



April 27, 2020

This past week has been one of sharing, of sorrow, of support, and yet, of beginning to look to the future and how to move forward in safety while living our lives as women religious.

We lean on our faith, on each other and on the many who minister with us as we mourn the loss of five more Sisters whom the Lord called home this week, with the coronavirus exacerbating existing conditions. We are thankful that the virus has not spread to any additional convents and that an external review of our protocols has found them to be in line with best practices.

All of our large convents are in full room quarantine, with Sisters wearing masks when encountering another Sister or employee, receiving their meals on trays with disposable dishes/utensils, participating in daily Mass on closed-circuit television or other channels and participating in daily spiritual communion.

We are so grateful to our partners on this journey, the Centers for Disease Control and city, state and provincial health departments that assist us with guidance and, when available, provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to help us keep our Sisters and staff safe. Recently, we have received PPE from the Departments of Emergency Management in Livonia, Michigan, and in Bergen County, New Jersey, and from our Felician-sponsored ministries in Livonia, Marywood Nursing Care Center and Angela Hospice, where staff have also given of their time for training and to sit with our Sisters. A relative of one of our Sisters has also given her time to assist. Thank you, also, to those who have lent your support in other ways and to all of you who are keeping us in your prayers.

As various locales prepare to reduce their COVID-19 infection control protocols, we are collaborating with our health services team, local leadership teams and convent managers to draft a plan that will map out the safest way for our Sisters and employees to pray, live and work together in our convents, with hypervigilance to prevent recurrence of the virus.

Please pray for all involved in this planning process, so that we, working with public health organizations and state and local governments, may establish a firm, strategic infection control process that includes all foreseeable effects on aspects of our lives as women of faith.

We thank you all for your strength, courage and prayerful support, and ask that you continue to walk forward with us, in hope and faith.

Sister Mary Christopher Moore, Provincial Minister  
and the  
Provincial Council Members  
Felician Sisters of North America