

October 14, 2020

Dear Resident Families,

By the grace of God, we continue to have negative results for our weekly testing. With the holidays shortly upon us, we pray that it will continue to be so. As you know, if anyone at Queen of Peace would test positive, that would put us in lockdown for 14 days. Please continue to pray with us that this will not be the case.

Our three novices made their first profession of vows on October 3. The Novitiate chapel was not as crowded as it usually is for a profession ceremony. Only the families of the Little Sisters making profession, as well as the five Little Sisters who had made the retreat with them, were present along with Mother Provincial Alice Marie Monica and the Provincial Council. Of course, the Novitiate community was also there. Bishop Raymond Chapetto, Vicar General of the diocese of Brooklyn, was the principal celebrant of the Mass, which was live-streamed. This allowed not only the Little Sisters who could not attend to be virtually present, but especially the family of one of the newly professed Little Sisters who lives in Louisiana, one of the restricted states for entry into New York. The usual gatherings at Queen of Peace after the Profession ceremony had to be held in the Novitiate. Our kitchen staff prepared the special lunch, as they usually do for the families to enjoy after the ceremony, and carried everything to the Novitiate, even setting it up. The three newly professed were very generous to accept the limits which COVID-19 put on their special day.

On Sunday, October 11, we celebrated the 11th anniversary of the Canonization of Saint Jeanne Jugan. Mother Provincial and I had the privilege of being in Rome for the event. Everyone was happy to recall this special day.

That afternoon, we invited the newly professed Little Sisters and the Novitiate community for an “ice cream social with distance gathering”! We could do this because they too are tested weekly here at Queen of Peace so that they can help with the meal service. Our auditorium was large enough to accommodate everyone while following social distancing norms. The distancing did not put a damper on the joyous atmosphere – everyone enjoyed the ice cream and toppings!

I will be making my annual retreat from October 15-23. Know of my prayers for all of you and your intentions. Please keep me and all of us here at Queen of Peace in your prayers.

God bless you all!

Sincerely,
Sister Celine Thérèse