



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 2008-2009

“Free” is a beautiful word.

Dear _____,

No one has to tell you that families have been hit hard by the economic crisis of 2008. No one has to tell you that among those families are many, many caregivers.

We *do* want to tell you that through it all, thanks to your generosity, the Friends of St. John the Caregiver has been emphasizing a word that’s been shining even brighter: *Free*. Thanks to donors like you, all the material and services we offer families are free. And what a difference that makes!

That’s why we’re asking you to please donate once again to the Friends of St. John the Caregiver.

In a period when circumstances beyond their control are forcing millions of families to slash their household budgets, we will continue to make sure that they don’t have to hesitate to ask for help from the Friends of St. John the Caregiver. That they don’t have to wonder if they can afford it. That they don’t have to “wait till later” to get the assistance they so desperately need.

No family has to consider what we offer at the Friends of St. John the Caregiver as a “luxury” that has to be put on hold until the bills are paid.

We don’t offer luxuries. We provide necessities: spirituality, information and resources that make a tremendous difference in the lives of caregivers and care-receivers. Over the past twelve months, we’ve been reminded of that time and again.

- *Thank you for all you do for God’s most vulnerable in their situations that sometimes seem unbearable. The illnesses that my parents suffer have divided our family in many sad ways.*
- *I wish I could have sent you money, but we’re on a budget here. We’re so grateful though that you have such a wealth of resources for caregivers.*
- *I am starting a mental illness ministry at my parish. I was given a copy of the “Little Book of Caregiver Prayers” and prayer card. I was wondering if I could have about 25 copies of each.*
- *Please send me what literature you can. I’m a non-practicing Catholic taking care of my mother who was widowed twenty years ago.*

(over, please)

- *I am living here in the Philippines I would like to receive your prayer book. I have been searching for Catholic books on caregiving for I am really having a hard time taking care of my sick father. I am left alone to take care of him and my two toddlers. Sometimes it is really hard.*
- *I want to say how impressed and helped I've been by reading your sites. My mother has dementia and you've helped me understand where she's coming from. I especially appreciate your attention to spiritual well-being. I'm Pentecostal. I know you've written with the mind of Christ. Thank you again.*
- *Today I received the generous package you sent me. Thank you very, very much! I will share these booklets and prayer cards with those who will appreciate them. Thank you for sending them so soon. I surely do appreciate it.*

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 you have helped make the Friends of St. John the Caregiver possible.

We realize that you, too, may be facing economic difficulties. Please be assured that you are in our prayers. (And, please, never hesitate to ask for any of our material and services.) We know that making a donation to this year's annual appeal may be a sacrifice and we appreciate that.

We're asking you now to please donate once again and help support this one-of-a-kind ministry and resource.

On behalf of countless families around the world – names and faces and stories you'll never know, see or hear on this side of heaven – thank you!

Please take a minute – right now – to fill out the enclosed donation form and to write that check. 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 – We invite you to become a member! No meetings, no dues. All we ask is that you pray for caregivers and those receiving care. The back of the donor form can be used to enroll.