



## Still Safe At Home

These past six months have been unprecedented. As we continue to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic, we wanted to share with you that our Residents remain safe at home and continue to be cared for as our mission dictates. As you can imagine, this has not been an easy undertaking. Our ability to still be “Safe at Home” is the result of our consistently receiving the prayers and support of so many of you.

We credit the early lock down of our Home in March with establishing a safe environment. In addition, the early implementation of the extensive preventive measures taken at Queen of Peace have shown to provide the protection our Residents so richly deserve. Such measures have included the initiation of our emergency management system, eliminating all visitation to our Home, restricting access to our Home in the delivery of supplies, and individual health screening of our Sisters and dedicated Staff through our more secure and medically-staffed lobby.

To remain in compliance with the various New York State mandates and the regulations of the New York State Department of Health, we continually update our procedures and protocols. Our procedures are all fully documented on a daily basis as per these regulations.

We have received, and continue to secure, supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and alcohol-based hand-sanitizing gel which have been used extensively as we consciously do what is needed to prevent the spread of infection. As you can imagine, our hand-sanitizer stations throughout the Residence are used at length.

Many thanks to our food service provider, Unidine Corporation, for maintaining our full dining menu for our Residents and implementing the individual service of meals to our Residents in the privacy of their own rooms. As we highlighted in our blog posts over the last six months, the laundry continues to be done and our Residence remains on our own vigilant cleaning and housekeeping schedules every day. In addition, we have implemented strategic environmental cleaning of our entire Residence on a regularly-scheduled basis.

Our Residents continue to receive the medical care and medicine they need from our dedicated nursing staff. They are actively assessed



by the devoted nursing staff twice daily to be sure to catch any signs of illness in the earliest stages.

We are becoming experts in “social distancing” and adapting our Residents’ daily activities to allow for proper spacing. Bingo in the hallways is a new way of playing a classic game!

Fr. Evans selflessly continues to provide for the spiritual needs of our Residents. Daily Mass, via closed-circuit TV, continues.

The stockpile of emergency supplies continues to grow with large purchases of food, canned goods, water, paper products and cleaning supplies. This has been supplemented by the most generous in-kind donations received from many individuals and organizations including; the Knights of Columbus, the Columbiettes, and the Order of Malta.

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.

Thank you 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.

## Angels And Heroes Work Here

There is a simple banner hanging in front of our Home. It says "Heroes Work Here." A simple phrase, but a most powerful one. We are blessed to have both Angels and Heroes working at Queen of Peace.

As we continue to deal with the corona virus pandemic, we have come to realize the many blessings that have been bestowed on us. One of our greatest blessings is our dedicated nursing staff under the leadership of Sr. Sheila and our devoted and loyal operational and administrative staff. Our nurses and certified nursing assistants come to work every day to provide the care and comfort that our Residents need and deserve. Our nursing staff is on the front line of our response to this pandemic and have handled this crisis with grace, confidence and humor. Our Residents truly love these loyal professionals and are most appreciative of their ever-present selfless service.

Our operational and administrative staff make our house a Home. Meals are served, the laundry is done, and our entire building is strategically, systematically and immaculately cleaned and kept in good repair. Our administrative staff insure that we remain good stewards of the donations we receive to carry out our Mission. These folks are equally dedicated to our Residents. They perform their vital tasks with positive attitudes and a caring spirit.

Our entire staff certainly don't think of themselves as Angels or Heroes, but they are. They all have worked, and continue to work, through difficult conditions all in service to others.

Our Angels and Heroes are a wonderful example of what the Gospel asks from each of us — to love and care for one another.



## Our Faith

To paraphrase James Bond, "our faith has been tested, but has not been shaken." While this pandemic has given us all numerous challenges to face, it has also allowed us the time to realize the blessings that God has given us at this historic time. The love of friends and family has taken on new meaning. The power of prayer means more now than ever. The giving of oneself in service to another is a joy to witness.

Dealing with a pandemic is a journey in faith. Perhaps most important to us is that you are in our prayers. We still recognize that in the wonderful and mysterious power of prayer, we stay connected even in a pandemic. We have so much to be thankful for, not the least of which is that the virus has been kept out of our Home. We continue to express our thanks in prayer.

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.

Our faith is much stronger than any pandemic; and God's love for us will see us through. We cannot overstate that our trust in God's Providence and Protection has never wavered. Our faith may be tested, but it is not shaken.



“When I speak with my very dear friend who happens to be an RN and in charge of Emergency Services at Elmhurst Hospital, she is always impressed at how you all responded to this overwhelming problem. She truly believes that you need to write a paper on how to handle a pandemic. So put that on your long list of things to do....Truly you are the poster children of how to do this.”

A daughter of one of our Residents



## The Mission Continues

### *Continuing the Commitment to Life*

The arrival of the Little Sisters of the Poor in America began with a faith-filled journey of seven Little Sisters who left the Motherhouse, La Tour Saint Joseph, in France and arrived in Brooklyn on September 13, 1868. The mission of the Little Sisters is not only as vibrant as ever, but is being entrusted to the next generation of Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters continue to welcome young women into our community. In our history, we have never been without vocations.

Three Little Sisters made their first profession on October 3, 2020. Our Home was delighted to welcome their families to the traditional, and appropriately socially-distanced celebratory luncheon in our beautifully decorated auditorium.

The faces of our newest Sisters were radiant with joy. As St. Jeanne Jugan told us: "What happiness for us to be a Little Sister of the Poor!"

We ask that you pray with us that God guide them and keep them steadfast in their commitment to serve.



## A Papal Honor

In March, Mother Celine Thérèse was informed by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn, that Pope Francis would confer Papal Honors on our dear Mother Celine. In recognition of Mother's long-standing dedicated service to the people of God, and for her selfless service to the Church while in the diocese of Brooklyn, Pope Francis has conferred on her the Benemerenti Medal.

The Benemerenti Medal is an honor awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and laity for service to the Catholic Church.

The current version of the Benemerenti Medal was designed by Pope Paul VI. The Medal is a gold Greek cross depicting Christ with His hand raised in blessing. On the left arm of the cross is the tiara and crossed keys symbol of the Papacy. On the right arm is the coat of arms of the current Pope. The Medal is suspended from a yellow and white ribbon, the colors of the Papacy.

It took a little convincing for Mother Celine to agree to accept the award, which she insists she accepted on behalf of all the Little Sisters of the Poor.

We thank God for the blessing of our dear Mother Celine!



## MOTHER'S MESSAGE



In His Providence, our Heavenly Father continues to accompany ALL of us during these challenging times. We continue to closely follow the recommendations of the Department of Health and follow the guidelines of CDC doing everything we can to keep our Home healthy and free of infection. Indeed, times are difficult for us in many ways, and all of us are trying to keep up with the constantly changing regulations. We are so extremely grateful for the blessings that have helped us continue to get through these weeks and months. We are grateful for our devoted staff (Angels among us) for their love and care of our Residents and for their commitment to the health and safety of our Home.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, our Little Sisters are unable to go to Hunts Point Produce Market and The New Fulton Fish Market, but our driver, Nick Sooman, faithfully collects weekly produce on behalf of the elderly. We are grateful to our Benefactors at these two important places for reaching out to us.

We are also so grateful to the many friends and benefactors who have come to our support through generous monetary and in-kind donations. We are truly blessed. At a time when we are distanced from each other physically, we have intensely felt the closeness of so many good people around us. We can only ask God's blessings on each of you and join with you in praying for a speedy end to this time of trial.

*Blessings,  
Sr. Celine Thérèse, lsp*



### A Special Thank You To Our Friends At The Bronx Terminal Market

We must make special mention of our dear friends at the Bronx Terminal Market who have, over the years and especially during the pandemic, steadfastly furnished our Home with essential food supplies, fruits and vegetables.

These donations come from their hearts not from their excess inventory. The commitment of these unsung heroes enables us to continue our most essential service to our Residents — providing the nourishing meals required for their continued health and safety. We give our most humble thanks to:

**D'Arrigo Bros. Co. of NYC., S. Katzman Produce, Inc., Fierman Produce Exchange, Inc., Coosemans New York, Inc., Rubin Bros. Produce Corp., M & R Tomato Distributors, E. Armata, Inc., Nathel & Nathel, Jerry Porricelli Produce, Trucco, Pan-Hellenic Food of NY Corp., Top Banana Co., Bayer Lightening Fish Company, Crown Fish Co., and Country Wide Produce, Inc.**

### And Of Course, Thank You!

Now is also the time to *thank you*, our partners in hospitality. Without you, none of what we do at Queen of Peace would be possible. You have generously shared your time, talents and treasures with us to care for our dear Residents with the dignity and respect they so deserve. You pray for us as we pray for you and on many occasions, we pray together virtually! You understand the power of prayer and willingly join us in asking for God's Protection and Providence.

As we continue to deal with the pandemic, we are confident that with your continued prayers and support, our Mission will compassionately continue. Blessed be God.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Unfortunately, our 31st Annual Golf Outing and our September Garden Party had to be cancelled and replaced by a letter-of-support campaigns.  
Thank you for your support.**

### PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE:

**"Socially Distant" Turkey/Ham Drop  
Saturday, November 14  
Queen of Peace Residence - Outside  
10 a.m. — 3 p.m.**