



Advent 2020

Dear Relatives, Friends and Benefactors,

Many of us remember Miss Doris Ann running around here with her red plaid tam on, feeding her dog, making cards or playing games on her computer, sitting by the fire in her recliner, reading on her tablet, preparing boxes of food,

greeting people at the Food Pantry every month, cooking hamburgers for the rummage sales, and in the summer planting, hoeing, harvesting vegetables in the garden and then freezing or canning them. The last few years have seen Doris Ann struggling with many health issues as she recovered from a serious car accident in 2005 and then a household accident about 5 years ago. When Covid hit she was in a local Nursing Home for rehab for a shoulder replacement. It had had no cases for six months. However, when someone brought it in, she was vulnerable and became infected and died from it on September 27, 2020 after being at the hospital less than 24 hours. Neva and I were able to be in the ICU looking through the window as she received the Last Anointing and took her last breaths. We were able to have the wake on the patio of St. Michael House where it would be safer and then the funeral Mass and burial at St. Joachim's in Old Mines the following day celebrating her life of almost 84 years and her dedication as a Rural Parish Worker for 46 years.

Except for our monthly Food Pantry most of our communal activities have been canceled this year. Families drive by and our volunteers place their boxes in the trunk, bed or hatch back of their vehicles. We have avoided going out except to church, the grocery store and other rare occasions. We visit Monica through her bedroom window using cell phones to communicate. We interview families who need assistance over the phone and ask anyone who comes here to use a mask. Many of you have been very kind to call to see how we are or what you can do for us or our neighbors. Our Spring Newsletter and Raffle netted \$14,000 thanks to all who participated.

We are thrilled to announce that the 'Friends of the Rural Parish Workers' sent out notices, raffle tickets and solicited corporate donations for the Non-Fashion Show in October which realized a fantastic amount of \$100,000 for our work. What a surprise and a blessing!!! We are grateful to the Committee led by Chris Desloge, Cindi Mentel and Jane Baalmann whose tireless efforts were truly blessed by God's goodness.

In addition, we received notice that we will receive a \$50,000 grant from the Annual Catholic Appeal for 2021-2022. Through the work of one of our “Friends” the Sign of the Arrow awarded us \$3000 for our Care Program in October.

We were delighted to be present at the blessing of the new Rural Parish Dental Van a compliment to the Rural Parish Medical Van which was able to resume services in July. Our new Archbishop, Mitchell Rozanski blessed it after a noon Mass he celebrated on October 24 at St. Joseph Parish in Cottleville where our Secular Institute began in 1942 The Dental Van twill be put into service by the beginning of 2021 for rural area needs.

May Christmas Blessings surround you and your family during this Holy Season and may you feel the benefits of the three Holy Masses offered for you and your intentions in our parish Church during the Christmas Season. May you share in the blessings of our prayers for you “without ceasing.” Thank you for your prayers and support also.

In Christ,

Rural Parish Workers of Christ the King

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