



ALWAYS A REASON TO CELEBRATE

Even the Coronavirus could not stop these happy occasions from taking place!

- Gordon celebrated his 100th birthday by attending an outdoor Mass at our Grotto, followed by a “window visit” birthday party with his family and friends, while the Little Sisters and staff surrounded him inside St. Martin’s. It was probably a birthday different from any Gordon had in the past, but it is certainly one he and his devoted family will always remember.

- And on one sunny Monday morning, Maryland’s First Lady, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, visited St. Martin’s to thank the Little Sisters for the wonderful job they are doing keeping our Home virus-free. Although we could not invite Mrs. Hogan in, she met with the Sisters in the driveway and brought smiles and tears to everyone with her kind words. Mrs. Hogan has long been a champion of St. Martin’s Home and her continued kindness during the pandemic is certainly appreciated.

- Although the Little Sisters make it a point each day to let the staff know how much they are appreciated, there is one special day when they take extra steps to spoil us. With the virus hanging over us no one expected a celebration this year. But the Sisters do not disappoint, and they showered the excited staff with food, raffles and gifts all while being socially distanced. One of our dedicated donors provided treats for everyone and even sent along a poster full of good thoughts. The Little Sisters had a poster of their own so everyone would know how important and loved the staff is.

As the holiday season approaches, none of us knows exactly how we will celebrate this holy and joyous time of the year, but we now know they can be as special as we make them and from our St. Martin’s family to yours, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year!



Gordon celebrates his 100th birthday surrounded by Little Sisters and staff while his family made a window birthday visit!



Mrs. Yumi Hogan “distance” visits with the Little Sisters to offer encouraging words during the pandemic.



Thank You

From Little Sisters of the Poor



St. Martin's staff is appreciated for the continuous care of our Residents — with not one Resident contracting COVID-19 to date!

KEEPING ACTIVE AND POSITIVE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Need some new ideas to keep you positive as we continue keeping others safe during the pandemic? Try these things:

1. Create an altar or shrine in your home. Decorate it with things sacred to you. A crucifix, some memorial cards of people who have died, pictures of children, grandchildren, friends.

2. Make a list of all the things you are grateful for. Add to it every day.

3. While doing that, maybe there are some photos and keepsakes you'd like to share with others — family or friends. Create a “memory box” to give them. With a note about how grateful you are. And while you are doing that:

4. Listen to music — sacred music, music from your youth, classical music.

5. Write a card to send or drop off to one of our Residents, or to our “hero-employees.” It will lift your spirits as well as the people here at St. Martin's. Cards/notes to our employees can be addressed in care of Mr. Keith Karas; address those to Residents to the activities department. If you are in the Baltimore area, you can arrange for a window visit. Come with your smiling eyes and waving hands. It only takes a few minutes, but it would make our day!

Jesus told his disciples “I have told you these things so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete” (John 15:11). By doing this you will bring joy to your life... and to the lives of others.



MISSING HUGS

During the past months our Residents have used social media and window visits to keep in contact with their families. While these have given them some consolation, many of them say that what they miss the most is a hug. Residents and loved ones alike look forward to the day when they can be together again. So, we might ask, is this realization of their desire and need for close contact with loved ones a hidden “benefit” of the pandemic? Do our Residents’ families now realize more acutely:

- ❖ How much the elderly appreciate visits?
- ❖ How much they long for their undivided attention when they are together?
- ❖ How deeply they crave for and love a gentle touch or a warm hug?

Last March, COVID-19 suddenly stole from our Residents’ families the opportunities to give their loved Residents the “present” of their presence, attention and hugs. We pray that a COVID-free future may soon enable the families to eagerly seize new opportunities to shower their love upon them.



A VIRTUAL RUN

The Little Sisters and Fr. Stan prepare to cheer (virtually) for our Nun Run participants with the help of signs made by our Residents while Colleen honors her grandmother at the virtual Nun Run.

Our 2020 Nun Run – in virtual race format – was a success! Although we missed the comradery and visits with our runners and walkers, the decision to change formats was the right decision.

784 registrants from 23 states participated – and everyone was smiling based on the photos returned to us for the slideshow!

Our 2020 Parish Pride winners were **St. Ignatius Hickory** and **St. Francis de Sales**; Flying Nun (school) winner was **School of the Incarnation** with second place going to **Mt. de Sales Academy**. Thank you for the continued support by parishes and schools!

The generosity of our sponsors and donors allows us to continue hosting the Nun Run. Sincere thanks to our 2020 sponsors:

“NUN” BETTER

WENDY & MIKE RUCK

MAKE IT A HABIT

ASBESTOS SPECIALISTS, INC.

ST. MARK, FALLSTON

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD CHURCH

STERLING, ASHTON, SCHWAB, WITZKE FUNERAL HOME

SPECIAL SPONSOR

ASCENSION ST. AGNES HOSPITAL

ANN & MARTY POWERS

RACE WINNERS:

1ST PLACE FEMALE / MALE Caitlin Keefe / John Ford

2ND PLACE FEMALE / MALE Kyla Keefe / Joseph Bowman

3RD PLACE FEMALE / MALE Pam Wheeler / Caleb Dixon



Special thanks to Charm City Run for helping make the run so successful. Watch for the announcement of our 2021 date!

Please enjoy our slideshow of the Virtual Race: <http://www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org/c34-news/virtual-nun-run-success/>

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As I know you will all agree, the year 2020 is the most difficult in our lifetime. The impact of the Coronavirus in the United States seems to be the strongest in nursing homes across the country. It has affected every one of our Homes in some way. Because we serve the most vulnerable population, St. Martin's has been on lockdown since March. As you can imagine this has been most difficult on our beloved Residents and their families. Everyone longs for the moment to be together again and see each other face to face.

On a bright note, the Residents are now able to have outdoor visits with one or two family members. This is a great blessing and their long awaited "visit" is now possible.

During this time of pandemic, our Residents have found other ways to communicate with their loved ones and many are now proficient in FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, and the ever-popular "window visits". Our activity department has proven to be quite resourceful in the way they've conducted bingo and other games while staying socially distanced.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the 784 people who registered for the virtual Nun Run held on Saturday, September 12. It was a great success and the Little Sisters are so appreciative of all you do for us. This show of support made all of us aware, once again, of how much you are a part of our family.

Please be assured of our prayers for you and your families and for the end to the pandemic. We thank God and our good St. Joseph for keeping all of us safe. Our Residents have been COVID-free and we know we owe our gratitude to our heavenly Father for protecting us.

As this is our last newsletter of 2020, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your generous and heartfelt support during this unprecedented time. Our mission of caring for the needy elderly is only possible because of your great generosity. May God continue to bless you during the Christmas season and may the Christ Child fill your heart with peace and keep you safe.

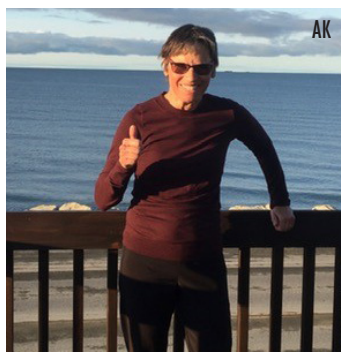
Wishing you a Happy New Year!

Most sincerely,

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



Nun Run participants represented 23 different states in 2020!



50/50 RAFFLE

As announced this summer, our 2020 Gala is cancelled due to COVID-19, but plans are underway to host our annual gathering in November 2021!

As part of the Gala, we sponsor our popular 50/50 raffle...and offer you the chance to win (and win BIG) in 2020 even though the Gala will not take place!

Proceeds go directly to support our Warming the Home Fuel Fund. Raffle tickets are enclosed in your newsletter. Complete each ticket purchased **(each chance must be filled out completely)** and return to the Little Sisters of the Poor, 601 Maiden Choice Lane, Baltimore, MD 21228.

With potential holiday / regular mail delays, please complete your tickets and return soon!

Winners will be notified after the drawing on Friday, December 18.

What a marvelous Christmas gift the winner will receive as the 50/50 winner — knowing the Little Sisters and Residents will be safe and warm this winter!