

COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

An “Unprecedented” Mission Moment - March-29

Franciscan Ministries Takes Precautionary Measures in Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The health of our employees, residents and their families is our number one priority at Franciscan Ministries. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) becomes more widespread, we acknowledge the importance in addressing concerns and questions as well as communicate actions that our organization is actively taking. For current information visit [franciscanministries.org/coronavirus-response](https://www.franciscanministries.org/coronavirus-response)



**FRANCISCAN
MINISTRIES**

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A word that I hear being spoken over and over these past days has been “unprecedented.” Yes, this is an unprecedented time. The whole world is engaged in the events that are unfolding around us and yes, they are challenging, unsettling, surreal.

But what has also been unprecedented has been the extraordinary outpouring of love, kindness and creativity. It has amazing to see pictures of our residents doing exercises from their rooms with smiles on their faces, playing bingo in the halls, children sending in pictures to brighten everyone's spirits, caring hearts notes from family members posted on the doors. These are moments of extraordinary joy and kindness. But in so many ways this time reveals the core of who we really are. We are connected to each other. We want to bring joy and kindness to each other. We all have an innate ability to be a creative, life giving force in the world.

I read something about the canals of Venice. For the first time in a long time you can see the beauty at the bottom of the canals and all the fish and life that they hold. Since there is no traffic right now all the sediment has fallen to the bottom. This beauty has been there all along. It is just now you can see it. This is true of all of us. As the world is in the time of “pause” our true core, our beauty is being revealed.

While the events around us are indeed unprecedented, this time has been a clearing away of a core truth. Our center, our joy is rooted in our connection to each other. Today we know that we need physical distance for our safety, but we are all the more connected to each other in a much deeper, much more profound way. Perhaps in the time ahead when this storm has passed, this will be one of the lessons we will bring into our future.

On March 27, Pope Francis invited the world to be connected in a special blessing as he prayed over the entire world. Unprecedented. Yes, this isn't usually done at this time but maybe coming together and lifting one another up will become our “new normal.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvE1ncKned8&feature=youtu.be>

You are all in our hearts and prayers. Thank you for all you are doing.

Dawn Mayer

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Vice President of Mission Integration
and Pastoral Care

