

SPIRITUALITY

(The Catholic Review) Nov 22, 2007 Pg 25

Father Joseph Breighner



Have a spare million to help Little Sisters?

“Hey, Buddy, can you spare \$32 million? ” We’ve come a long way, haven’t we, from the ‘old days’ when someone might say: “Hey, Buddy, can you spare a dime?”

Actually, I’m not asking for any money for me. I had a hard time even asking someone to drive me to the hospital when I had blood clot.

But I’m not afraid to ask for someone else. Recently, I heard in an unofficial way that the Little Sisters of the Poor need \$32 million to build a new home for the aged. So, without their knowledge or authorization, I’m writing for them. If they can beg, so can I!

Perhaps someone reading this column really could give \$32 million. If you can, please do it. It would save the sisters an awful lot of time. They could do what they do best - living the Beatitudes by caring for the aged poor.

I know some people have that kind of money. Recently I heard of a businessman who bought a \$150 million yacht. Because he had business in various parts of the world, sailing the one yacht was not fast enough. So he bought a second \$150 million yacht. Now, experts estimate that the upkeep of a boat is about 10 percent of its purchase

price. So that individual is spending \$30 million annually just keeping his yachts floating. Sir, if you’re reading this column, I’m talking to you.

The great saints remind us of one fundamental reality. Everything we have, we will leave behind when we die. Everything we give away, we will take with us into eternity. Sir, may I suggest that you invest in a better voyage to a far better place!

The Apostle James got it right when in his letter in the New Testament he wrote, “Religion pure and simple is this looking after widows and orphans in their distress, and keeping oneself unspotted from the world.” The Apostle James would have liked the Little Sisters of the Poor. Now, just in case one person doesn’t spring for all \$32 million

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could 32 of you possibly donate a million? That seems doable. Or could 320 people donate \$100,000? I’m trying to make this simple for the sake of the sisters! Lesser amounts would no doubt be acceptable. As we all know the ocean is made up of countless single drops of water.

I’m aware that there are countless good causes to which you could donate. The cathedral just dedicated its new organ. Immaculate Heart is putting a new roof on the school.

Annunciation is putting in new windows. Please support whatever you can on your local scene.

But there is something forever wonderful about the Little Sisters of the Poor. I’ve been told that my prayers have made a difference in people’s lives. If my prayers have helped, imagine what the prayers of the Little Sisters could do. Can you imagine being on a better prayer list?

Someone has described a saint as someone who “willed one thing.” They willed their lives to the service of God. The Little Sisters will their lives to the service of the elderly poor. There are more and more elderly, so it stands to reason that there will be more and more in need of help.

We all know the shabby state of health care in our society. Catholic hospitals, once run by saintly nuns, are now too often run by ‘hired guns’ who focus only on the bottom line. For profit has replaced for God!

But the Little Sisters are faithful to their charism. And they still attract new members and new vocations. Let’s all get this money for the sisters so they can get on with what really matters - being saints!