



March 23, 2020

Dear Sisters, Associates, Consociates, 'Ohana, and Familia de San José,

Be assured of our prayers as we all adjust to the safeguards recommended to help stop the spread of novel coronavirus. This is an anxious time for all of us and a lonely time for those in isolation. We wanted to reach out to all of you with three notes, which you'll find below:

- An invitation to communal prayer
- Something beautiful for your reflection
- An update on Congregational Office operations

Your sisters,

Mary *Patty* *Sally* *Sean* *Therese*

Congregational Leadership Team

Join with us in prayer

At this time when the entire world has a share in the same crisis, we have many opportunities to transform isolation into greater unity. As a beginning gesture, the Congregational Leadership Team is inviting all our sisters and ACOF in the world to pray together for five minutes on Wednesdays. We may eventually share suggested prayers, but for the beginning, let us dedicate five minutes ask God for the help our world needs as we face the pandemic. The time at which we are all invited to pray in your time zone is:

- Wednesdays @ 8 p.m. in Chile

- Wednesdays @ 7 p.m. EDT
- Wednesdays @ 6 p.m. CDT and Peru
- Wednesdays @ 5 p.m. MDT
- Wednesdays @ 4 p.m. PDT
- Wednesdays @ 1 p.m. in Hawai'i
- Thursdays @ 8 a.m. in Japan



Called together
for the **LIFE OF THE WORLD**

LLAMADAS A REUNIRNOS | 全球世界のいのちを心にかけて
PARA LA VIDA DEL MUNDO | 全球世界のいのちを心にかけて

Something beautiful in a difficult time

The Congregational Leadership Team wants to bring you something beautiful each week of this stressful time. This week we send a poem from Sister Alice Smith (Maris Stella), who taught at St. Catherine University. Let it help you celebrate the Annunciation. Blessings on your week.

Lines for a Feast of Our Lady

by Alice Smith, CSJ

What shall be added to your praises?
The lip-worn, love-worn, heart-worn
phrases
centuries out of choir and cell
and field and vineyard praise you well.
Like bells over the spinning earth
hour upon hour they tell your worth.
You are the Mother of Delight.
Over the sea you are the bright
star shining. You are the ivory tower,
the ark of gold, the immortal flower
blossoming on a mortal root,
the good tree bringing forth good fruit.
You are the cloud raining the Just One.
Fair as the moon and bright as the sun,
out of the desert light of day
terrible as an army in array,
you come—the Gate of Heaven to heaven's
gate.
What can be added to your state?
The vast, uncountable choir of voices
down aisles of centuries rejoices;
in endless litany proclaims
the fertile flowering of your names.
Hell will not thank you nor death raise
its voice. Only the living praise.
Then shed your grace upon the mind
that we here in these deeps may find

the words we seek, that like a vine
with strong roots in the soul may shine
the litany that climbs and grows
upon the lattice of the Rose.

Update on Congregational Office operations

Government officials have issued a mandatory "stay at home" order for the St. Louis metropolitan area for the next 30 days. Therefore, the CLT and all congregational staff will be working from home for the time being.

You can still call and leave a voicemail message at 314.394.1985. You can also reach any of us by email or cell phone. You can find all of our contact information in the front of your local directory. If you need to find a directory for any of our vice/provinces, look on the Directories webpage in the Members Only section of the congregational website (username: Carondelet1836 and password Communion).

