

The JOSEPH HOUSE



Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

P. O. Box 1755
Salisbury, MD 21802

411 N. Poplar Hill Ave
Salisbury, MD 21801

ph: 410-742-9590
fax: 410-742-3390

LSJM@comcast.net
www.thejosephhouse.org

Volume 51 Number 10

October 2016

Dear Friends of Joseph House:

As the heat of summer dissipates and the days drift into fall, the signs of change begin to appear. One in particular is dear to us Little Sisters: a plaintive, honking sound will draw our attention skyward, and there we will see a flock of geese in a "V" formation, flying south for warmer climates. The sight always makes us pause for a moment and smile. Thoughts of our departed foundress, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Gintling, will come to mind, our own "Mother Goose." Her position was always out front, like the lead goose, who with wobbly grace leads the others to follow.

On the 27th of this month it will be twelve years since Sr. Mary Elizabeth passed away into eternal life.

Her nickname started with a book on Native American symbols. The snow goose became her totem, if you will, a beautiful creature that is very protective of her goslings. It was all a little tongue in cheek.

But the image stuck because it seemed to fit. When Sister came across an article entitled "Lessons we can learn from geese," she made a copy for her files. It was written by anthropologist Angeles Arrien and printed in the *Maryland State Fireman's Association Magazine*. Here is the first lesson:

FACT #1: As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if one bird flew alone.

LESSON #1: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they're going quicker and easier because they're traveling on the strength of one another.

We only need to think of the ministries of the Joseph House to know how true this is. One person working alone for the poor can do good things, but many people working together can do the impossible. Sr. Mary Elizabeth understood this lesson well.



Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly -
Summer sun was on their wings,
Winter in their cry.

Rachel Lyman Field



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

O Lord, my strength and my peace, please hear my prayer:

Under her guidance, the Joseph House grew to include the Crisis Center with its Financial Assistance, Food Pantry, Soup Kitchen, and Hospitality Room for the Homeless; the Joseph House Workshop which prepares homeless men for employment; our annual holiday distributions of Thanksgiving food and Christmas toys. And **you**, friend of the Joseph House, are an essential member of this flock. Without you none of this would continue.

With your help, the Joseph House is a welcoming refuge for people facing urgent situations:

Cicely is a 60-year-old arthritic grandmother caring for her three grandchildren. She has no fixed address. Her life may be taking a turn for the better: she qualified for temporary welfare (\$636 per month) and after a long wait she moved to the top of the list for subsidized housing. There is a big hurdle in her way, however. Cicely needs to pay an old electric bill (\$764) before the electric company will reinstate her account, and she cannot move into subsidized housing without the utilities being turned on. We stretched our budget and assisted with \$300. Cicely was thankful for the boost in reaching her goal.

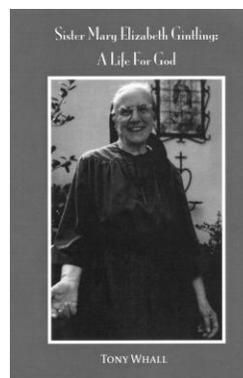
Ahmad, 58, was another homeless person who needed help making the transition to more stable living. During his 30 days in a shelter, he found a job that will provide 40 to 50 hours of work each week. When his time was up, the Joseph House provided \$160 toward the security deposit for an apartment for Ahmad.

*An excerpt from **Sister Mary Elizabeth Gintling: A Life For God** by Tony Whall:*

At church one Sunday, three-year old Mae saw a nun. She asked her mother about that woman in the black nightgown. Her mother told her that the woman was a nun, that they were the wives of Jesus and spent their lives helping people for Jesus' sake. From that moment, Sr. Mary Elizabeth said, "I knew that is what I had to be. What attracted me so much is that they belonged to God, and I knew somehow that I belonged to God, too. I wasn't sure what that meant, but I knew that's what I wanted to be."

Three years later, walking with her mother through a poor neighborhood near Sparrows Point, little Mae was upset by the squalor through which they walked. Her mother explained that the people here didn't have money to buy anything, sometimes even food, and that some of the families were too poor to let their children go to school. Worse, they might suffer so much that they didn't believe that God loved them.

Sr. Mary Elizabeth would point to that experience as another in her journey to the religious life. "I vowed that night that I would dedicate my life to helping the poor," she recalled. "In my whole life I have never been interested in anything but doing things for God," she said, as if she were having this insight for the first time. "I can't not do what I do — it's almost as if I have no choice in the matter."



Copies of this book about the foundress of the Joseph House and the Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary can be ordered at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, or our website thejosephhouse.org. You may also clip and mail in the order form to our P.O. Box.

All proceeds benefit our ministry with the poor.

Stella is age 50 and her husband is disabled, relying on a tracheotomy tube to breathe. Stella is a nurse and an excellent caregiver, although her health is starting to suffer. She was recently placed on medical leave from her job because of dangerously high blood pressure. Until Stella can get her blood pressure under control, the only income she and her husband have is his monthly disability check of \$733. That is slightly less than their rent, not to mention their other expenses. We sent \$200 to their landlord to stop them from getting evicted.

Dorothy, 60, is not able to work as she recuperates from cancer surgery; she had a large malignant tumor removed from her neck. Dorothy works in food service and did not qualify for Unemployment. The Joseph House paid \$175 toward her electric bill to prevent a cut-off. Dorothy hopes to get the O.K. from her doctor to return to work soon.

UPDATE: The response to the gentleman who needed a prosthetic leg was swift and generous. The money needed was raised quickly, and he will be fitted with a leg as soon as possible. This man, who is extraordinarily humble, hopes to go back to work and support his family, which he very much wants to do. Thank you for this outpouring of love and concern.

We pray for all of you and hope that you enjoy an abundant share of good health and happiness.

Your Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

ORDER FORM for Sister Mary Elizabeth Gintling: A Life For God

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Each copy is \$10.95. Maryland residents please add 6% sales tax. Shipping is \$3.00 for 1 to 2 copies, \$4.00 for 3 to 4 copies, and \$5.00 for 5 or more copies.

Number of copies ordered: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Please make check or money order payable to "Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary"