



I.C. Parish Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic



Father Thomas Ryan celebrates the Easter Sunday Mass in a nearly empty church on April 12, 2020.

On March 20, Bishop Douglas Lucia suspended all public gatherings for Mass, prayer, Faith Formation, and other parish activities in response to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 is an abbreviation for “coronavirus disease 2019,” the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. He also postponed the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation for RCIA participants, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. I.C. pastor, Father Thomas Ryan, has been providing information to parishioners in a timely manner through letters, his Pastor’s Column in the church bulletin, and on the parish website, www.icfayetteville.org. We’ve gathered information from Father Ryan’s March 31 letter to the Parish Council and other parish sources to paint a portrait of the state of I.C. Parish during the first month of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

By St. Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,
And I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
Come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
And unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

State of the Parish During the Pandemic

Masses: Each week, we videotape the Sunday Mass. It is online by noon each Saturday and remains there after that time so people can view it at any time. We have received many nice comments from parishioners in this regard. We have also put a link to daily Mass with Bishop Lucia on the website.

Spiritual Communion: After the presider consumes the Holy Eucharist, he will lead viewers in the Prayer for Spiritual Communion, so they may receive the spiritual benefits of Communion. St. Thomas Aquinas described the conditions for Spiritual Communion as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.”

Parish Office: The parish office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for essential work only. Only one staff person is in the office at a time; most staff members are working from home. Father Ryan is in the office most days from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Church: I.C. Church is open daily for private prayer at a safe distance from others for several hours each day: Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Holy Week: No palms were distributed on Palm Sunday. They will be made available when public Masses are once again permitted. Due to concerns about crowds gathering during Holy Week, Bishop Lucia ordered all churches to be closed from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday.

Outreach: Our Parish Minister, Elaine LaFollette, continues to call many of our homebound parishioners to make sure they are okay and to see if they have any needs. We have a number of people who have volunteered to do shopping.

Priests and Sisters in Residence: Monsignor Ronald Bill, Father Philip Hearn, and the Sisters in our convent are well and keep the safe distance.

Youth Ministry: Our Middle School and High School Youth Groups are making cards and sending them to parishioners who are in nursing facilities.

I.C. School: Our I.C. School faculty is doing an amazing job with virtual teaching. Fortunately, our principal, Nancy Ferrarone, was ahead of the curve and had previously begun training our faculty in this area. Many of our teachers are using Zoom and other online capabilities. I actually read to one of the younger grades on Zoom! All new to me! Nancy also communicates with our parents via email regularly.

Maintenance: Our Maintenance staff members are still



Father Zachary Miller, who served as I.C.’s parochial vicar from 2015 to 2018, is one of the specially trained priests who can visit hospital patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Father Zach’s previous experience as an EMT made him uniquely qualified for this important work.

working and catching up on a lot of projects, as well as continuously disinfecting/sanitizing high traffic areas.

RCIA: I.C. has four candidates in the RCIA program this year: Ed Denny, Greg Broton, Brittany Kmush Dudarchik, and Amanda Thornton. With the Easter Vigil Mass cancelled, they must wait to receive their Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Program director Craig Rheume has held video conferences with the candidates as they await news on when they may receive their Sacraments of Initiation. The elect were dispensed from two scrutinies.

Youth Sacraments: Celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation have been postponed until further notice.

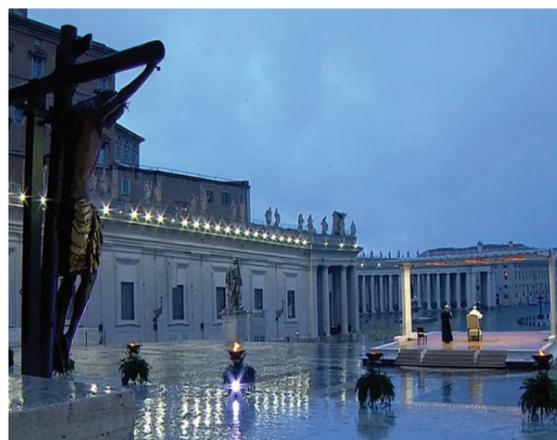
Hospital Visits: The local hospitals are only allowing priests who have been properly fitted for protective masks to visit. There is a priest on call to tend to the sick and dying at each hospital.

Pope Francis Addresses World in Quarantine

By Ana Morley

On Friday, March 27, 2020, amidst weeks of global social distancing and quarantine during the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis broadcast a special Urbi et Orbi (“to the city [of Rome] and to the world”) blessing to join the faithful in prayer. The event was broadcast live on television, radio, Facebook, and YouTube from an empty, candlelit St. Peter’s Square at dusk. The pope prompted remote viewers and listeners to consider God’s call to take heed about a world troubled by illness, repeating the refrain “Why are you afraid?” The Pontiff’s response to the pastoral world community, “Have you yet no Faith?” underscored a simple message that the Lord calls believers to be not afraid and place their confidence in His almighty healing.

His words assured many faithful who had been unable to attend services in their own parishes for weeks that the Spirit has moved through the world to bring our attention to the widespread suffering in it. He called us to recognize the heroic efforts of medical responders, researchers and humble daily essential workers who place themselves in harm’s way to save lives. He encouraged Catholics to take comfort in the countless intercessions placed on behalf of the vulnerable and challenged all to consider their sacrifices and isolation in this historical Lenten season as a practical demonstration of how much less, in material goods, we need in life to thrive and how precious acts of hope are in every effort to survive. The Holy Father’s resonant encouragement to world Catholics was to affix hope, faith, and courage in God’s grace. He reminded all of us that: “Nothing and no one can separate us from His redeeming love.”



Pope Francis (the figure in white) delivered his March 27 Urbi et Orbi address on the coronavirus pandemic in an empty St. Peter’s Square.

Check the I.C. Parish website daily for the most up-to-date parish news, church bulletins, and videos!

www.icfayetteville.org

Novena Prayer for End to the Pandemic

Bishop Douglas Lucia wrote a special novena prayer for an end to the pandemic and asked the Catholics of the diocese to begin it during the week-end of March 14 and 15. It continues to be recited at the Sunday liturgies at I.C.

“O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son’s throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

I.C. School News

Before School Closed

The second half of the 2019-2020 school year began like any other year, with familiar rites and activities. I.C. School celebrated the annual Catholic Schools Week, from Jan. 26 to Feb. 2, with a special Mass, Open House, the Living Rosary, Book Fair, bowling, and the Dads' Basketball Challenge. The kindergarten classes celebrated their 100th day of school on Feb. 13 with counting games and 100-themed cookies. Also that month, two golden retrievers named Hudson and Ted began making weekly visits to the kindergarten classrooms as "reading ambassadors," listening to new readers hone their skills.

The school observed Ash Wednesday on Feb. 26 with Mass celebrated by Father Ryan. Sixth-grade students sat with their pre-K buddies at church. The school marked the end of basketball season by hosting the annual Teddy Schalk Memorial Basketball Tournament on Feb. 28 and 29 and recognizing its student athletes at the traditional Sports Banquet in Dwyer Hall, March 1. Sixth-grader Grace Faigle received the Tom Sommers Award, given to the player who best exemplifies what it means to have faith and courage on and off the court.

During the first week of March, the Sixth Grade Science Fair was held and the I.C. Drug Quiz Team of Thomas Cooney, Richard Riccelli, Hunter Szatkowski, William Kanerviko, Clare Schaefer, Rachel Zdep, Emma Hill, and Meilissa McLain won a place in the Diocesan Drug Quiz finals. They were supposed to be held on March 16 but that was the day that the county declared a state of emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic and all the schools in the F-M district, including I.C. School, closed. Initially, it was hoped that school could resume in April but as of this writing, schools must remain closed until May 15. The March 19 Italian Dinner and Blue and White Night, scheduled to take place on March 28, have been postponed indefinitely.

Principal Nancy Ferrarone and the faculty are doing their best to stay connected with the students and keep them advancing in their schoolwork. It remains to be seen when or even whether the rest of the joyful end-of-school events such as the third grade Wax Museum, kindergarten Teddy Bear Picnic, and the sixth-grade graduation will occur.



Robyn Fisher, Alexandria Todora, Lucia Vayre-Soto, and Noah Gleasman practice reading aloud to reading ambassador Ted. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)



Sixth grade scientist Logan Novak explains his findings to former I.C. principal Don Mills at the March 6 Science Fair. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)



Generous Donation

I.C. School's amazing nursing staff, Cindi Corbett and Maureen Curran, always take such excellent care of us! And during this most unusual time, they are taking care of our community as well. The folks at the Upstate Medical Center's Emergency Department were most grateful to receive a donation of about 400 surgical masks and a dozen boxes of latex gloves from our school in late March. (Photo courtesy of Erin Zacholl)



Random Acts of Gardening

Seen on the parish Facebook page, April 8: It appears as if we've had a mystery gardener at the grotto. THANK YOU to the kind person who did some spring cleaning this week – the garden looks refreshed and ready for Easter! It is the perfect spot to stop for a quick prayer if you're walking through the neighborhood.

I.C. Students Zoom into Remote Learning

By Caroline Agor-Calimlim and Erin Zacholl

To curb the spread of COVID-19, I.C. School, along with the public schools in the F-M school district, closed its doors and began distance learning. Since then, our faculty and students have been connecting via a popular video communication service called Zoom. This conference platform has allowed for classes to be conducted live, enhancing the assignments that all grades have been given electronically. Using Zoom, the students and teachers appear in little boxes on each other's screens and can interact in real time.

Students from pre-K through sixth grade meet at least once or twice a week on Zoom. The three-year-old pre-K class taught by Natalie Stansbury connects for a casual meetup every day for about 10 minutes at a time, while the upper grades hold longer sessions to work on their academic subjects. Janet Kirkgasser's fourth graders call themselves "The 4K Bunch," a reference to the signature grid in the opening credits of "The Brady Bunch" TV show. "It's really cute to see a screenshot of all the students on Zoom," said Kirkgasser. "We really do look like the intro to 'The Brady Bunch,' but this has been a wonderful way to stay connected." In early April, Father Thomas Ryan "visited" the kindergarten classes and read to them "Little Colt's Palm Sunday," by Michelle Medlock Adams, a story about the donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem.

Some of the teachers are also corresponding through email to keep in touch with the classes. Zoom classes will be ongoing until school reopens. As of this writing, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has ordered schools to remain closed through at least May 15.



This is the new normal for I.C. School students: Virtual classes online in their homes. Sixth grader Sophie Oliva uses headphones to help her concentrate on her remote learning lessons. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)

Zacholl Joins I.C. School Staff

By Caroline Agor-Calimlim

I.C. School welcomed Erin Zacholl as the new Fund Development Coordinator. As part of her position, she has been seeking grants for the school and deepening fund efforts, such as endowments, since September. Zacholl brings years of experience as a successful fund development professional to this position. She has worked on both the profit and non-profit aspects of fund development and is affiliated with a professional development association. Her background and connections will serve I.C. School well moving forward. Erin and her husband are I.C. parishioners, and their two sons attend the school.



Erin Zacholl (Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)

To See or Not to See, All You Nations

By Kay Egitton

Do all of you nations *see* what you have accomplished regarding the terrible coronavirus crisis?

I was blind and now I can *see* other peoples' needs to survive.

We began to *see* that caring for others became a priority for so many.

We couldn't *see* or listen to all leaders of all nations. Now, we will *see* by talking, listening, sharing without guns, threats, bombings, and all kinds of destruction.

All you leaders, remember now what your mother reminded you when you were young and reckless: "Can't you *see* what harm you could bring to others?"

The Lord wanted us nations, who witnessed the caring and sharing that was done, to *see* with eyes wide open. This happening will take time.

We will *see* God's for peace on earth and goodwill for all.

Volume 40, Number 1

Spring 2020

I.C. Good News

Published by Immaculate Conception Church
400 Salt Springs Street - Fayetteville, New York 13066
315-637-9846 - GoodNews@icfayetteville.org

Rev. Thomas J. Ryan, *Pastor*
Kelly Ann Kelly, *Editor-in-chief*
Ana Morley, *Editor*

Distribution Coordinator: Julie Trop

Copy Editors: Amy Bleier Long and Gloria Hunt

Proofreaders: Elaine LaFollette and Suzanne Johnston

The I.C. Good News is a free quarterly newspaper created by parish volunteers.

Visit our web page at www.icfayetteville.org/ic-good-news/

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to

I.C. Good News, 400 Salt Springs St., Fayetteville NY 13066

Home Study Resources Available

By Anne Marie Voutsinas

Faith Formation for grades one through eight ended abruptly on Friday, March 13. As of today, we are not sure when we will begin again. But I'd like to take this opportunity to update everyone on what's happened in the past couple of months and what families may do to keep the children involved in Faith Formation.

For Advent, students saved coins that they earned by doing good deeds and collected \$510 for Heifer International. Their gift will help families in need in many developing countries. Students were also involved in classroom service projects, such as making Christmas cards for area shut-ins, collecting personal care items for homeless shelters, and contributing to the FM Food Pantry.

As we began Lent, students began the Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl, an almsgiving program that serves families in need locally, nationally, and internationally. That collection will be completed when we return to classes. If you'd like to contribute, please keep your donation until we resume classes.

Students who are preparing to receive First Eucharist are currently in a holding pattern. We look forward to scheduling this sacrament for our 56 children who have been waiting for this special event since September. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as preparation for this sacrament continues at their homes.

We have many resources for families. Many of our textbook publishers and other sites have opened up their publications and materials for our students to use. We are excited to announce that we have created our own online materials to help students continue to learn about our faith and participate in weekly liturgy at home. Each week, we post age-appropriate discussion questions and activities for families accompanied by a video featuring I.C. teen Daniel Haungs. Daniel reads the Gospel and provides a brief lesson corresponding to the parents' materials for that week. These resources are available to all parish families – not just those with children enrolled in Faith Formation classes – at icfayetteville.org/faith-formation/elementary-junior-high/. If you are in need of any support, please let us know.

Thank you for always keeping our children, their families, and our catechists in your prayers as we continue through this school year. We look forward to the time that we can be together again as a faith community.

Faith Formation News



Before classes were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Faith Formation students collected canned goods for the FM Food Pantry. (Photo courtesy of Anne Marie Voutsinas)

Parish Offers Online Easter Egg Hunt

For the past several years, I.C. Parish has sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt for its youngsters. Each spring, children eagerly search for treat-filled eggs on the grounds of I.C. School. This year, however, the popular event coordinated by Gloria Hunt couldn't be held because of the coronavirus pandemic. But thanks to webmaster Christine Hiney and religious education directors Anne Marie Voutsinas and Gail Capozzi, a virtual Easter egg hunt took place on the parish website.

Voutsinas and Capozzi learned of the idea while participating in an online Virtual Faith meeting and Hiney created the game. As children explored the Faith Formation pages of the parish website with their parents, they could find Easter eggs that linked to printable coloring pages. This virtual scavenger hunt encouraged families to learn more about I.C.'s faith-building programs for people of all ages and gave children a way to enjoy the traditions of the Easter season from the safety of their homes.

Look for more faith-based, online learning experiences in the near future and a return to the onsite Easter Egg Hunt next year.

Confirmation Students Spread Cheer

By Gail Capozzi

The students of the I.C. Confirmation class of 2020 were disappointed to hear that their ceremony was postponed due to the coronavirus, but they have been keeping busy. They continue to prepare for their Sacrament by attending virtual Masses with their families and keeping up with reflections from their teachers.

Students are also performing service projects from home through the Cheerful Greetings Ministry. Knowing that restrictions on visitors may leave senior citizens feeling isolated, I.C. teens have sent cheerful greetings and well wishes to hundreds of our elderly friends in area nursing homes. They are also writing to local hospital personnel to express gratitude for working so hard and keeping us safe. Several Earth Day activities (such as collecting litter or starting a family compost pile) qualify for service hours, too. Information is available on the parish website.



Students in the Confirmation program are writing notes to brighten the days of local nursing home residents. (Photo courtesy of Gail Capozzi)

MSYM Team Tackles Hunger, Loneliness

By Rhiannon Waddell

The I.C. Middle School Youth Ministry prepared for the Lenten season on Feb. 8 at the "Game On" Against Hunger event. Like a committed sports team, these amazing sixth, seventh, and eighth graders (along with their Confirmation student mentors) gathered together as one community to make a difference in the lives of both their peers and our senior generation. Students met in Dwyer Hall and put together 50 meal bags containing breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Families within the FM community who rely on school meal programs received the meals during the February school break. The students also created 50 handmade Valentine's Day cards that the FM Food Pantry mailed to seniors within our community who do not have friends or family connections.



Moving Pro-Life Story Presented

Twenty people attended a viewing of "Unplanned," based on the memoir of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director who had a life-changing experience that caused her to become a pro-life activist. Parishioner Lisa Hall (right), director of the diocesan Office of Family/ Respect Life Ministry, facilitated the event. Viewers described the film as "powerful." (Courtesy of Esther Adam)

Armed with Needle and Thread Resourceful Women Join Fight Against COVID-19

By Kelly Ann Kelly

Since 2014, a compassionate group of sewists led by Liz VanInderstine has gathered at the Fayetteville Free Library for marathon sewing sessions to benefit local charities. Their "Sew-a-thons" have produced an impressive array of clothing, bedding, and comfort items for newborns, children, the homeless, women with breast cancer, veterans, and active duty service members. Now, prevented by the pandemic from meeting as a group, about a dozen members of "Sew Helpful" are working from home with an urgent sense of duty to fight the coronavirus.

Responding to a request from Interfaith Works, VanInderstine and her sewists are making cloth face masks for essential service workers in Syracuse. On March 31, they turned in about 150 masks for the heroic men and women of the Upstate Medical Center. They're also making small face masks for the young patients at the Golisano Children's Hospital. Most recently, Liz received a request for masks for local veteran shut-ins, soldiers at Fort Drum, and troops stationed overseas.

A good amount of fabric has been donated but there is a desperate need for pipe cleaners and garden wire to make the form-fitting nose pieces. Liz had a large roll of quarter-inch elastic that she'd picked up at an estate sale about three years ago that was perfect for ear loops. "I had no idea why I was buying it," she said. But her impulse buy turned out to be a godsend when the pandemic hit. "Three years in God's time isn't the same as three years in our time." All the elastic has been used in face masks; strips of T-shirt material are now being used to make ties.

Several members of the sewing team are I.C. parishioners but there are women of all faiths contributing to the cause, including one Sikh and a couple of Jewish women. Originally, they made masks with pockets for filters but have since switched to cupped masks without pockets; the pocketless ones are less difficult and time-consuming to make and are still accepted by Upstate. One of Liz's grandchildren, Cathleen Bateman, is a sewing teacher at



These and hundreds more cloth face masks have been constructed and donated by members of the Sew Helpful sewing group to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo courtesy of Ann Resig)

Liverpool High School and she has made a video tutorial for making the cupped face masks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wC1Rayq1LAs>.

Anyone who can sew and wants to help make face masks or has materials to donate is asked to call or text Liz at 315-247-0489. Detailed instructions and patterns are provided.

Men's Fellowship Overcomes Lockdown to Stay Connected

By Mike Hausladen

Like so many of the everyday routines we took for granted prior to COVID-19 impacting our lives, one of the activities impacted at Immaculate Conception Church was the Saturday morning Men's Fellowship group. But the virus hasn't stopped us from sharing our faith!

Our last face-to-face meeting was March 14, but we all wanted to continue to enjoy fellowship, study of the Sunday readings, sharing of our faith, and prayer together. When confronted with the new norms of social distancing and isolation, we deliberated as a group what was best to do and we agreed to reduce risk to the group and meet virtually, using technology. After some research, conferencing software was selected that allowed us to connect as a group using a diversity of technology, including phone, smart phone app, or computer. We held a test session for people to practice, and our first virtual meeting was held March 21. In addition, the men from St. Ann's Men's Fellowship group have joined us in the same virtual meeting.

The experience of meeting virtually is certainly different when compared to meeting face-to-face. For those who have experienced remote meetings before, you'll appreciate the extra care participants need to take to prevent talking over each other. And we all miss out on the visual, non-verbal cues you get when you are sitting at the same table with someone you are sharing with.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Men's Fellowship, here is a quick summary of what a Men's Fellowship gathering is all about: We gather in Christ's presence starting with a hymn and an opening prayer. The readings for the subsequent Sunday are read, along with a reflection, and a number of questions for discussion. We then share our thoughts, insights, reflections, feelings and experiences, focused on the readings and reflection. All men are wel-



Mike Hausladen and Matt FitzGibbon (on screen) facilitate the Men's Fellowship Group from the safety of their homes during the coronavirus pandemic. (Photo courtesy of Mike Hausladen)

come and encouraged to participate in whatever way they feel comfortable. Everything shared in a meeting stays in the meeting.

Those who would like to join us Saturday mornings at 7:00, can now join us from the comfort of your home by calling 712-832-8330 and entering conference code 7338157 when prompted, or by connecting with a computer using a web browser: <https://hello.freeconference.com/conf/call/7338157>. As always, you can contact Mike Hausladen (michael.hausladen@verizon.net or 315-256-3069) or Matt FitzGibbons (fitzmkdlc@aol.com or 315-637-0949) to get connected with Men's Fellowship.

God Bless you all and I look forward to connecting with you at our next meeting!

What About My Offertory Envelope?

A Good Time to Try Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Church is a large parish with a \$1.25 million budget that provides many important ministries including liturgies and sacraments, an elementary school, youth and adult faith formation, and several social outreach programs. The Sunday Offertory is the parish's main source of income. How will the parish continue to support its mission and scores of employees during the coronavirus pandemic with no public Masses?

In the March 29 church bulletin, Father Ryan noted that he had received questions from many parishioners about using the weekly offertory envelopes while Masses are suspended. He wrote: "As you can imagine, that is a concern, but by no means should our elderly or those on fixed incomes feel pressure; these are unprecedented days and we do not want to add to the stress we are already experiencing."

Father Ryan described three ways for parishioners to continue to make their offertory contributions to the parish.

- Mail them to the parish office: 400 Salt Springs Street, Fayetteville, NY, 13066.

- Drop them into the office mail slot, located in the door on the left in front of the rectory. Father asked that people not enter the office unless it's absolutely necessary.

- Schedule automated payments with the parish online payment system. Go to www.icfayetteville.org and choose the tab marked "Giving." When you create an online giving account with a credit or debit card, you can choose the amount and frequency of your donations.

More than one third of regular contributors already avail themselves of the electronic method because it's so convenient. The increased predictability of revenue also benefits the parish and helps Father Ryan to budget more effectively. When the restrictions on gatherings is lifted and Masses resume, you could stop the automated payments and return to using envelopes, or you may decide to continue this easy and reliable form of payment.

Social Justice Welcomes Colombian Refugee Family

By Linda Ryan

A Colombian refugee family of five arrived on Valentine's Day from Quito, Ecuador where they were living after fleeing extreme violence in their home country. Immaculate Conception Social Justice Committee members prepared an apartment for their arrival after other Catholic Charities volunteers delivered furniture. Led by Nancy Shepard, Social Justice Committee representative to the Refugee Resettlement program, the following members mopped floors, washed windows, hung curtains, made up beds and set up the kitchen cupboards in the apartment: Gerry McCarthy, Cecilia Mulvey, Linda Ryan, Mary Paula Smith, and Mary Ellen St. Amour.

Catholic Charities Refugee housing coordinator Caroline Kim Tihanyi said that the parents and three little boys are so grateful, and that the dad kept looking around in the apartment saying, "Wow." Their Refugee Resettlement case worker, a U.S. citizen originally from Somalia, took the Colombian family to the Federal building for their Social Security cards. She will also register the children for school and the parents for English classes and job placement. The apartment is on the first floor of a house owned and newly renovated by a couple who were refugees from Bosnia in the 1990s. Some furniture and household items were donated by parishioners and other furnishings came from the Refugee Resettlement warehouse.



Mary Paula Smith, Cecilia Mulvey, Linda Ryan, Gerry McCarthy, and Mary Ellen St. Amour. Missing from photo: Nancy Shepard, who took the picture.

You Can Still Help Others from Home

By Elaine LaFollette

While life in New York State is on "pause," many of us are finding extra time on our hands that we don't know what to do with. Here are some suggestions for ways to help our community while staying safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

Support a local charity

Support local organizations that help members of our own community who are in need and feed the homeless. With schools and non-essential businesses closed, more Central New Yorkers will experience food insecurity and hunger than ever before. I.C. Parish is continuing its monthly food drive for the FM Food Pantry. Check the church bulletin on the parish website (icfayetteville.org) for details. You can also donate funds directly to these local agencies that help to feed those in need: Catholic Charities Men's Shelter, the Samaritan Center, FM Community Outreach, Cathedral Emergency Services, and In My Father's Kitchen.

Reach out to others

Check on your neighbors, while maintaining a safe distance. Call all the people you have been wanting to call but haven't had the chance.

We are concerned about the people who are isolated in nursing homes in our community. There are over 2,000 senior citizens living in the nursing homes listed below – ranging from 34 at the Syracuse V.A. Hospital and a few dozen in each of the Brookdale facilities in Fayetteville and Manlius, to nearly 600 at the Cunningham. Would you please send a note to one or more of the nursing homes in our community and let them know that we are thinking about them and praying for them? Let's shower our homebound neighbors with love!

If you feel it in your heart to send a cheery note, please sign it with your first name only and write "Immaculate Conception Church, Fayetteville" under your name on the inside of the note card. On the envelope, put the return address as: Immaculate Conception Church, 400 Salt Springs Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066. Address the envelope as shown in the list below.

Please do not lick the envelope. Seal the envelope with **scotch tape** and mail it to the nursing home of your choice. The nursing homes have been contacted and are aware of the notes coming. They will distribute the cards to the residents. Thank you for considering doing this to make a resident who cannot have visitors at this time (including family) feel a little bit better during this challenging time.



If you write to a nursing home resident, address the envelope in the format shown, use the church address as the return address, and be sure to seal the flap with tape – not saliva.

A Resident at Menorah Park
4101 E. Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214

A Resident at
Brookdale Fayetteville
5125 Highbridge Street
Fayetteville, NY 13066

A Resident at
Brookdale East Side
7164 E. Genesee Street
Fayetteville, NY 13066

A Resident at
Brookdale Manlius
100 Flume Road
Manlius, NY 13104

A Resident at
The Cottages at Garden Grove
5460 Meltzer Court
Cicero, NY 13039

Attn Nina
A Resident at The Cunningham
700 E. Brighton Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13205

Attn Lynsey
A Resident at Elderwood
4800 Bear Road
Liverpool, NY 13088

Attn Management
A Resident at Maple Downs
7220 E. Genesee Street
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Attn Marylynn Wilson
A Resident at
The Nottingham
Independent Living Centre
1301 Nottingham Road
Jamesville, NY 13078

A Resident at
The Nottingham at ALR
C/O Jackie Sgroi
1303 Nottingham Road
Jamesville, NY 13078

Attn Patty Anderson
A Resident at
The Nottingham
Nursing Home
1305 Nottingham Road
Jamesville, NY 13078

A Resident at
Peregrine Senior Living
at Onondaga Hill
4701 Peregrine Way
Syracuse, NY 13215

Attn Michael Close
A Resident at
Syracuse V.A.
Medical Center
800 Irving Avenue,
8th Floor
Syracuse, NY 13210

Attn Mary Ellen Steele
A Resident at St. Camillus
810 Fay Road
Syracuse, NY 13219