

COMMUNITY NEWS –JUNE 2020



Sisters of Saint Francis of the Providence of God
Confidently, Joyfully, We Go Forward!



If Christ deemed us worthy to live in these times,
at this hour - the only hour we have -
we cannot let ourselves be overcome by fear,
nor allow this time to pass without
living it fully with joyful fidelity.

~Pope Francis

*May the Spirit of Love fill our hearts
and guide our steps!*

CALENDAR

June 02	General Leadership Zoom Meeting 9:00-4:00
June 05	World Environment Day
June 10	Day Care Board Meeting 6:00 PM – Zoom?
June 11	Feast of Corpus Christi
June 15	Chapter Planning Committee Meeting – Zoom 12:30 PM
June 16	Father's Day
June 20	World Refugee Day
June 20	First Day of Summer

BIRTHDAYS & FEAST DAYS

June 02 Ir. M. Suzana B

June 10 Ir. M. Antonina F



REMINDER: PLEASE RETURN YOUR APPROVAL FORM AFTER REVIEWING THE REVISED DIRECTORY AND CONGREGATIONAL POLICIES BY **JUNE 20, 2020.**

THANKS FOR ALL THE WORK EVERYONE HAS DONE TO UPDATE OUR DOCUMENTS AND TO THE DOCUMENT COMMITTEE IN BOTH GEOGRAPHIC AREAS FOR THEIR EFFORTS.

PRESBYTERIAN SENIORCARE PROVIDES WAYS TO CONNECT

Our Sisters in Oakmont have not been without ways to connect and to be supplied with their needs. Sister Eliana has been making weekly trips to Oakmont to deliver needed supplies – and a few treats! Sister Ann



Marie has helped out on some of these trips.

Although no visitors can enter the building, packages may be left at the front door for staff to carry to the residents. But, Sister Miriam was able to



sneak out of her room for a friendly wave through the glass.

Recently, Westminster Place added a plexiglass window in the garden area so that residents may have twenty-minute visits face-to-face through their “chatterbox”. We have made two visits so far to see Sisters Miriam, Elise and Marita. The sisters have loved taking advantage of this and to be outside after three months of lock-down. The last visit gave Pat Enscoe the opportunity to accompany Sisters Janet and Ann Marie for the visit. We will be scheduling these “chatterbox” visits about every three weeks.

Sister Lillian will continue welcoming phone calls but doesn’t want to risk getting the virus through close contact. Sister Eliana visits Sister Sylvia via the iPad that staff hold so Sister Sylvia can see her caregiver at a distance.



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE



Remembrance of those who served in the military and lost their lives was an important part of our Memorial Day picnic as buglers all over the country were asked to play “TAPS” at 2:00 PM. Since

none of us has that talent, nor a bugle, Sr. Peg provided the music on her cell phone as we all stood and paused to pray.



Of course, the comradery and food were great, too!

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD



What a joy it was for all of us to gather with our chaplain, Fr. Fred Cain, for our first Liturgy together since the Covid-19 lockdown to celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost and his 50th Jubilee of Ordination. Coincidentally, his first Mass was celebrated on Pentecost 50 short years ago.



Fr. Cain has been a great friend, counselor, and pastor to us for the last 10 years. The Sisters concluded the Liturgy with a special blessing in gratitude for the priestly example we have been given. Although we



no longer have a Motherhouse to celebrate Liturgy on a daily basis, Fred is always ready to celebrate special occasions and holidays with us.

Sister Mary Ann provided a delicious lasagna dinner before we enjoyed a scrumptious tiramisu for dessert and lots of friendly conversation.

As a Jubilee gift, we presented Fr. Cain with two portions of the beautifully elaborated and calligraphied St. John's Bible, the book of Psalms and St. John's gospel/Acts of the Apostles with the history and explanation.

Fr. Cain will also be retiring from his responsibilities as Regional Episcopal Vicar of Region 2 and administrator of one of the parish clusters. He has worked hard throughout the reorganizing of parishes and deserves a good rest.

**HAPPY 50TH JUBILEE
AND A JOYFUL RETIREMENT!**



SISTERS STAY INVOLVED THROUGHOUT THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN



A house can feel very small when there are 16 of you living together, plus nurses, housekeeping and kitchen staff. But, our sisters at Recanto Paz e Bem have been busily involved with several handcrafts, making cards and working



on jigsaw puzzles, to name a few activities. Sisters Maristela, Helena, Suzana and Maria do Carmo are seen fully concentrated on the task at hand. Sister Suzana oversees work on kitchen towels. And Sister Acacia tries to remember one of her favorite tunes on the piano.



LAY FRANCISCANS PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED MASKS TO A LOCAL PARISH

One of São Paulo's largest favelas is near our two houses in Morumbi. Although the poor have slowly bettered their lives and shacks are now bricked buildings, they remain in poverty. Our Sisters and Lay Franciscans (Associates) have been connecting with the local parish in this favela.

Recently the group made over 400 masks to distribute to parishioners and delivered them personally. Sister Goretti is seen here with several members.



PENNSYLVANIA ENTERS THE GREEN PHASE

Green does not necessarily mean "GO"! Although Allegheny County is now in the Green Phase of the Coronavirus, we are still asked to wear masks in public and maintain social distancing. Continue washing hands frequently and disinfect often used surfaces. Those who are most vulnerable, those 65 years old or older or with medical conditions are still asked to remain at home, although businesses and churches are beginning to open with multiple restrictions and fewer persons.

So, stay safe and stay healthy!

DAY CARE EAGERLY RE-OPENS

Since March 18 the Franciscan Child Day Care had closed its door due to the Coronavirus and the Governor's stay-at-home order. Finally, after eight weeks, preparations began for its re-opening. Staff attended meetings on proper safety protocols, hygiene regulations and disinfecting toys and furniture. Cheryl Gromo and her two sisters made over 50 masks for both staff and children.



On May 13, the caregivers stood in the parking lot and welcomed the parade of cars passing by and socially distancing. Parents and children eager to return held up signs saying "We missed you!" and "You're the greatest". Teachers also had signs with big red hearts and "welcome back" signs.



The first week saw only 17 children returning. By June 15, the beginning of the Summer Program there will be 85 children, which is about normal for the summer. Some will return with the new school year.

ST. FRANCIS ACADEMY TO BE SOLD

Last week, a "For Sale" sign by SVN Three Rivers Commercial Advisors went up near the SFA parking lot. Upon checking their website it seems the Penn Cove Group Acquisitions will be selling the building. They have noted that a long-time renter, the Day Care, has a five-year lease and another new renter, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit will be filling the other half of the building with a Charter School with a five-year lease, renewable for 10 more years.

Renovations are underway, including a new roof, new front doors for both Day Care and Charter School, plastering and painting, and new floors. Parking lot paving will soon begin.

So, it looks like the school will continue offering education to the South Hills community!

