



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 2011-2012

## The light of the world ... in these darkening times.

Now more than ever, the world needs the “light”—the example of love and selfless giving—that family caregivers offer.

The growing darkness isn't just promoters of euthanasia and assisted suicide gaining ground. It's the public's increasing willingness to accept that a human life has little or no value if that person isn't seen as a contributing and productive member of society.

Instead, those who need care are viewed as burdens on taxpayers and families. And some who need care are beginning to see themselves that way, too.

In 2011 family caregivers are, in the words of the Gospel, the light of the world, the city set on a mountain, the lamp placed on a stand where it gives light to all in the house (Matthew 5:14-16).

### **And what do caregivers need?**

Then, too, caregivers need help to be that light, to remain that light. And that's why the Friends of St. John the Caregiver exists. It recognizes, thanks, and supports those who demonstrate how caregiving is pro-life.

It reminds parishes, dioceses, and others how they can do the same.

And it lets caregivers know that the Catholic Church acknowledges what they're doing, greatly appreciates it, and wants to be with them as—day by day and night by night—they live out their vocation of caring for a loved one.

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

We make this request on behalf of caregivers, care-receivers and those who help both, so it's only right that we let them share their thoughts with you. Here's small sample of what they've told us over the past year:

*I appreciate all of the support. It has been deeply saddening to watch Mom and Dad get older and have more and more problems, but it is something that most of us have to face at some time. The support from your group and others has been a huge lifeline to me at one very difficult time.*

*Lenore D.-H., Connecticut*

*Your e-mails, prayers and genuine care brought tears of gratitude to my eyes, especially after an exhausting night of no sleep. Thank you and God bless you!!!!!!*

*Marga A., Wisconsin*

*(over, please)*

The "Caregiver's Prayer" is—wow!—so powerful and comforting. I'm involved in the RCIA, returning after 40 years, and in our group prayers they always remember me and my struggle as a caregiver. I know I need all the prayers I can get. Don't we all?

Thomas M., Maryland

Thank you! I work in Pastoral Ministry and am passionate about working with the elderly. I was inspired by your websites and appreciate all of the resources you have for this rewarding ministry! I am excited about sharing your websites/resources with others.

Trena W., Minnesota

I have enjoyed the benefits of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver. The prayers/thoughts have given me peace while taking care of my mother. Each day is a challenge but there is nothing God gives us we can't handle, right? Take care and thanks again for your support.

Janice K., Texas

My mom passed away on May 15, 2011, at the age of 86. Thank you for your prayers. I found the "Caregiver's Prayer" to be of great help. Thank you.

Rose S., Kentucky

I was delighted to see in the latest newsletter that someone has translated "The Little Book of Caregivers Prayers" into Chinese. Is it at all possible to get copies? In my work, I have been asked to give a presentation on visiting the sick and caregivers to the Chinese Catholic Mission here in Montreal and I would love to have a resource in Chinese to distribute to them.

Cathie M., Quebec

Thank you. I have shared the prayers with other caregiver friends, and they were very grateful!

Kathleen R., Florida

Thank you for the wealth of material you have sent. You are beacons of light when it is very much needed. May God be with you.

Mary Elizabeth D., Ohio

**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 online 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. We've enclosed a membership form or you can join online. Go to [www.FSJC.org](http://www.FSJC.org) and click the "Membership" link for more information.