



BECAUSE *we are* CATHOLIC

Little Sisters shower elderly with love during final days

“The relationships that are built are true relationships, built on the exchange of care and love,” Deacon Marty Perry said in regard to the Little Sisters of the Poor home in Catonsville, Maryland.

The Little Sisters of the Poor are an international congregation of Catholic women religious founded in 1839 by St. Jeanne Jugan. The sisters serve in more than 30 countries, and their mission is to “offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.”

“The summit of our mission of hospitality has always been the vigil with the dying, by which we assure a constant presence at the bedside of residents who are nearing the threshold of the Father’s house,” Sister Constance, a Little Sister, said. “I can think of no more intense expression of the family spirit with which our homes are imbued than this vigil at the bedside of the dying residents. It’s an intense moment of communion.”



A Little Sister of the Poor spends time with one their residents. (Courtesy photo)

Joseph would always say thank you for the littlest thing the nursing staff did for him, even if it was a procedure that was painful. Paid staff said interacting with the loving father and husband “gave them a sense of purpose” in dealing with home and personal stress.

Marty said both of his parents held on for a few weeks longer than expected, and it was during that time that some family members made their peace with their them. “The fact that these kind of healing moments come is all part of the beauty of the end of life,” Marty said.

Nine of the 12 children were gathered into his mother’s tiny room, as well as a dozen or so sisters, singing hymns and “praying her peacefully into her reward.” Read more about the [Little Sisters of the Poor and their work here](#).

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MARYLAND SERVES AND ADVOCATES FOR THE POOR, VULNERABLE AND THOSE IN NEED NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE CATHOLIC, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC.