

June 2020



Dear Friends, Relatives and Benefactors,

How the world has changed since we wrote to you in December of 2019! First we were bombarded by reports of the Caronavirus and now the protests and riots. We join our prayers to all those in the world who: intercede for the sick and suffering; ask for courage and strength for those caring for them; petition for peace and justice and hope for a world governed by respect for each individual.

The past six months have been rewarding but stressful. At Christmas we were able to assist 200+ families with generous boxes of food, new toys for the children and gifts for all who came for help. Our Epiphany Party was a joyous experience at St. Michael House with children acting out the roles of the Magi and then playing games for toys and gifts. We were able to have two of our monthly St. Michael Day Lunch/Parties before the Covid 19 hit. So activities ground to a much slower pace. We've had drive-through Food Pantry Days in March, April and May. Because of the stimulus money and extra food stamps families have received we have not had many requests. We are aware this may change significantly in the coming months.

In early March Doris Ann entered a local nursing home in Potosi for therapy and has not been able to come home until now. Visits were made through the glass door and with the help of cell phones. Monica is a permanet resident there now and we were able to visit the same way leaving items at the entrance for them.

After discussing this with the Director and teachers we regret that we have to cancel our annual Vacation Bible School for this summer. We don't think there is a way we can safely do this in St. Michael House.

During the pandemic the Rural Health Clinic was closed due to the inability to keep the staff and patients safe. You may have seen in the Archdiocesan Catholic Magazine that the doctor, Sr Marie Paul Lockhart, ministered to the priests at Regina Cleri during this time. She and the Staff hope to resume seeing patients sometime in July at the Clinic.

Since the Covid 19 Natalie has attended eight funerals in the Cemetery, Funeral Home or Church of friends and neighbors. None were from the Covid and most were elderly. It is certainly a reminder to be ready at all times.

We have had more time to pray and reflect and look forward to a retreat planned at Guest House in Belleville postponed from June to August. Know you will be remembered in our prayers there and every day here.

We are sorry to hear the news that our dear friend and strong supporter Archbishop Robert Carlson is retiring from office after 11 years of dedicated service to the people of the Archdiocese. He forwarded our cause through the Annual Catholic Appeal, special grants and he was instrumental in establishing the Rural Health Clinic which provided free care for area residents who have no insurance. We will deeply miss him and his attention to our ministerial and spiritual needs. We welcome our new Archbishop, Mitchell Rosanski, who will be installed for the St. Louis Archdiocese on the Feast of St. Louis, August 25.

The Friends have cancelled the Fashion Show in October due to the number of guest allowed at an event. Please pray for that intention since it is a significant part of our budget each year and we would greatly miss the proceeds and the gathering of these awesome women. Look for more information coming soon for those of you who get an invitation to the Show.

Be assured of our prayers for you and your loved ones for safety, good health and the abundance Christ came to give us.

*"I came that you may have life and have it to the full."* John 10:10

Gratefully in Christ,



Natalie Villmer, for all the  
Rural Parish Workers of Christ the King  
And those they serve

The enclosed tickets will help support St. Michael House Activities. Thanks for your support.

#### HOW TO CONTACT US

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