



ST. MARY'S HOME  
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

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April 3, 2020

Rev. Frank Latzko  
Pastor  
St. Teresa of Ávila Catholic Church  
1950 N. Kenmore Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60614

Dear Fr. Latzko:

The generosity of the parishioners of St. Teresa of Ávila is beyond measure! Boxes and bags of greatly needed items from our wish list appeared almost magically at the front door of St. Mary's Home. Our community of Little Sisters of the Poor is so very grateful for this outpouring of support from St. Teresa of Ávila. Please convey to your kind and caring parishioners our profound appreciation.

We are especially thankful for the many, many donations during these uncertain and challenging times. Due to the ongoing pandemic, St. Mary's Home has been taking—and continues to take—extensive protective measures out of an abundance of caution in order to secure the safety and well-being of our dear Residents as well as our dedicated staff.

As you know, on March 27, Pope Francis delivered an *Urbi et Orbi* blessing ("To the City and to the World") to pray for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. In his meditation, the Pope compared our current situation to that of the disciples at sea with Jesus as an unexpected and violent storm suddenly arises. The disciples are afraid, but Jesus urges them to have faith that God would save them. Like the disciples in this passage from the Gospel of Mark, we are frightened and anxious, yet we are also called to trust in our Heavenly Father. What's more, this fearful moment offers an extraordinary opportunity, as Pope Francis reminds us, "to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not."

The selfless generosity of your community shows that your parishioners are taking the words of our Holy Father to heart. Their goodness inspires us in our vital mission.

Now more than ever, we Little Sisters must continue our work and trust that God will provide such kind benefactors as you and your faithful parishioners of St. Teresa of Ávila. May our Heavenly Father continue to watch over you and keep you safe.

Gratefully,

Sr. Maria Francis, I.s.p.