



Safe at Home During the Pandemic

As we deal with the coronavirus emergency, we wanted to let you know that our Residents are safe at Home and being cared for as our mission dictates. The Incident Command Center at Queen of Peace was activated on March 6th. The Incident Command System has been in place at our Residence for several years and is trained on annually by our Sisters and Staff. Mother Celine serves as the Incident Commander and the emergency structure consists of: operations, logistics, planning and finance. Each function is headed by a Sister or staff member with expertise in the designated area.

With our emergency plan in place, we have taken numerous preventative measures to safeguard our Residents. These have included restricting visiting and limiting access to our Home and to our dedicated Sisters and Staff through our more secure and medically staffed lobby. Every staff member is screened for COVID-19 at the beginning of their shift and their temperature is taken. The Sisters do likewise! All of these activities are being fully documented as per the regulations of the New York State Health Department. All deliveries are left outside the Residence. Acutely aware of the shortage of the personal protective equipment (PPE), we conscientiously use what is needed to prevent the spread of infection and make every effort to maintain strict handwashing and sanitizing with alcohol-based hand gel. Additional hand sanitizer stations have been set up throughout the Residence. On a Spiritual note, Daily Mass is celebrated in the Chapel which, fortunately, has video streaming to each resident's TV.

Although the Residents are no longer allowed communal dining, we maintain our full dining menu thanks to the dedication of our food service provider, Unidine Corporation, under the direction of Executive Chef, Eric Maack. Our Residents are having their meals in the privacy of their own rooms as opposed to sitting in the dining room. Group gatherings have been eliminated in favor of appropriate "social distancing" opportunities between the Residents. Our activities for our Residents continue but with the needed social distancing. The laundry continues to be done and our Residence remains on our own vigilant cleaning and housekeeping schedules every day.

Our Residents continue to receive the medical care and medicine they need. They are actively assessed by the Nursing Staff twice daily to be sure to catch any signs of illness in the earliest stages.

We have added to our stockpile of emergency supplies by making several large purchases of food, canned goods, water, paper products and cleaning supplies.

Above all else, our spirit remains strong and our trust in God's Providence and Protection has never wavered. We



continue to pray for the safety and good health of all of you and ask that a cure for this virus may be found quickly. In the 150 years that the Little Sisters have been in America, they have experienced other epidemics of Typhus, Scarlet Fever and Yellow Fever. In each of these instances, our Sisters never wavered from delivering their Mission of caring for the elderly poor. This time will be no different.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support. These are trying times, but together we will get through this difficulty because we are not only partners in a Mission, but family members sticking together.

SAVE THE DATE

31st Annual Golf Outing

NEW DATE August 24
Hempstead Golf and Country Club

Garden Party

September 21
Queen of Peace Residence

Craft Fair

November 7
Queen of Peace Residence

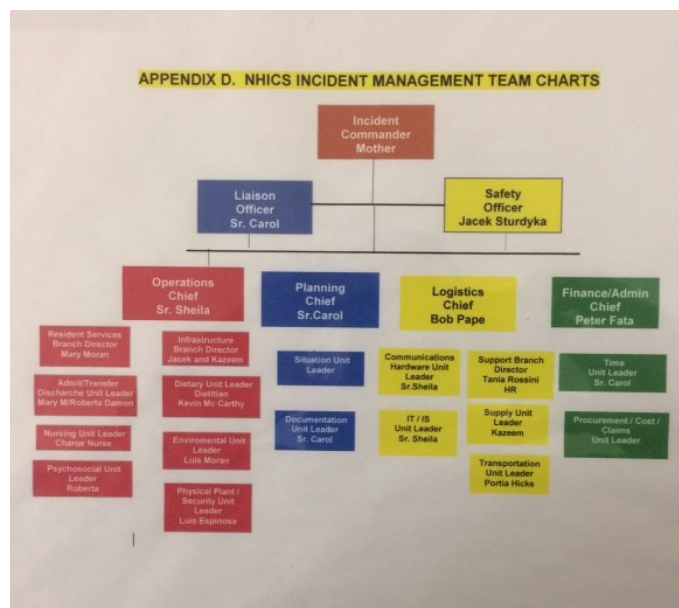
Turkey/Ham Drop

November 14
Queen of Peace Residence

BEING PREPARED

The safety and security of our Residents remains our first priority. Accordingly, the Little Sisters and staff at Queen of Peace have long ago established an Incident Command System (ICS), in accordance with the Nursing Home Incident Command System, which would be activated in the event of an emergency. The ICS is under the supervision and guidance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). On March 6, we activated our Incident Command System to deal with the pandemic.

The Little Sisters and staff assumed their respective roles under the ICS, and continue to conduct their respective roles as we protect our Residents. While we have always prayed that we would never have to implement the emergency procedures we have in place in our Home, we were prepared when it became necessary to protect our dear Residents.



Thank You Knights Of Columbus

"In Service to One, in Service to All"

The above phrase is the motto of the Knights of Columbus. Truer words were never spoken. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Queen of Peace received three very generous donations of much needed health and cleaning supplies from the Queens District of the Knights of Columbus. These donations were arranged for by the local councils comprising the Queens County District of the Knights of Columbus and supported by the New York State Council of the Knights of Columbus. We express our sincere thanks to New York State Deputy Walter J. Wych and New York State Treasurer Robert Graziano for this donation. The work of the Knights of Columbus is truly described as "Faith in Action."



The Junior/Senior Prom *The Luck of the Irish*

On February 1, a traditional joyful celebration continued at Queen of Peace. The 2020 Junior/Senior Prom was hosted by students from Chaminade and Kellenberg Memorial High Schools. Our Residents so look forward to this event each year; it has been taking place at Queen of Peace for 31 years! This year's theme was an early celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

When the students or "Juniors" arrived, they were given a card with their "Senior" date's name and room number. Our Residents were decked out in their finest and were ready to enjoy the evening with these remarkable young people. Each student escorted their "date" to the auditorium. Before entering, each couple, surrounded by green and white balloons, stood to have their photo together. Then the party began with music, dancing, snacks and the opportunity for two distinct generations to enjoy each other's company in a joyful celebration of life.



STAYING CONNECTED IN SOCIAL DISTANCING

By Sr. Constance Veit, lsp

Several years ago, a summer heat wave of historic proportions settled over Europe, leading to the death of over 14,000 people in France alone. Many of the victims were elderly citizens who were left behind in major cities as their families and neighbors enjoyed their summer holidays far from the country's urban areas.

The memory of this tragedy has been very present to me as we hunker down, close our doors and try our best to isolate our elderly residents from the coronavirus for as long as it takes to protect them from danger.

I am confident that our Residents will receive the best care possible no matter how long this emergency lasts, but I worry about the thousands of seniors who live alone out in the community. Knowing what happened in France, I realize the elderly in our country could be inadvertently abandoned as quarantines are extended and our attention doubles down on self-preservation. Let's not allow what happened in France to happen to our seniors!

Even as we practice prudent social distancing, we need to find ways to stay connected to the seniors in our families, parishes and neighborhoods. There are many ways we can reach out to them, even without having direct, face-to-face contact. Here are a few suggestions.

Many seniors are not skilled at social media, but they do use the telephone! Call at least once a day to make sure the elders in your life are well and have what they need. Just knowing someone cares about them will help sustain their spirits.

Make sure the seniors in your life have the food and medications they need. This may mean going grocery shopping for them, or helping them to order necessary items for home delivery. If you need to avoid direct contact, you could drop purchases off on their doorstep. You might even drop off some home-cooked meals, or invite your senior

friends to make you something if cooking is not your forte!

If the seniors you know are interested in using social media to stay in contact with family and friends, offer to help them set it up.

For seniors who own a pet, offer your services as a dog walker.

Finally, don't forget the spiritual needs of your senior friends and loved ones!

As I write this, many churches have locked their doors and many bishops are exempting parishioners from Sunday Mass attendance. But for many seniors, spirituality is a prime source of strength and solace, especially during trying times.

Let the parish staff know about seniors who are homebound or hospitalized and who may need pastoral care.

We began Lent with the imposition of ashes and the reminder, "Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return," a phrase borrowed from the Catholic funeral liturgy. None of us could have predicted how quickly we would become so focused on the finiteness and fragility of human life – this is one of the spiritual lessons of the coronavirus.

During this difficult period, we are also learning lessons of patience, interdependence and human solidarity.

The elderly have learned these lessons through a lifetime of experience. Many of them lived through the Great Depression, World War II and the Korean conflict; the youngest retirees came of age during the war in Vietnam. Personal sacrifice and mutual assistance were lessons they learned growing up in tough times.

Our elderly residents are witnessing to these values in the midst of our current trials as we do everything we can to protect them from the coronavirus. Together with them, we are praying for a quick end to the pandemic and for all those who are laboring to fight it.

Sister Constance Veit is the director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE



Indeed, we are safe at home and all of our Residents are well taken care of during this Covid-19 Pandemic. There are so many wonderful ways in which the Lord has done great things in all of our lives through this invisible enemy (Coronavirus).

We became experts in using FaceTime, Skype, window visits, WhatsApp, emails, telephone, and have spent most of our time helping our Residents get connected with their families. We are using every means that allows their families to keep our Residents loved and cherished during these days and months. I am grateful to one of our benefactresses who donated a large sum of money to install closed circuit TV, in 2015, in all of our Residents' rooms. This has brought many blessings to all of us. We are unable to participate in any religious services in our beautiful chapel. However, we are blessed to have our Chaplain. Father Evans Julce celebrates Mass every day without any participants in the chapel, but all of us participating via TV (Residents in their rooms and apartments and Little Sisters participating in the Residents' sitting rooms etc.). When we were installing this closed circuit TV, I never dreamed that we would be participating in a Eucharistic celebration through the media in our Home. God had planned this for all of us.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the families, friends and benefactors of Queen of Peace Residence for their thoughtful contributions and donations in support of those who continue to provide care to our Residents and maintain our Home during these uncertain times. Our staff's dedication to our Residents, during the Covid-19 Pandemic, demonstrates their commitment to our mission and values in caring for the elderly. We were pleased to see that their actions did not go by unnoticed. Family members and friends of the Home have made it possible, through earmarked donations, for the Home to provide free meals for the staff. Assurance of our prayers for all of you... Thank you....

Sr. Celine Thérèse, lsp



2020 American Bandstand

Remembering When

Queen of Peace Residence held its 4th Annual American Bandstand event on March 5th at the beautiful Antun's of Queens Village. This newest Queen of Peace tradition was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the timeless music of the 50's and 60's. The fabulous Acchords donated their incredible performance for the evening. The dance floor was always filled. The evening featured a wonderful cocktail hour and a fabulous dinner, sponsored by Joe King and the friendly staff at Antun's.

American Bandstand gives our Residents and Sisters in attendance the opportunity to meet our benefactors and personally thank them for their loving support. Our dedicated Auxiliary Committee at Queen of Peace worked tirelessly in preparing for the event by decorating the dining room, ensuring our guests were enjoying themselves throughout the evening and selling raffle tickets and our famous homemade scones during the evening. Thank you for making this a much-anticipated fun event.

All proceeds support the Mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Queen of Peace Residence. Thank you to all who supported American Bandstand. See you next year!

2020 German Fest

Queen of Peace Residence held the 10th Annual German Fest event on January 23 at the Hempstead Golf and Country Club. The sold-out event featured a magnificent buffet of German specialty foods and desserts, German beer and wines and authentic German music with costumed dance performers. A good time was had by all.



German Fest is a great traditional start for the New Year at Queen of Peace since it allows our Residents and Sisters in attendance to meet and speak with those who steadfastly support the Mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor. It is a wonderful opportunity to thank old friends and make new friends. The Auxiliary Committee at Queen of Peace works tirelessly in preparing for the event by creating unique raffle baskets. In addition, the Committee members decorate the dining room, greet our guests during registration and sell raffle and auction tickets during the evening. Thank you for carrying on the splendid tradition of German Fest.

The proceeds from this fun-filled event support the Mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor in caring for the elderly poor with dignity and respect. Thank you to all those who supported German Fest.