Year*

God of every time and season, you give us another year to fill with new beginnings. We have so many dreams for this year, so many promises we want to keep, so many new habits we want to learn. Yet so much from last year is still left undone.

Erase our failings of the old year, clear away the decay left by our complacency, and wipe clean the slate of broken covenants from the year gone by.

As the calendar changes and the old gives way to the new, help us not to dwell on the past, but to use its memory to move us ever forward to your kingdom.

Renew our hope and strengthen our resolve so that we may serve you faithfully through every season and walk joyfully each day of the year.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Diana Macalintal**  
*The Work of Your Hands*

**Ben** is 71 and married. When his wife was hospitalized for an extended period, he took a taxi every day to be with her since he doesn't own a car. He also spent money on her out-of-pocket medication bills. His budget had no room for these extra expenses, so the gas bill went unpaid. Ben asked for help after the gas was turned off. The Joseph House paid the past-due balance of \$247.

**Brandon**, 33, is raising his three children. He works full-time and the family lives in a trailer. Last fall, their home received extensive flood damage. Repairs had to be made, leaving Brandon not enough money for the lot rent. We paid \$150 to help make up the difference.

Next month, we will have the figures and data about our ministry from 2015, once we finish adding up the numbers. An update on the Joseph House Workshop, our job-preparation program for homeless men, will be forthcoming, too. Please visit [thejosephhouse.org](http://thejosephhouse.org) and [facebook.com/TheJosephHouseSalisbury](https://facebook.com/TheJosephHouseSalisbury) for the latest news and pictures.

**Rest in Peace:** Ed Tindall, a dear friend of the Joseph House and the Little Sisters, passed away on November 15, 2015. After serving in the Air Force, Ed spent his career in aviation. Once he retired, he enjoyed repairing small engines in his garage, giving whatever money he made to the Joseph House. Ed was a generous man with a warm smile. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his lovely wife Doris and their children and grandchildren.

**A** parade of people walk through the doors of the Joseph House Crisis Center, the full diversity of the human race. We are exceedingly glad that our humble building — staffed by volunteers and supported by free-will donations — stands as a beacon of hope, and has done so for 31 years. We do our best to be the love the person in front of us needs, because love is not an abstraction but exists only in flesh and blood. Thank you for your prayers and support, which are essential to keeping this House open to all.

We wish you good health and happiness in 2016. Keep the faith and may peace be with you.

**Your Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary**