



Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

Provincial Administration
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Fall/Winter 2020

Dear Friends,

What a year! Who would have ever thought we would be hunkered down, waiting out a pandemic called COVID-19 for over nine months? I can only imagine that you are distressed by the drastic lifestyle change that we are all experiencing but I truly pray you've been free of the effects of this insidious disease. Our Sisters have stayed home, been deprived of daily Mass and despite that, are in very good spirits. We have been very reliant on Zoom which has enabled us to stay in contact and continue to hold meetings. We must remain in place and trust in science and scientists to guide us in our 're-entry into normalcy'.

We were prepared to reach out to you in the spring, but when everything shut down, I had asked our Sisters to stay home and stay safe as much as possible. Our Co-ministers have been given the option of working from home or at their offices and have paced themselves, answering needs each day. We are regularly posting on social media to spread the Word. I refer you to our website, www.sscm-usa.org to view current and archived offerings from our Spiritual Ministry.

Present circumstances have greatly impeded our ability to minister in person to those who depend on our help. Our Sisters who normally volunteer at Catholic Charities, nursing facilities, parishes and hospitals have not been able to be physically present. We cannot put them at risk nor will most facilities allow us to be in their buildings at this time.

Prior to the pandemic, Sister Loretta was very active within the hospital. She now writes and sends uplifting newsletters of encouragement to the healthcare workers and administrative staff instead of being there in person with them. Sister Mary Ann keeps in touch with her Catholic Charity clients by telephone. Sister Karen continues her social work in the Champaign/Urbana area. Sister Mary Beth has been instrumental in gathering school supplies to send to 100 children in Cameroon. She works with a woman from Sacred Heart parish who delivers these supplies to a large ship container, which then crosses the Atlantic to deliver the desperately needed items.

Our Sisters in Rockford remain dedicated to their ministries, as well. Since Sister June is a volunteer at St. Anne Center, she is prohibited from entering the building

right now but remains busy contacting other volunteers and associates by sending birthday cards and mission recognition forms out to them. Sister Marie-Ange works at St. Anne Center four hours each day, 6 days a week! She does a variety of tasks from spiritual assessment of patients to visiting them and helping with admissions and discharges. Sister Mary Kay teaches all day at St. Bridget School in Loves Park. She video tapes her classes so that those students who are learning remotely may stay in touch and up to date with their lessons. Sister Anne continues her ministry with Bethany House in Chicago.

I have saved our most joyous news for last! On September 20th, Sister Bernadette Pabon made her first vows at Nazareth Spirituality Center. Sister Bernadette is a second career vocation. A limited number of her family and friends attended the ceremony. What joy we all experienced to add this faith-filled woman to our congregation!

We know it has been difficult, and in some cases, impossible, for many to make ends meet this year. We will continue to do what we can on this end to respond to the concerns of those who are most in need of our help. But more importantly, we wanted you to know that we are with you in spirit and pray daily that you and yours are surviving this extraordinary time. May God grant us all peace as we prepare to celebrate this upcoming holiday season.

God's blessings from us to you and your family now and always. Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

In Mary's Heart

Sister Carol, SSCM

Sr. Carol Karnitsky, SSCM
Province Leader

PS: We thought you would enjoy looking at our Partners in Mission brochure which shows how your generosity makes a difference to those we serve. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in support of our ministries!