

# Living Communion

## During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

When the first Sisters in Maria Hall sniffled, Corona virus was still 'abroad' but then in no time arrived and changed our lives at the Convent of the Holy Spirit as certainly changed yours. Sisters from Maria Hall upon consultation of Sr. Judy, the Director of Nursing, Barbara, and doctors, sheltered each in her room, with a warning on most doors "No visitors please". This means that fewer of us have been gathering in the chapel observing regular prayer times, Communion Celebration or televised Eucharistic celebration, while the pix can hardly contain the number of hosts needed for the Sisters isolated in their rooms. There were no more common meals in Maria Hall or daily activities. It has been hard for the Sisters to be on their own for the long days and hard for us not being able to visit and hold their hands when communication is difficult.

Each door and strategic point in the house was armed with a bottle of hand sanitizer and we rubbed it in religiously in addition to all the hand washing. A big sign NO VISITORS on the front door is visible from far away. Meetings with all Heads of Departments has happened regularly, employees more often than not appear in masks and gloves strategizing for a possible future shutdown. Sisters were assigned to learn to operate critical equipment like the industrial laundry and drier, dishwasher, stove, steamer and more. So far, the skills learned have not been put to use but we have yet a way to go. We join all fellow Illinoisans in social distancing, in isolation when necessary, but especially in prayers for the millions of people affected by the pandemic.

Thank you dear Sisters for communicating the situation in your communities and your concern about our senior Sisters especially. Thank you for the calls you have made to brighten the solitude of the quarantined Sisters. Sr. Edel Maria, SSpS notified the US Province that St.Kitts Health Care confirmed two cases of Covid-19 which will cause all schools to close immediately. Please pray for the patients, people, & Sisters in St. Kitts. Sr. Yuliana Meno, SSpS tries her best to keep her teachers and students engaged at home without the commodity of e-teaching. Our Directors of Religious Education are having an especially stressful time given that spring is the usual time for reception of sacraments by the children. The Holy Spirit Life Learning Center has not reopened after the spring break. Let us find strength in communicating with each other and supporting one another.

Most importantly, no Sister, employee, volunteer, or family member has tested positive for Covid-19, so let's "wash our hands" and raise them in prayer!

## Prayer Request

*Please join all local and global initiatives to end the corona virus pandemic and ease the suffering of all affected by it: the sick, the medical personnel, the authorities, the employees laid off, the vulnerable and scared.*

*For our SSpS Sisters Arnolda Kavanamur and Kristina Jawa Lajar in their forthcoming surgical procedures.*

*For the ongoing election process in the SVD Provinces and communities.*