

# The JOSEPH HOUSE



## Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

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### Dear Friends of Joseph House:

We're not the biggest sports fans, but the Olympic Games in Rio thrilled us with some outstanding feats of athleticism. Michael Phelps in swimming and Simone Biles in gymnastics were two of the shining stars. They really did us proud. (By the way, if Maryland was a country it would have placed *sixth* in the gold medal count! Imagine that.)

The ceremony after each competition is an iconic part of the Games. The top three athletes step onto the podium and receive a gold, silver, or bronze medal; their victories will be remembered and written down in the record books. The athletes who come in last place tend to be forgotten.

In the stadium we cheer for the winners, but what about in the game of life? The Gospel teaches us that many who are first will be last and the last will be first (Matthew 19:30). Those who aim to be first in terms of wealth and prestige may want to reconsider their goals. They might not receive the prize they expect.

For the poor, the Gospel brings hope. Their suffering lets them walk closer to Christ, closer to His Heart. It is far better to cross the finish line with the Lord at our side than a pile of riches we can't take with us.

When we live by the Gospel, when it sinks in and the light turns on, our priorities change. Sharing with those in need becomes necessary, natural, and a joy.

**Violet** lives on the outskirts of a little town deep in the country. She is 60 years old and has trouble walking because of gout and injuries sustained in a traffic accident. Violet has had no running water in her home for the past year.



Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.

Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greetings.

**Mother Teresa of Calcutta**  
*Canonized a Saint September 4*



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

**O God, Your tender mercy welcomes me; into Your hands I offer my prayers:**

Vandals destroyed her well and water system; on top of that, they put three snakes in her house. It's hard to understand this cruelty.

Violet has been trying to raise \$1,270, the amount she needs for a new well, pump, and tank connection. Her pilgrimage of begging led her to the Joseph House Crisis Center. We were able to contribute \$175 toward her need.

**Jakob**, 49, is disabled from a neurological disease and confined to a wheelchair. He lives on a monthly Social Security check of \$565 plus \$140 in food stamps, today known as SNAP. Jakob pays rent and utilities every month, plus there are many things that cannot be purchased with food stamps: tissues and toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, deodorant, lotions, foot powder, sunscreen, vitamins, medicine, and cleaning products.

Jakob's disability check does not go very far. Even the tiniest unexpected expense can put him in trouble. The Joseph House recently paid \$225 toward his rent to forestall an eviction. One of our volunteers contacted Jakob's apartment complex; the manager there will help Jakob apply for housing benefits.

**Bernadette**, 67, is a retired nurse. A year and a half ago she had open-heart surgery. She spent six months in the hospital because of complications, followed by eleven months in a nursing home. During this time of recovery both her husband and son died. Bernadette is exhausted from this taxing and sorrowful journey.

Bernadette is dealing with many medical bills and healthcare costs. The Joseph

Today, the poor are hungry for bread and rice — and for love and the living word of God.

The poor are thirsty — for water and for peace, truth and justice.

The poor are homeless — for a shelter made of bricks, and for a joyful heart that understands, covers, loves.

The poor are naked — for clothes, for human dignity and compassion for the naked sinner.

They are sick — for medical care, and for that gentle touch and a warm smile.

The 'shut-in,' the unwanted, the unloved, the alcoholics, the dying destitutes, the abandoned and the lonely, the outcasts and the untouchables, the leprosy sufferers — all those who are a burden to human society — who have lost all hope and faith in life — who have forgotten how to smile — who have lost the sensibility of the warm hand-touch of love and friendship — they look to us for comfort.

If we turn our back on them, we turn it on Christ, and at the hour of our death we shall be judged if we have recognized Christ in them, and on what we have done for and to them. There will only be two ways: 'come' or 'go'.

Therefore, I appeal to every one of you — poor and rich, young and old — to give your own hands to serve Christ in His poor and your hearts to love Him in them. They may be far or near, materially poor or spiritually poor, hungry for love and friendship, ignorant of the riches of the love of God for them, homeless for want of a home, one made of love in your heart.

And since love begins at home maybe Christ is hungry, naked, sick or homeless in your own heart, in your family, in your neighbors, in the country you live in, in the world.

— **Mother Teresa**

House sent \$250 to the electric company after she had fallen behind in paying her bill.

**Kyle and Cathy** are a married couple in their thirties. They have been living in a motel for the past eight months. This is much longer than they anticipated, but they don't earn enough from their minimum wage jobs to save money for regular housing.

Kyle and Cathy came to the Crisis Center after a week of good news and bad news. The good news was that they both secured full-time jobs at a local manufacturing facility that will give them a boost in income. Their start date was in one week. The bad news: Cathy was hospitalized for a few days and lost a week's pay. This meant she and Kyle didn't have enough money for their motel room.

To keep them from becoming homeless, the Joseph House paid their motel bill for a week (\$225). We offered to give Kyle and Cathy a voucher for a few gallons of gasoline, but they refused, feeling that we had already done enough for them.

**URGENT APPEAL:** We know a very hard-working and humble man who needed to have his leg amputated because of diabetes. He works as a welder to support his children and family, but in his current condition he is unable to do so. A prosthetic leg costs \$5,000. We spoke with the manufacturer, and they have generously offered to make the outer part of the leg (a \$3,500 value) free of charge. That brings the price down to \$1,500 for the inner metal components. If you would like to contribute to this amount, we would greatly appreciate it.

**A**t the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games, the parade of athletes is informal. They walk together in a mixed assemblage, not separated by country. There is less emphasis on what divides them, more on what unites them. It is a beautiful sight.

So too is the Joseph House when we have food to share with the hungry and assistance to give to the needy. The Joseph House is a place where people are welcomed as brothers and sisters and love and respect are shown to all. Your support keeps it going. Thank you for being generous. You are always remembered in our prayers.

**Your Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary**