



Monica and Bill Dodds

Friends of St. John the Caregiver

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www.FSJC.org • www.YourAgingParent.com • www.CatholicCaregivers.com

Annual Appeal 2007-2008

“You’re Not Alone”

Please help family caregivers who can feel isolated and overwhelmed.

- *My father is able to live in his own home but he needs a lot help. My sisters do some things but I’m still doing the most. I feel like I have to spend quite a bit of time with my dad and I feel guilty when I don’t. My wife gets angry and says I spend too much time over there.*
- *I’m a nurse and I’ve been taking care of my mother for the past three years. She’s had a lot of problems and now she’s showing signs of dementia. I have to face the fact that the mother I love is “leaving” me. She’s been my best friend. My father and my brothers and sisters refuse to believe that Mommy may never get better. I need someone to talk to. I’m at the end of my rope.*
- *I had no idea what this was like until my wife got sick. What caregivers go through. You can’t know. I’m kind of doing everything now. By myself.*
- *It’s nice to know there are other caregivers out there with problems similar to the ones I’m facing. Thank you for the prayers for my husband and me. When I feel overwhelmed, it helps me a lot to know people are praying for me.*
- *I’ve prayed many times for guidance and answers to my caregiving dilemmas. I don’t get a sense that God is listening, except that perhaps he led me to your Web site.*

If you are, or have been, a caregiver, you know how stressful – and lonely – this vocation can be. But thanks to donations to the Friends of St. John the Caregiver, caregivers around the world are being *comforted* with the knowledge they’re not alone; *assisted* with information and resources provided at no cost to them; and *blessed* with the prayerful support of a membership organization. Now families, parishes and dioceses are better aware of the needs of family caregivers.

The Friends of St. John the Caregiver has made it possible
for the Catholic Church to be present to caregivers and care-receivers
in ways that it’s never been present before.
And your donation helps make the Friends of St. John the Caregiver possible.

We’re asking you now to please make a donation and help expand this one-of-a-kind ministry and resource. And it *is* expanding! What a year of blessings it’s been:

–The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is featuring us as a model program in its 2007-2008 Respect Life Program. The bishops have sent copies of “Caring for Your Aging Loved
(over)

Ones” (written by our staff members) to more than 100,000 dioceses, parishes and pro-life offices. (And with each, they’ve sent the message that “Caregiving is pro-life!”) Diocesan newspapers and Web sites throughout the United States have printed it and posted it.

–We now have members on four continents in six countries (Malaysia, Australia, England, Scotland, Canada and the United States.)

– Traffic to our three Web sites (FSJC.org, YourAgingParent.com, CatholicCaregivers.com) continues to rise steadily each month as more caregivers and those who help caregivers learn about and use our programs. (For example, YourAgingParent.com received some 2,500 “hits” in September 2006 and more than 4,800 in September 2007.)

–We gave away more than 2,000 copies of “The Little Book of Caregiver Prayers” in the last two months alone!

We know that it’s through the generosity of donors like you that the Friends of St. John the Caregiver will:

- *Continue to offer spirituality, information and resources to family caregivers.*
- *Continue to educate and provide material for parishes, dioceses and bishops’ conferences.*
- *Continue to serve as a spiritual community for caregivers worldwide, offering prayers for those who give care and for those who receive it.*

Please take a minute – right now – to fill out the enclosed donation form and to write that check. (Or tuck this in with this month’s bills to write a check later!) You can go on-line to FSJC.org and click “Donate” and give that way, too. (Your donation is tax deductible!)

God bless you!

Monica Dodds

Bill Dodds

PS – Your donation really does make a difference!

PPS – Donate \$250 and choose one free book.

Donate \$500 and choose two free books.

Donate \$1,000 and choose four free books.

They’re our thank-you gift to you! We can send them to you, your parish library or the recipients of your choice!

- *A Catholic Guide to Caring for Your Aging Parent*, by Monica Dodds (Loyola Press)
- *Encyclopedia of Mary*, by Monica and Bill Dodds (Our Sunday Visitor)
- *Praying in the Presence of Our Lord with St. Thérèse of Lisieux*, by Monica Dodds (Our Sunday Visitor)
- *The Joy of Marriage*, by Monica and Bill Dodds (Meadowbrook Press)