

# The Carpenter's News

**Congratulations to  
SPA Graduates**



# St. Joseph's House

"Religion pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: To give aid to orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself unspotted from this world." James 1:27

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Editor: Charles Humkey**



## Works of St. Joseph's House

- Outreach to children in need.
- Assistance for widows and single mothers
- Family financial, housing, and food assistance
- Evangelization through faith formation and charitable services
- Lending library of classical and catholic books and media
- Homeschooling assistance
- Schooling assistance through St. Philomena Academy
- House of Refuge: *Two Homes of Hospitality have provided emergency long term shelter for 9 moms and over 20 children since 2002*

## A Miracle Has Bloomed

By Natalie Kurtz

Ring, Ring, Ring... the bells for afternoon prayer sound and a novice, in the order of The Little Sisters of the Poor, stops her work and enters the chapel. Her knees hit the floor and she bows in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As she slides into her pew, it's not just her habit that is sparkling white, but also her face, which reflects the light of Christ as she enters into silent conversation with Him.

Maria del Carmen entered the Kurtz family in 1996, after suf-



Sister Maria del Carmen

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If you do not have access to the internet, contact St. Joseph's House at 610-486-1060 or [paxtecumfilumena13@gmail.com](mailto:paxtecumfilumena13@gmail.com) and we will send you a free copy of our St. Joseph's House DVD.

We want to thank those who have opted to make tax deductible donations to assist the Kurtz children with their medical and educational needs via our SJHouse.001 account.

If you have a desire to do this as well, please contact John Kurtz at 610-486-1060.



fering for years on the streets of Guadalajara, Mexico and later, still more years in a Mexican orphanage. She entered our family as a very troubled teenager, with a wounded heart in need of love and healing. Coming into our family's existing "pecking order" was hard enough, but she also had a lot of emotional and spiritual problems.....for how can one who has been wounded by neglect and trauma from those who should have

given her loving care, trust God, let alone another human being?

So much sadness filled her heart and racked her body that "Mari Carmen", as she came to be called, suffered from severe migraines. Special foods and medication unfortunately were not enough to solve this problem. Her everyday life was one of sorrow, with bouts of depression and traumatic behaviors. She had no peace, no security and very little love to give.

In desperation, Mom started taking Mari Carmen to the Adoration chapel near our home in Havertown, PA. She knew this was the place of true healing, despite being counseled that any healing for Mari Carmen was impossible because her "wounds" were "too severe". However.....nothing is impossible for God.

Please understand that it was not all thunder clouds and gloom when Mari Carmen came to us. It was truly ordained by God that she enter the family. And Mom and Dad followed His Will, trusting in Him and depending on His Mercy and Providence. The day Mari Carmen came into the family as the 10<sup>th</sup> child, a bakery started donating its day-old bread and bagels, and a grocery store started donating its produce. God was moving. He was at work from the beginning, reminding us that he provides for all of our needs, including Mari Carmen's.

Mari Carmen thrived in Adoration. Her deep, seemingly insatiable need for love was being filled with Christ's love. Her migraines disappeared, her anger began to subside. She developed a genuine kindness and concern for others, especially in the care of the elderly.

Thank you for your generous support of St. Joseph's House!  
God bless you!

As a teenager, she had to start schooling at the primary level. But through much perseverance and prayer, Mari Carmen graduated high school from St. Philomena's Academy in 2010. Many were touched by her achievement, knowing her struggle, her toil and her heroic perseverance.

Throughout her high school years Mari Carmen had also been doing volunteer work for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Philadelphia, working with the elderly, who always had a spot in her heart. And after much prayerful discernment and an ever growing hunger for God, she joined the order in October of 2011.

She is truly a "blooming" miracle for those who knew her from the beginning. From the young girl whose heart and body were racked with sadness, neglect, abuse and depression, to the shining, joyful soul she is now, they will all acclaim that only God can transform a soul in such a way! As a novice, she is full of the love of Christ. She brings such joy to those with whom she works and just radiates his Eucharistic love. She learned to put her trust in Him and His Blessed Mother. She is an example to all of us on how we should surrender our lives to God and learn to say: "Jesus I trust in you!"

Thank you for helping Sister Maria del Carmen along her road of healing and into the second year of her novitiate. You are all part of this wonderful miracle!

The need has never been greater.

**VISIT [WWW.SJHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.SJHOUSE.ORG) TO MAKE A DONATION!**

***Saint Joseph's House Mission Statement***

**Saint Joseph's House is to apply the teachings of Pope John Paul II's encyclical, The Gospel of Life, to care for human life from conception to natural death.**

**St. Joseph's House will foster a "Culture of Life" through the service of charity to the defenseless of our society, particularly widows and orphans, children and families in crisis situations.**

**The services include religious instruction, food, clothing and shelter, as well as counseling, schooling, tutoring and educational resources.**

## Stay Connected

PRAYERS AND DONATIONS OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

**VISIT [WWW.SJHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.SJHOUSE.ORG) TO MAKE A DONATION!**

**Ask and you shall receive! (Matt. 7:7) Our current needs are . . .**

**As our family grows up, transportation becomes an ever-increasing necessity. We now have children licensed to drive but most of our vehicles are beyond repair.**

**Our greatest current needs are:**

- ✓ **at least one van for 12-15 passengers**
- ✓ **other standard size cars**
- ✓ **other standard size pick-up trucks**

- Monetary donations of all shapes and sizes**
- Volunteers to write grant proposals**
- Donation of Services** (septic service, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, fence building, auto mechanics, etc.)
- Donation of medical care** (doctors, eye doctors, dentists, oral surgeons, etc.)
- Basic Household and office items** (toiletries, paper products, tools, copy paper, etc.)
- Food** (produce and vegetables)
- Firewood** Thanks you for the abundant firewood donations!!! However, we still could use more.
- Completion of the renovation of the 3rd and 4th floors of St. Philomena Academy**
- A space for a thrift store to benefit St. Joseph's House**
- Construction of a library where the patio is.**
- Funding for a Catholic Residential Treatment facility to care for those in acute behavioral healthcare.**

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**St. Joseph's House  
640 Buck Run Road  
East Fallowfield, PA 19320**

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