

## *From the desk of Sister Marcia Adult Spirituality Coordinator*

Dear St. Joseph Community,

Both Michael Galvan and I were prepared to give the parish community a special Lenten Retreat. God provided otherwise. God's ways are certainly not our ways! What a surreal landscape of needs, lockdowns and social distancing we are facing.

As I prepared this upcoming Palm Sunday commentary and reflection for my Scripture class and Lectio Divina, I thought that you might have the time to take a look at the materials in preparation for Holy Week. Please just email me at [sistermarci@gmail.com](mailto:sistermarci@gmail.com) and I will forward the readings, commentary, and other meditations for your reflection. I continue to do this each week for our Scripture Study Group and would love to add more to this great preparation for Living the Sunday Word. Also, I understand that Give Us This Day is offering a free month's digital daily prayer book for your use. Just go to <https://giveusthisday.org/Digital>.

I miss greeting you in person, and pray for you, my parish community, at our convent Eucharist each day. How blessed we are to have this opportunity to pray for you, our world, all who are suffering at this time and to be more mindful of what is important in our lives. Even nature is responding to the lessening of abusive footprints we've inflicted.

My sisters here at the Motherhouse are under quarantine as we all are. However, we continue to be blessed with the Eucharist as provided by our Chaplain, Father Carl. Please hold in prayer our dear Sister Mary Paul former dean of our Queen of the Holy Rosary College who died Friday evening, March 27, and was buried with only a few of us to attend due to mortuary regulations. Sadly, we could not have her body in chapel during our prayers and Eucharist. Sister's coffin was taken directly from the mortuary to the graveside for burial.

As I was "surfing the internet", I found the following prayer by Father Eamon Tobin for this time. The one thing that *all* of us can do daily, is pray—be it this prayer or some other prayer. May we not forget that we are in a global battle and each of us must play our part to defeat this unseen and insidious enemy.

*Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd and refuge in times of stress, we come to you during this time when lives everywhere are threatened and disrupted at every level.*

*We pray for the thousands of people who have already lost their lives to this virus.*

*We pray for their grieving loved ones.*

*We pray for the elderly in nursing homes and all those in hospitals who cannot receive visits from their loved ones.*

*We pray for doctors and nurses who daily are working long hours and risking their lives to help people infected with this insidious virus.*

*We pray for hospitals overwhelmed with patients and faced with a shortfall of medical supplies.*

*We pray for all who are working day and night to make the medical equipment and supplies that our hospitals are desperately in need of.*

*We pray for all who are engaged in research to discover a vaccine to fight this terrible virus. Holy Spirit, bless the work of their minds and hands.*

*During this time of national crisis, we pray for our leaders working in all branches and levels of government to put political differences aside and work together and efficiently for the welfare of all.*

*We pray for all who have already lost their jobs or are in fear of losing their jobs and wondering how they are going to pay their bills.*

*We pray for our economy during this time.*

*We pray and ask God's blessing on our Saint Vincent de Paul office and all social*

*agencies that are seeking to offer aid to those in need.*

*We pray for ourselves, that we will do what we need to do to protect ourselves and others from this disease.*

*We pray that we will be ready and willing to help others in whatever way we can.*

*We pray for children and adolescents who are experiencing an extended period of lockdown in their homes. May they learn new ways to be together.*

*We pray for our Church leaders and Church family. Lord, you always seek to bring good out of bad things. May this be a time of extra prayer and reflection so that we can hear and see what you wish to teach us during this time. May this challenging time help us to be more compassionate and less selfish.*

*May this time of disruption help us to never take for granted the many graces we daily enjoy, including the wonderful blessing of being able to gather together for communal prayer and worship. Amen.*

In closing, I pray that you each are well and I invoke our Blessed Mother in the words of our Holy Father to bless each of you and your families and friends until we can gather together once again as a parish community:

*O Mary, Health of the Sick,*

*you always shine on our paths a sign of salvation and of hope.*

*We entrust ourselves to you. You know what we need, and we are sure you will provide, so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, leading us through the cross to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.*

*- Pope Francis, March 2020 (adapted)*

Your Sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Marcia Kause". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Your Sister in Christ,".