



April 20, 2020

Today, life as we know it has been turned upside down. We, as Felician Sisters, are both sheltering in place in order to protect precious lives and working through our ministries to assist those in need, who require our assistance even more urgently at this time of joblessness and uncertainty.

The Felician Sisters of North America are not immune to the staggering challenges of our times. We have received news that more than 35 members of the community - Sisters or employees - have tested positive for COVID-19 in three of our large convents, of the approximately 60 FSNA convents located across the continent. Most of our Sisters are being well cared for in our convents, while a handful have been admitted to hospitals for more advanced care. Sadly, two Sisters have passed away from existing conditions aggravated by the effects of the virus. There have been additional deaths due to other circumstances.

We must honor HIPAA regulations by not disclosing specifics of any person's medical condition; however, we will be as transparent as possible for the common good of our community.

We have notified public health officials as required, are following procedures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Public Health Agency of Canada, and are collaborating with our city and state health departments. We have educated our staff and Sisters and taken steps to control the virus. Protocols we have implemented include:

- ❖ In early March, we taught staff about the symptoms of COVID-19 and monitoring for symptoms among those whom they care for, and taught them about how the virus spreads and recommended containment actions, including staying home from work if they are symptomatic.
- ❖ We implemented and have maintained a no-visitor policy.
- ❖ We are monitoring staff, Sisters they care for and any essential health care workers who enter the convent for fever or respiratory symptoms and taking appropriate action.
- ❖ We are requiring social distancing among all our Sisters, including eliminating communal Mass, dining and any group activities, and requiring room quarantine in convents where COVID-19 is present. Most Sisters are able to participate in Mass via livestreaming, YouTube, etc.
- ❖ We have instituted additional safeguards, such as using entirely disposable serving ware for meals.
- ❖ Each of our Sisters is being well cared for; we have sufficient staff and are continually putting much time and energy into obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE) in all convent locations where health services are being provided to our Sisters.

We want to make our Sisters, their families, our dedicated staff and volunteers, and the many supporters of the Felician Sisters and our mission, aware of this situation, and to reassure everyone that we are continuing to take decisive steps to protect the health of all the members of our communities. As the situation changes, we will update you on a regular basis.

Developments are changing day by day, minute by minute. Our focus remains on the health and well-being of each member of the communities of which we are a part.

Please join us in prayer for our Sisters and employees, all the members of our communities and all those affected by the coronavirus. We deeply appreciate your prayers and support as we work together to keep everyone in the communities we serve healthy and well. The bonds we already feel with you have been strengthened by working together through this crisis.

Please know that you remain in our hearts and prayers. Be safe, stay well and may God bless you!

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