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**Christmas Letter 2020 – Corona Year**

Dear Friends and Associates of the Order,

Seasons greetings from the Prince of Peace to all of you, and especially to those who are affected or impacted by the pandemic this year 2020. What a year it has been so far! We pray daily for the safety and health of all of you, your loved ones, and for the whole world. Thank God many of us are still alive, although the pandemic has consumed over a million people worldwide.

We lost our dear Sister Barbara Louise on August 11, 2020 after a brief illness. Her passing was not due to Covid-19. Sister was 88 years old and active in her ministry until the end. Due to the pandemic, she could not teach her students in person; but she taught on the phone almost daily. She loved her students and found great satisfaction in her teaching ministry. Sister Barbara Louise was looking forward to attend the Church of the Ascension when it would reopen; but to her great surprise she entered into the Church Triumphant before the Church reopened here on earth. This will be the first Advent and Christmas without her presence in the convent in the nearly forty-five years since she dedicated her life to Christ.

Due to the pandemic, many the things have changed and it has affected our ministries at the Church and in the neighborhood. The Church of the Ascension has remained closed most of the time this year due to the pandemic restrictions. Our Warden, Fr. John Heschle has been kind enough to celebrate the mass in the convent chapel often. That has been a real blessing and I could scarcely imagine not participating in the Eucharist for almost a year. We did not celebrate St. Anne's Day this year as we have done in the past due to the church closure. Sister Judith Marie continues to serve as an on-call chaplain and Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago. Julie Kimani and ChimChim Daniel continue to live in the convent and help at the St. Anne's Home in Rogers Park. Ashitha Pathrose, a physician from India, continues to live here and work as a research scholar in the Department of Radiology at Northwestern University Hospital in Chicago. We continue to do the homeless ministry even though we had discontinued it for a while. We have financially supported several organizations due to the pandemic, apart from our yearly giving.

By the grace of God, the pandemic has not yet affected our outreach ministry at St. Anne's Home for Recovering Women in Rogers Park, Chicago. The Home has remained full the majority of the year, especially at the peak of the pandemic. We have not chosen to close the Home during the pandemic, since our residents are homeless and would have no other place to go. The manager, Ms. Billie Williams has stayed with them and everybody has stayed safe by following the guidelines issued by the CDC. We have been able to distribute food and other household items to individuals, families and churches that we received from World Vision. Our residents at St. Anne's Home have recently started feeding the homeless in the Rogers Park area with packed lunches which they enjoy.

We would like to extend our appreciation to our visitor Bishop Jeffrey Lee, our Warden, F. Heschle, as well as our Associates, Friends, Board Members, and Benefactors. We also extend our appreciation and gratitude to our Parish Church, the Church of the Ascension, the present Rector, Fr. Raymond, the assisting priests and parish members past and present. We are grateful for your love, prayers, and support throughout the years.

At this junction, as only one Sister is left at the Convent of St. Anne here in Chicago, people may have questions about the future of the convent. The answer is, "I do not know; but the one thing that is certain is that the Lord God knows." Sister Judith Marie will continue to stay at the convent as long as the Lord wants and together with the Psalmist she can truly say, "I trust in the loving kindness of God forever and ever." The Psalmist declares that, "Our steps are directed by the Lord, he strengthens those in whose way he delights." Psalm 37:24.

Peace and Joy,  
Sister Judith Marie  
Order of St. Anne, Chicago

