

## Rose Avenue Community during the” Lockdown”



We at Rose Avenue are under strict orders from our mayor: “Stay safe; stay home!” Like most of the world, we are doing our part to abide by these surreal restrictions so as to keep the coronavirus from spreading.

We’ve organized ourselves to meet every day for a Holy Communion service. We maintain social distancing and wear our masks. We meet in our living room/dining room area so we can keep to “social distancing” regulations. This routine has become a cherished moment of grace for all of us present. In the meantime, Maria

devotes herself to keeping our little chapel beautifully adorned with fresh flowers and healthy plants. Individually, we tune-in to various, daily online Masses live-streamed from local churches and from cities around the world. One may attend Mass in Rome, while another in Dallas, Texas.

Theresa Berry is now using Zoom technology to teach her weekly Sunday Mass preparation classes to her students at St. Paul the Apostle School. Enda and Teresa Mc Shane continue with their roles as Mary and Joseph Retreat Center Board members. Their meetings in the last two months have also been conducted on Zoom, which Mary Carmel has assisted them in setting up and using. Karen continues her work as a psychotherapist from her apartment using another video conferencing platform.

Margaret Mary and Theresa B. made a beautiful banner to say *Thank you* and *God bless you* to our health care workers on the front lines. It hangs on the front of our house and has been enjoyed by passersby. They also did a poster for our devoted mail carriers who also risk exposure to the virus in their daily rounds.

It seems this has been a time when all of us have had to sharpen our computer skills. Clare has been delighted to learn how to connect to an audio-visual platform, and like all of us, continues with her email outreach to those who need a listening heart and want our prayerful support.

We do realize that all of us at Rose Avenue are *BBC*, that is, we were “born-before computers.” As we stretch to become more computer-savvy, we find ourselves amazed at and grateful for the role the computer plays in our spiritual lives, our ministries, and our compassionate outreach – especially during this perilous time.

Who would have thought !



Mary Walsh and Karen Derr