

From: [REDACTED]

To: Kelly Vidunas <kelly.vidunas@oracle.com>

Subject: Re: Happy Easter!

Hi Kelly!

Happy Easter to you! Who would have thought the last time we spoke what we were really in for! This is so surreal!

I have been keeping in contact with one family by phone fairly regularly, and they are so grateful!

I have also talked to the grandfather of another family on the phone a couple times. This family is the one where our student lost their mother recently. Actually, I wrote a card to them and put some of your gift cards in there just this past Wednesday. I shared again that the caring people at All Saints Episcopal wanted to help. I spoke to the grandfather and told him I was mailing a card and to be looking for it, but did not tell him what was in it. (When I thought about it, I really should have told him what was in it! Oh well- next time!) Because he and his wife are in their 80's and she is ill, they are both at high risk for COVID 19, I did not want to take it over there myself.

This morning, I got a voicemail from him that they received the card and gift cards and they are just so overwhelmed by the kindness from all of you at All Saints Episcopal. He shared that they are struggling financially and to be able to use what was going to be grocery money to put towards keeping the lights on made all the difference in the world. He said that he fought in Vietnam, has had the same wife for 45 years and a house full of kids, but nothing prepared him for the grief that came from losing a child and mother of his grandchildren. He said it's not only his and his wife's grief, but seeing her children's grief (his grandchildren) is sometimes almost too much to bare. And that while things are extremely hard financially and emotionally, he is completely overcome by the gestures of kindness he and his family have been shown from by people who don't even know him or his family. There are some days that he thinks it's just too much to handle, and then a card like this shows up. He said "I don't believe in coincidences, this is God telling me not to give up, that he's got me." He asked me to please send his sincere gratitude to you and your congregation, for you all have reminded him that there is still so much good and love in this world.

Yes, I was crying after hearing that! :-) Please feel free to share that with your members!

You are the best! Oh, you know I will put those cards you have to good use! Let's catch up sometime next week, and I can pop over there. Thank you Kelly. Truly. You and your church are making a huge difference in these tough times. If you do collect anything else, Walmart might be a good place as well. That way, they can get more than just food if they need it. Or even Amazon so they can order essentials and have them delivered. Or you know what else might be cool- gift cards for pizza delivery or UBER eats or Door Dash (do they even have gift cards?) I think it would be so nice to give them a splurge night of no cooking and the kids get to eat pizza or whatever.

Last week I gathered a bunch of board games, card games etc and distributed them to the families along with "Ms. Duane's guide to family connection and fun during quarantine!" 🍷 I'm trying to

use this time to build parent/child communication skills etc! Always working. Ha ha. Anyway, maybe pizza and family game night? 😊

Anyway, What do you think? Honestly, though, you all have done so much already, and the families you are helping are so incredibly grateful as am I. Please don't feel obligated to do anything else. I only shared the above because of our conversation in your driveway about other needs etc. There will always be need no matter how much you, me or anyone does, so please know how thankful I am for all you have already done!!!!

Happy Easter to you, your family, and your church family!!!

Thank you!!!

