



BECAUSE *we are* CATHOLIC

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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MARYLAND CATHOLIC CONFERENCE MARCH 27, 2014

The Embodiment of Service: The Little Sisters of the Poor

The Little Sisters of the Poor have been ministering in the Baltimore area since 1869. Their mission is simple, yet grand:

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our 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 Little Sisters celebrate the “wisdom of age” and humbly serve – putting others’ needs before their own with “an appreciation of simple, everyday tasks,” according to their website.

The Little Sisters run St. Martin’s in Catonsville in their own special way. It is a “home-like, non-institutional setting” with different levels of care from independent living to care in dying.

Since 1869, “an estimated 15,000 elderly men and women of all backgrounds and with very limited financial means have found a home” and been cared for by the Little Sisters in Baltimore.

The Two Ends of Life

The Baltimore Sun reported on March 24 that 15 college students from Boston University volunteered with the Little Sisters of the Poor for over a week during their Spring Break instead of hitting the beaches. Bridging age and boundaries, these young people, religious sisters and elderly members bonded and shed tears when the college students bade goodbye.

May their experiences continue to touch their hearts and may all our prayers be with the Little Sisters as they minister to those elderly most in need.

I ask the elderly, from my heart: do not cease to be the cultural storehouse of our people, a storehouse that hands on justice, hands on history, hands on values, hands on the memory of the people. And the rest of you, please, do not oppose the elderly: let them speak, listen to them and go forward. But know this, know that at this moment, you young people and you elderly people are condemned to the same destiny: exclusion. Don't allow yourselves to be excluded ... Make yourselves heard; take care of the two ends of life, the two ends of the history of peoples: the elderly and the young; and do not water down the faith.

~ Pope Francis, July 25, 2013