

Joseph C. Williams  
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 Patricia A. Taylor  
*clerk*  
 Thomas G. Hardy  
*treasurer*  
 John Howland, M.D.  
 Raymond Lauring  
 Juliann O'Connor  
 Catherine Pakaluk  
 Rev. Richard Reidy  
 Helen Vassallo, Ph.D.



## Visitation House, Inc.

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### More children! We welcome the 4th and 5th babies born to VH

On December 19th, during the publication of our last newsletter, Amarya Yvette was born; it has been awhile since we have updated all of our supporters, and she is now 3 1/2 months old! And Aaliyah Abdo, who was born on January 7th, is now three months also. Both of these babies are a joy to their mothers, who are undertaking the challenges of

Amarya looks her cutest for the camera.



motherhood. It certainly is not easy in a culture like ours and with the lack of parental role models that they have had in their own lives. That lack intensifies the challenge as these moms learn constructive and loving mothering skills from

their own limited experience, from the resources we provide to them, and from our own model of Christian parenting (see reverse side!).

Their needs are certainly many and great. Even overwhelming to us at times, as we make our home with them and try to interact and work with them on so many different levels. But God is with us, for it is His work that we are about. And He is certainly with these women, who have chosen, albeit sometimes unknowingly, to allow Him to bless and grace them through their children, to whom they have said, "Yes."

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Brother and sister, Devondrick and Aaliyah, enjoy a quiet moment together.

### President Williams

As we sit inside, dry from April rains, our illustrious president of the board, Joe Williams, trudges through marathon training, getting ready to run the big race for Visitation House. Some send money, some volunteer, and some run unnecessarily long distances.

He is trusting you to make it all worth his while, because, as they say, he's not doing it for his health.... Well, maybe a *little* for his health.

Make a pledge in the enclosed envelope and, figuratively, run with the president. You can pledge per mile, or, like his evil brother, put all your money on the last 0.6. Either way, thanks for taking part in our ministry and Joe's cardiovascular stamina.

### Your continued support

We love volunteers; right now we are in need of volunteers who are willing to make a weekly or bi-weekly commitment, so that they can become accustomed to our house and be truly helpful to us and our residents. Any day of the week, any time; maybe we'll have a list for you or maybe we'll just ask you to be present; but the key is *regular* and *significant* (for at least 3 hours at a time).

Aside from our usual humble request that you continue your financial gifts, our specific requests for in-kind donations are below (as always please give us a quick call before bringing your donations over):

Under the sink: disinfectant floor cleaners (like Mr. Clean); mop heads for industrial-sized mops

In the bedroom: mattress for a toddler bed

In the basement: Dreft and regular detergents (the bigger, the better); batteries (all sizes); 60-W light bulbs

In the play/rec room: toddler table and chairs; aerobic exercise equipment; wicker (or other) indoor porch furniture

In the office: manila folders; hanging folders

We are also in need of a copy machine; if you know of one that is available, please give us a call.

Thanks for keeping all our needs

## The Mammis welcome their

With great joy JJ and Jessica welcomed their son Peter into the world on 24 January at 1:48am. Jess gave birth to him naturally and drug-free, and JJ coached her labor, as they had practiced in the Bradley Method classes. Peter was alert and hungry as he was handed directly to Jess to nurse and cradle him.

Peter is now eleven weeks old and is a pretty happy camper (breaking his parents in easy). JJ and Jessica are enjoying getting to know this child that God has blessed them with; and Peter, from what we can tell, is enjoying getting to know them.

Well, we *think* he is enjoying it.



## Jesus is here!

If it weren't grace enough to live among all of these new lives, we now live in the presence of the source of life. On 11 March we were blessed to welcome Bishop Emeritus Reilly to celebrate Mass and repose the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel.

It is an extra encouragement and comfort for us to have direct recourse to the author and sustainer of all life in our daily ministry. We are grateful to Bishop McManus for his permission to incorporate into our house this most fundamental element of our ministry and of the whole pro-life movement.

## Benefit Supper was a great success

On Thursday, 23 March, Visitation House sponsored its first Benefit Supper at St. Paul's Cathedral. The event was a great success and drew over 200 people—some new to Visitation House and some long-time supporters.

That evening Bishop Emeritus Daniel Reilly was awarded the first Ruth V.K. Pakaluk Award for his outstanding service to Visitation House during its inception and foundation. We were happy to honor

him with an award commemorating Ruth's legacy, and we remain grateful for his indispensable support over the years.

We were also happy to welcome Mother Agnes Mary, S.V., superior general of the Sisters of Life, to tour the house and to deliver the keynote address at dinner. Hers was the inspiring presence of a fellow laborer for life: the sisters' work in the greater New York City area is similar to ours, and our guests found it heartening to hear her reflections on the type of women who

come to a place like Visitation House.

And lastly, thank you to all of our guests that evening for your presence and your generosity. It was a grand success because you all took the time to come out, have a good time, and support in action what you support in prayer and in principle. For that, we are indeed grateful.

The pictures below are from that evening.



## Mothers' and Fathers' Day cards are coming

Keep an eye out in your parish for our Mothers' and Fathers' Day cards on sale after Masses on the two weekends prior to Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day.

If you would like to find out whether your parish is offering them, or if *you* would like to sell them in your parish, talk to your pastor and call JJ at 508 798 0762. This is yet another important event in our fundraising for the year as we seek to improve our services *and* a way that you can take a meaningful role