



... a compassionate presence in the spirit of Mary

Hello from 7400 Military Avenue!

We hope that you are well and receiving grace during this time. Like you, we have been focused on the impact of the pandemic, and reaching out to you with this letter seems more desirable than issuing a June Discover magazine.

The Servants of Mary are anticipating an important anniversary in our Congregation and would like to tell you a little of that story. As you know, storytelling is a wonderful vehicle for capturing anew the events of the past.

Part of our story began 175 years ago in Cuves, France, a small village 3 hours east of Paris. In 1845 a young French woman, Marie Guyot, along with a small group of friends, began a school in Cuves. United in their love for Our Mother of Sorrows, they joined together to become a religious community.

In time, both the community and the school grew. Due to political unrest, the community moved to London, England and continued their work in schools for poor children, called Ragged Schools. Again drawn by a deep devotion to the compassion of Mary, the community became part of the Order of the Servants of Mary. On June 10, 2020 we celebrate our 175th Anniversary as the Congregation of the Servants of Mary of London/Cuves.

We are grateful to each of you who have shared this journey with us. You are part of our prayer each day.

As each of our stories continues to be told, we can only imagine the stories that will emerge in the post-pandemic world. Hopefully, now and in the future, our stories will speak of experiences of gratitude and grace. Let us be mindful each day to give thanks and to encourage one another.

May you and your family be safe and healthy.

- Sr. Jackie Ryan, OSM



Prayer Ministry, involving all of our Sisters and Associates, is especially needed at this time...

No doubt you received one of our Prayer Cards in honor of Mary during the month of May. The Cards included our desire to pray for your special intentions, and we are amazed at the large number of prayer requests. Each request is placed in a special basket in our Motherhouse Chapel, and throughout each day when Sisters stop in to pray, they will pick up a card or two and pray for those individual intentions. Thank you to all who have asked for prayer. Being aware of the concerns and sorrows in your life helps us to feel spiritually connected as we face difficult times together.

We were saddened that we needed to cancel our monthly Mass and May Gathering in honor of St. Peregrine (patron saint of those suffering from cancer and other serious illness) due to social distancing restrictions. We are honored and humbled to share compassionate presence through this ministry. Requests to be part of this ministry continue to expand as enrollments in the St. Peregrine Prayer Program arrive, and now include individuals suffering from the Coronavirus. Each person receives a personal response and a St. Peregrine prayer card, a small vial of blessed oil, and their name is written in our St. Peregrine Enrollment Book in our Motherhouse Chapel.

There are many heartbreaking stories that come to our attention through these Ministries of Prayer. Prayer is a powerful expression of our union with the God of Love and with each other. We hope that knowing of our heartfelt prayer for you brings you comfort across the miles.

-Sr. Val Lewandoski, OSM





Living a Life of Gratitude...

Gratitude is so much more than saying thank you. It is an attitude that permeates our lives. It challenges us to live each moment and make the choice to trust in life, seeing gift and opportunity even in the hardest times.

When we live with grateful hearts, we are able to stop and ask, “What is the opportunity in this moment?” If we take a moment to stop and look, we will be surprised by opportunities rather than by heavy hearts when life does not work the way we hoped.

We have seen the reality of this grateful living many times over in the last months. It has been lived out through creativity in health care, teaching, graduations, weddings, funerals, and acts of kindness during chaos. We are blessed by those around us who have turned these difficulties into gifts of opportunity and creativity. We are inspired and challenged to live life with gratitude.

Loving God,

We move too fast and see too little, limiting ourselves to how we can experience the greatness of your love and compassion. For the first time in years, we have had no choice but to slow down, gracing us with the opportunity to open our eyes and hearts to this moment. When we look beyond pain and fear, we see you in so much beauty – the gift of all your creation, the surprise of the sunrise, the sound of birds, the fragrance of flowers and the incredible capability of humans to be loving, compassionate and present to the moment.

We have been pained and yet graced in this time. Help us to keep our hearts open to one another and to share generously with one another and with the earth.

We long to live in peace and with hearts of gratitude. Sustain us in this longing. We pray in gratitude.

-Sr. Lisa Sheridan, OSM

Grateful Hearts...

We may not know the names of all the first responders, support staff, medical personnel, truck drivers, grocery store workers, researchers and scientists who have stepped up to face the challenges Covid - 19 has presented. Fortunately, we do know the many people who have been “our first responders”: our friends, families and employees.

A special thank you to each of you for your commitment to the Servants of Mary. Your support, words of encouragement, and prayers have sustained us during this unprecedented time. “We may be apart, but we are in this together.” Whether near or at a distance, we hold you in our prayers. Thank you.

- Sr. Sarah Deeby, OSM

FEELING

GRATITUDE

AND NOT

EXPRESSING IT

IS LIKE

**WRAPPING A
PRESENT**

AND NOT

GIVING IT.

-WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD-

Know that you remain in the Servants of Mary's prayers of gratitude, health and peace,

*Srs. Jackie Ryan, Sarah Deeby,
Val Lewandoski and Lisa Sheridan, OSM*

US/Jamaica Community Council

