



May 4, 2020

As we look back on the past week, we see so much strength and solidarity, despite the distance between each of us as Sisters, and between us and the neighborhoods we love so much.

This week, the Lord called one more of our Sisters home due to the effects of coronavirus, and we continue to mourn her and the other Sisters we have lost. We remain thankful that the virus has not spread to any additional convents. As we care for our Sisters in our convents, praying for them and for the few who remain hospitalized, we remain hypervigilant, on full room quarantine and receiving individual meals on trays with disposable dishes and utensils.

Today, we want to honor you, our Sisters who are bravely dealing with COVID-19, as well as the nurses, nursing assistants, cooks, dietary aides, housekeepers, maintenance employees and enrichment coordinators who provide your care. You are both surviving the physical effects of the virus and coming to know isolation in the truest sense of the word, having only minimal contact with those who care for you, for the safety of all.

We all offer our deepest thanks to our employees who continue to care for our Sisters within our large convents, giving from their hearts through service every day and going above and beyond. For example, in Livonia last week, staff brought light to each Sister's day with small flowerpots that brightened their rooms with a hint of spring. We hope our small gestures of gratitude help to express our deeply felt thanks for all of your service.

And we honor the Sisters, staff and volunteers who continue to serve in our ministries, especially those who are serving the needy at this time of pandemic, putting themselves at risk to minister to the needs of others.

As we completed the month of April, we looked back on a series of dyings and risings, making the Paschal mystery so evident in our lives: Celebrating the Passion, death and Resurrection of our Lord so differently this year; the dying of winter and coming of spring with its beauty; the deaths of 13 Sisters during the month; and hopeful signs of recovery among our Sisters who have been sickened with the virus. We also continue to rise in our knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 and the value of stringent protocols in both protection and treatment.

For us as Sisters, our greatest loss on a daily basis is the communal life that is at the heart of the Felician charism. We naturally gather five times a day – in the morning for prayer and Mass, in the evening for prayer and rosary, and three times for meals. For weeks in each convent, we have observed room quarantine and social distancing, with no shared meals. We mourn the loss of that daily sharing, but we look at the need for public health, and know that Blessed Mary Angela would tell us, "Serve where you are needed." So the common good of public health is our ministry right now, for the good of each other, our employees, our communities, the nation and the world.

Thank you to all who support us with every kindness and with your prayers. We thank the Lord for your support, and you remain in our prayers daily.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Mary Christopher Moore".

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