



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 2009-2010

Knowledge is power . . . and a blessing.

A caring attitude may come naturally but caregiving knowledge doesn't. All caregivers soon realize they've sailed into uncharted waters as they begin to assist a parent, a spouse, a son or daughter with special needs, a friend or family member. No wonder they can feel overwhelmed — nearly swamped — by the demands, the emotions, the day-to-day details and more.

For five years, since launching YourAgingParent.com in 2004, the Friends of St. John the Caregiver has been offering "a chart and a compass" to help both caregivers and care-receivers. We've been able to give away — for free — all our material and services thanks to the unfailing generosity of donors like you.

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

We know that caregivers are looking for information, are seeking knowledge, in two critical areas. The first has to do with *the physical and the emotional*. For example:

- "How do I get Dad to quit driving?"
- "How can I help Mom when she lives on the other side of the country?"
- "Why do I get so angry?"
- "How do I keep going when I'm exhausted?"

The second area focuses on *the spiritual* with questions like:

- "Why does God allow this to happen?"
- "What does the Catholic Church teach about end-of-life issues?"
- "What do I do if my loved one wants to return to the Church?"
- "How can I pray when I'm really mad at God?"

• The Friends of St. John the Caregiver is the only resource that provides families with solid information about the physical and the emotional, *and* presents in clear terms what the Catholic Church believes and teaches about the spiritual.

I just read about your outreach to caregivers. What a wonderful work for the Lord. Would you please send me your caregiver pamphlet? I'm not sure if my husband has Alzheimer's or not, but I need help with my caregiving. I'm so impatient.

-- Jan F., California

I was able to care for my mother for three years after my father died. Because of you and your caregiving support they were three of the most spiritual, holy years of my own life.

-- Cheryl G., Minnesota

(over, please)

● The Friends of St. John the Caregiver is the only resource that gives parishes and dioceses caregiver material in a form that's ready to download, print and distribute, plus monthly "bulletin briefs" with caregiving quotes and caregiver-themed Sunday Prayers of Intercession.

You've been instrumental in allowing my wife and me to become facilitators of a Caregiver Support Group first at our parish and now at a local hospital. Your material on-line has been beneficial in our understanding of the process and the DVDs you sent were EXCELLENT!

-- Jim and Pat K., Indiana

I would like to have a supply of FSJC prayer booklets and cards to distribute at the women's conference in our neighboring diocese and at the mother's retreat I have been asked to lead at our diocesan retreat house. I am sure the diocesan retreat house would be elated to have some to make available to retreatants. I would need at least 200 for these purposes. Thank you for making the materials available free of charge.

-- Father Thomas L., Maine

I was just asked today to be a guest speaker at an event for caregivers. I was wondering if you could send me 150 of each of your materials for me to pass out to the guests there. I am actually on the receiving end of the caregiving, so I will be incorporating my personal journey with Christ in my talk.

-- Rochelle R., Michigan

● And the Friends of St. John the Caregiver is the only international Catholic organization with members in eleven countries who have promised to pray for caregivers and those receiving care.

Thank you so much for the prayers. We are so grateful for being part of this. It means a lot to all of us. God bless you and everyone that is praying. Love,

-- Jean G.L., Pennsylvania

Thank you so very much! Prayers are always a good thing and very much appreciated.

-- Ralph L., Georgia

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

On behalf of countless families around the globe — 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.