



Archbishop Lori stopped at St. Martin's Home to offer the Little Sisters and Residents prayers for continued strength and courage during the pandemic.

“Go, go, go away, Corona!”

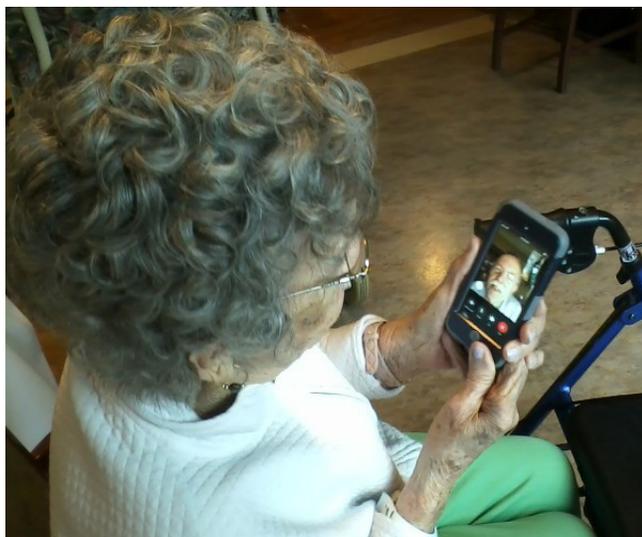
Who would have imagined at the beginning of the year that life was soon about to change so drastically? Before federal and state authorities mandated restrictions and imposed regulations, the Little Sisters closed the Home to visitors and volunteers and set up several guidelines to prevent COVID-19 from infecting the Residents. Asian bows replace hugs and handshakes; social distancing is the new “normal”; Residents sit at individual tables for their meals or eat in their rooms. The Little Sisters, usually dressed in somber black or white religious habits, now wear masks of various colors. (Residents and staff seem to choose the most fashionable and colorful ones!)

St. Martin's has always been known for its high standard of cleanliness, but now disinfectant sprays, wipes, and hand sanitizers are our constant companions. Our housekeeping supervisor, Bruno Fernandez, was adamant in stating that “not on my watch” would the virus infect our Home. Our staff has gone over and above protecting and giving our Residents excellent care, and for that we thank each of them.

The greatest sacrifices for our Residents have been the restriction of visitors and not being able to attend Mass or visit our chapel. However, Facetime and Zoom have allowed them to have “distance-visits”. Our closed-circuit TV permits them to view Mass and services in the chapel, but they look forward to the day when they will once more be able to participate in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In the meantime, they pray and offer their sacrifices so that “Corona” will soon exit the entire world!



Housekeeping supervisor, Bruno, and his trusty steed vow to keep St. Martin's virus free!



Neoma stays in touch with family using Facetime calls!



Friends and family members enjoy a "window" visit with Residents.

Keeping the Residents Happy (and Active) During the Pandemic Response

“Keeping the Residents happy” is one of the most important lessons passed down to us from St. Jeanne Jugan. Her words of wisdom have been put to the challenge as the Sisters and employees, wearing masks and keeping safe distances, assist the Residents during the pandemic. Residents are staying in their units. Personal visits are rare

and visits to the chapel can only be done by watching television. But the Activities Department continues to provide many opportunities for exercise, games, ice cream parties, and other activities that can be done safely. Mass is available every day, along with the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The annual Residents’ Retreat was held

during Easter Week. Each day we say the “Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic.” Many Residents have been able to visit their families through FaceTime chats — something new for them — which they really enjoy. “Keeping the Residents happy” is one of our primary goals, and we have been successful. There are no sad faces here!



Ilah enjoys a cup of tea (left) while Resident Frank serves his wife, Janice, at the Mother’s Day tea (right).



The generosity of friends helps immensely during the shelter-in-place order.

A Pandemic, but Reasons to Smile

If anyone had told us six months ago that we would be facing a major pandemic in 2020 we probably would have responded that they were reading too many science-fiction novels. However, that unbelievable word Pandemic is now in everyone's vocabulary from little children to the aged. Masks are the norm, handshakes and hugs taboo, and don't even think about having dinner out.

But from all this sadness and grief, St. Martin's Home finds many reasons to smile. With Personal Protective Equipment (gowns, masks, hand sanitizer, etc.) at such a scarcity, we began making phone calls and sending emails asking for help. People responded and the much needed and appreciated PPE began to slowly arrive.

Then a simple phone call to Jamie Costello, long-time anchor of WMAR-TV news and very special and dedicated friend to the Little Sisters, alerted him to the situation. Jamie's response of "let's do it" led to Sister Lawrence Mary doing her first Facetime interview for TV. So many of our friends and many, many strangers who became friends answered the call. Church groups made masks for us, as did a school uniform company in Portland, Oregon; St. Ignatius Parish in Harford County spent two Saturdays delivering pick-up trucks full of donations to us; the Knights of Columbus found cleaning supplies when we thought there were none left, and their State delegate made many trips delivering those much needed supplies along with other donations of paper products, masks, cash, and food for our Residents. A young engineering student from the University of Maryland borrowed a 3D printer from her Alma Mater,



Notre Dame Preparatory School, and made face shields for our nursing staff. With the Archdiocesan churches closed and suffering the loss of revenue, parishes found a way to send checks to care for the aged poor. The stories of heroic generosity go on and on and are too numerous to mention here.

Our Sisters around the world hold in prayer everyone who is making kindness and compassion their priorities to ease the burdens of this pandemic. We also ask for your prayers—for our Sisters, for those to whom we minister and for all those who are entrusted with the care of the most vulnerable.

The generosity of our supporters makes the Little Sisters' extraordinary ministry of care of the elderly possible. Perhaps the experience of this pandemic led us all to look at how we deal with pain and loss. Maybe it brought transformation, and a world where the needs of all are seen as the responsibility of all. It sure seems that way at St. Martin's Home.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

As we look forward to many sunny days of summertime, our prayers continue to surround all those affected by this unrelenting coronavirus pandemic and their families. This has been a difficult time for many people and so much of this journey still feels unsettled as we walk these days of social distancing together.

Our Home remains on lockdown to protect our dear Residents who remain virus-free at this time. But there is so much work to do as we pray for our hurting Benefactors, friends, families and neighbors.

It is difficult and heartbreaking not to gather when we want nothing more than to share quality time with our loved ones and squeeze the hands of our grieving friends. We want nothing more than to attend Mass together and join our voices in song. We want nothing more than to hear the Word of God proclaimed to us and receive our risen Lord together in Holy Communion.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the generous donations you have shared with us over these past many weeks and we are inspired by your acts of dedication and service to provide for the needs of our elderly residents. You are the heroic people of our time. We thank you for your continued support throughout this pandemic which has also helped provide personal protective equipment for our nursing staff to ensure the safety of all.

We have placed all of your prayer intentions in the chapel where we remember to pray for all of you, your families and for the end to the Coronavirus.

Most sincerely,

Sister Joseph Caroline
Sister Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.
Superior



THE 2020 NUN RUN IS SWITCHING TO A VIRTUAL RACE FORMAT!

After considerable thought and prayer, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Little Sisters made the difficult decision not to go forward with an on-site run this year.

However, we are sponsoring the Nun Run as a VIRTUAL RUN / WALK!

By registering for, donating to, or sponsoring the 2020 Nun Run, you are a Superhero to the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Residents of St. Martin's Home who gratefully depend on you for your continued generosity!

Registrants have the opportunity to choose a t-shirt size which will be mailed to them!

Awards include:

Two Parish Pride trophies (large parish and small/medium parish) for the parishes with the most registrants

The Flying Nun trophy for the school with the most registrants

Plaques awarded to top runners (1st, 2nd, 3rd male/female)

Arrangements will be made for winners to receive their awards.

Details are found at www.charmcityrun.com

To our hundreds of past participants — we kindly ask for your support of the Nun Run — *as a virtual participant!*

Send photos to use in a slideshow and in e-blasts to:
adevbaltimore@littlesistersofthepoor.org