



May 11, 2020

As the earth begins to wake up around us (despite the chill and even some snow flurries this past week!), we are beginning to emerge from the sorrow of our many losses due to the coronavirus, as well as those that continue from the more normal course of life.

We lost one Sister to a death associated with COVID-19 in the past week, as well as two Sisters to long-standing medical conditions, not related to the virus. We are so relieved and grateful that the virus did not spread to any new convents due to the adherence to infection-control directives put in place for our Sisters. We greatly appreciate the cards and expressions of sympathy, the Mass requests and many other kind gestures of love and support that we have received over the past month.

In order to quantify the extent of the spread of the virus, we are beginning to test all Sisters who reside in our large convents where the virus is currently present. To date, we are encouraged that we have seen approximately twice as many negatives as positives.

This past week, we have begun implementing new guidelines released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for releasing employees who are post-COVID to return to work. Some Sisters who have contracted the virus have completed 28 days since their positive test while displaying no fever or other symptoms for at least a week. Others continue to heal and wait for symptoms to subside.

While we maintain necessary procedures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we are looking forward, along with the rest of the nation, to a gradual and considered relaxing of some of the strict protocols that our large convents have been observing for the past several weeks, while following each state's or province's shelter-in-place guidelines.

As we learn more about the characteristics of the virus, we are considering new protocols that may be implemented while continuing to protect both Sisters and staff. We hope to provide some relief from our strict room quarantine in our larger convents, especially for those who are not COVID-positive, while continuing to require social distancing for all and use of masks and gloves when appropriate.

We realize that our communal lifestyle makes us, along with other religious communities, a target for this virus. While we miss our times of gathering, we see the need for continued respect of social distancing and shelter-in-place guidelines.

We will continue to work to keep each other and our employees, as well as those in our neighborhoods, our cities, our countries and our world, alive and safe. Please know that you, and all those affected by the virus, remain in our prayers each day.

May God bless you and keep you, and all those you love, safe under His wings.

Sister Mary Christopher Moore, Provincial Minister

and the Provincial Council Members  
Felician Sisters of North America