



- We are all in this together -

Art by Aurélie Bradley, commissioned by Margaret Frazier, Head of Marymount International School, London.

**MARYMOUNT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, LONDON.** . . in our Marymount enthusiasm, we have started with high expectations . . . of the adjustment period to on-line learning. In planning meaningful work for what we have never done on this scale before . . . [we] will adjust work load and make stronger connections across video and even phone with teachers and advisors in the days and weeks to come. . . . As we . . . finish our first week of "adapting and adjusting", follow your daughter's lead. Take time for family, for fresh air as allowed in daily exercise. . . and enrichment activities. . . Take a breath. Take time with each other.

## RSHM: PRAYER AND SERVICE IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

In this time of tragedy, anxiety, and isolation, we share with you prayers for support and reflection, as well as a some examples of ways our sisters are continuing their ministries during this critical time.

## GLOBAL NETWORK OF RSHM SCHOOLS: TEACHING AND LEARNING REMOTELY

**MARYMOUNT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, ROME** . . . students are busy following their rigorous program of studies. . . in their online Zoom classrooms, which is quickly becoming the new normal for educational institutions worldwide. Today's topics. . . included a very current issue as Sixth Graders analyzed ways to relieve stress in their Health class. Grade 7 English students delved into Romanticism while Grade 8 Italian students continued with their study of grammar rules and expressions. Students in Grade 9 Philosophy reflected on "Human Nature" as they looked at Rousseau's, Locke's and Hobbes' influential theories, and Grade 10 French students engaged in written exercises followed by oral presentations. Grade 11's IB Theory of Knowledge students reviewed material for their upcoming essay and looked at various propositions that question the truth of knowledge (i.e. the truth in math). [https://www.facebook.com/marymountrome/videos/556362851931718/?\\_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARcafyu2F52vAuhAdcR8IVrKEfegf1RXIVKZydaIZ0CVhXXY0xB7-HHp4AxCpp1Lrj63FYE3JxQNcHS](https://www.facebook.com/marymountrome/videos/556362851931718/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARcafyu2F52vAuhAdcR8IVrKEfegf1RXIVKZydaIZ0CVhXXY0xB7-HHp4AxCpp1Lrj63FYE3JxQNcHS)

### MARYMOUNT, CUERNAVACA, MEXICO



**COLÉGIO DO SAGRADO CORAÇÃO DE MARIA, LISBOA** Today [March 24] National Student Day is celebrated! Although we are not physically in school, we continue to all be knowledge builders. We continue to seek to deepen the areas of knowledge and intellectual, physical, human, spiritual and artistic development using new forms of communication to maintain learning and shorten the distance. Today, teachers and students faced with a new situation, reinvented learning, and being at school at home. It is a new world that we are rapidly exploring and in which collaboration between students and teachers is essential, without forgetting parents and the rest of the educational community. On this student day in 2020, we remember the words of Father Gailhac that remain as a guide for our action: "Education is one of the works that matters most for the good of the Church that which produces the most certain, most extensive and most lasting fruits."

## SCHOOLS, continued

**COLÉGIO DO SAGRADO CORAÇÃO DE MARIA, FATIMA:** I share a short video of a distance learning class of Physical Education, made by a student of the Colégio do Sagrado Coração de Maria, in Fátima:

<https://youtu.be/cIAX0va4Z3M>

Also a note about an activity proposed by the Science Club teacher: “For many students, Thursday is the best day of the week: it is the day of the Science Club. Therefore, I propose an activity that everyone can do (including parents). It sounds simple, but it requires training and concentration! Afterwards, tell me how it went. Virtual kisses” Testimony of a mother: “Miguel loves the Science Club and misses the school! Let us all do our part so that the return is as fast as possible!” We have kept classes at a distance using the following programs: Moodle, Google Class Room, programs from school textbook publishers and chat rooms. For teachers' meetings, we use the Microsoft Teams platform. Everything has been going well.

## MARYMOUNT SCHOOL, BOGOTA COLOMBIA

Morning prayer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTr78MSA3MY&feature=youtu.be>



Marymount Bogotá - Oración de la mañana

## MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF MINISTRY

**SLEEPY HOLLOW, NEW YORK.** The RSHM LIFE Center is doing what we can to help the community we serve through these difficult times. The staff are staying in touch with the children in our After-School Program by phone and video chat to help with homework. The immigration legal office is working by phone too. This crisis has created even greater challenges for immigrants, especially the undocumented. Social distancing and the closure of non-essential businesses means most of the families we serve are without jobs now, and money is very tight. A group of local closed restaurants wanted to provide meals to families both to help others and



keep some of their employees working. They asked if the LIFE Center would be the distribution site for meals. It was a major undertaking, but our staff wanted to help the families any way possible. Our first food distribution went well; we provided 443 meals. We will also be distributing groceries from the food bank starting next week. Following strict safety guidelines, we hope to continue providing food and support throughout this crisis.

**FROM LOS ANGELES, CA.** California has been in a state of “lock-down” for weeks, so schools have been closed, and on-line teaching is in process. It gives me more time, so I accepted a request from a local pastor who is struggling with the English language. He needed some help with his English homily and for information for the parish bulletin. So he emails me his sermon in English and I edit it. It’s really easy for me, but he is so grateful for the help and for the hours saved. When I read his homilies, I discover inspiring thoughts that produce wonderful moments of prayer and reflection. I wonder who is more grateful for the collaboration – him or me.

## MINISTRIES, continued

**NURSING IN ZIMBABWE, AFRICA:** I am currently in Harare at Parirenyatwa group of hospitals doing nursing management and administration mid January to April. At this hospital we only doing basic corona virus screening for clients and staff. There is a hospital within Harare which has been designated for management of corona virus cases. No ventilators and we don't have the necessary protective clothing yet. However on the news this evening they said that the equipment including testing kits have arrived. There is still a lot to be put in place. We still have long hours of load sharing, no running water etc. Very challenging to have this pandemic on the country which is already struggling economically. . . . At the regional hospital in Chinhoyi, we had the first case of corona death and we are at risk though we try to be safe. We don't have adequate protective clothing right now. We have N95 masks and sanitizer. It's sad but the country doesn't have much.



**GUADALUPE, MÉXICO:** The community of Guadalupe, México, remains at home. Our ministry has been suspended for the protection of ourselves and of the people with whom we are in contact. However, on the parish council, we have organized a food bank for vulnerable people who are older adults since the parish community has a larger number of adults and single or low-income people—with the support of generous people gathering basic food to distribute to them. But we share the Words of Our Lady of Guadalupe said to Juan Diego because he was concerned about the health of his uncle Bernardino. “Hear and understand my youngest son, there is nothing that scares and afflicts you; do not be troubled heart; do not fear that disease and anguish. Am I not your mother? Are you not under my shadow? Am I not your health? Isn't it in my protection? What else do you have do you have to do? Don't worry about another thing”



**FROM LISBON:** Since we were called to stay home, very few things have changed in my life. Just the place and the way of working have changed. The work I used to do all day at the Catholic University of Portugal, now is all done through the internet at home: classes; personal monitoring of the students who are writing their thesis; the regular meetings of Research Center and the intensive work of the National Commission for a New Portuguese Translation of the Bible. In the beginning the students had some difficulty bring attentive, but now all is going very well. Most surprising was to see the openness of the members of the Translation Commission, two senior biblical scholars and a senior specialist in Portuguese, who always resisted working through the internet. They released their resistances, got the help they needed, and now they express vividly how happy they feel with this new achievement.



## MINISTRIES, continued

**NGO COMMITTEES AT THE UN** have continued their scheduled meetings via zoom in order to carry out their planning and advocacy work. The UN itself has been conducting its briefing sessions via zoom, for example, a recent briefing for people around the world concerning the Oceans Conference which was originally planned for early June in Lisbon. The **RSHM JPIC ANIMATORS** also met recently by zoom, sharing the situation in each of their countries and assessing the scheduling of the June JPIC meeting in Lisbon which was linked to the Oceans Conference.



In our **COMMUNITY OF SOMAIN / MARCHIENNES** two of us are members of several Boards of Directors: Marymount International School, Paris (Neuilly), Jeanne d'Arc Cambrai, and Maison Jean Gailhac, in Béziers. At this time of pandemic, we keep in touch with the teams and regularly receive news by email, reassuring news so far: in Cambrai and Neuilly, teaching continues at home, accompanied by the team of teachers from a distance. In Béziers, only 20 young people remain at the site and are taken care of by professionals who create with them time for work and relaxation (thanks to the Park). Other children were able to join their families and are accompanied by telephone or visit by the educators. With these Boards of Directors, we are delighted with the enthusiasm and the human and practical management by Nadine, Raymond, and Gérald who run these Establishments. We show them the support of the RSHM through prayer, messages, telephone and emails.

## NEW WAYS OF LIVING, PRAYING, AND BEING COMMUNITY



**RSHM COMMUNITY, LINHARES, BRAZIL:** "Starting today, I will look at things with love and be reborn. I will love the sun, because it warms my body. I will love the rain because it purifies my spirit. I will love the light, for it shows me the way. I will also love the darkness, because it makes me see the stars". I will receive happiness, which magnifies my heart, but I will tolerate sadness, because it opens my soul. I will receive the reward, because it belongs to me. But I will not willingly accept obstacles, as they will be my challenges. "Starting today, I will look at things with more love and be reborn." We live with love and hints of humor. . . Simple life, high thoughts. . . Far, but together we will overcome this crisis. . . Handicrafts, embroidery and online classes on embroidery, dances, gymnastic music, games for children at home. . . Study

Permaculture (online) which is a proposal of ECO + 20 from Instituto Pindorama. . . Arrange a mystical space on our balcony, and on our stairs. . . .Planting and taking care of our vegetable garden. . . .Study Querido Amazônia and Profecia da terra Conferência da CNBB. . . We cannot forget the mystique of the exodus - of leaving, emptying, leaving what weighs in order to seek the essential. . . . Sending meditation, relaxation, healing, and fiction books (via zap and e.mail). . . Ancient knowledge of the moon and its influence in the increase of viruses. . . Retreat in this quarantine time. . . Unite with different cultures for meditation for the healing of humanity. . . We share the experience of neighboring families to shop (market and pharmacy), to pay bills. . .always bringing something to share. . . A ritual of thanksgiving and communion with health professionals, collectors of recyclable materials—clapping our hands, offering music. . . We demonstrated against the government that does not assume responsibility during the pandemic virus in our country—we hit pans, we use music and messages. . . Continue to animate the groups of the "ecological fair" MST (movement of landless workers) and the Movement of Affected People through messages, reflection on the political moment, and the importance of taking care of life, taking care of family and society. . . Community prayer bringing the situation of the coronavirus, the pope, health caregivers and others.



## LIVING, PRAYING, AND BEING COMMUNITY, continued

**EAST 93<sup>rd</sup> STREET, NEW YORK CITY:** March 31, 2020: In these days of “staying in place” we have supported one another in daily prayer, preparing good meals and celebrating the feast of St. Patrick with soda bread, a delicious trifle and pot roast. We are continuing our work via zoom e.g. UN meetings, RCIA class, Book Group, JPIC and teaching one another new aspects of zoom and computer, drawing, weaving. There are exercises every morning on the 3rd Floor corridor. Each night at 7:00 pm we hang out our window on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor with flashlights and clapping hands saying thanks to our doctors and nurses for their care. Even the NY Police joined us with their sirens.



**FROM FERRYBANK, IRELAND:** Both the AMRI (Association of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland) and the International Superiors General have encouraged us to pray for those who have been infected and affected by the corona virus and that this is our best witness as we are confined to our homes and cannot physically reach out to people now. In my community, Naomh Brid, we had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday 22nd from after Eucharist (on the radio) until after evening prayer. Each sister took an hour. We continue to pray but now we, the over 70's, have been advised by the government to be cocooned (stay at home, do not go out, have people leave shopping and medications outside the door) for the next two weeks in the hope that the spread of the virus might be reduced. The police are out now stopping people as the only distance one can travel is 2 km and if it is deemed that the journey is not for work or grocery shopping or medication, then they are turned back. This is to last until Easter Sunday so hopefully it will reduce the spread of the virus. Last week I collected the shopping for everyone here but this week we have asked the garden man to do it as I would be sent back as I am over 70!!! Some of us do Capacitar for half an hour each morning keeping a great distance between us. This helps to keep us calm and hopeful as we use it in a prayerful way. At our care center, Madonna House, no one is going in unless they work there and the staff need to be tested. So far, so good.

**FROM ZIMBABWE, AFRICA:** The real arrival of Covid19 in Zimbabwe coincided with the first month of a “Come and See” programme for young women aspiring to religious life. Three of the women are from Zimbabwe and three are from Zambia. The original programme involved the service of the Come and Seers in two homes for the elderly and one orphanage. We have had to curtail that activity; and are trying to continue with other aspects of the programme. Future plans still remain in process. Please keep us in your prayers.

## LIVING, PRAYING, AND BEING COMMUNITY, continued

### POPE FRANCIS' URBI ET ORBI:

Many RSHM communities gathered to watch the Pope's hour of prayer. The emptiness, darkness, and rain of St. Peter's Piazza made the experience all the more poignant.



**FROM VILLA LAUCHLI, ROME:** walking around the campus every day aiming to increase time, number of steps, and kilometers walked each day. . . .Paying attention to nature – the spring blossoming of trees and bushes, the flowers that bloom for a time, sounds of the birds, warmth of the sun. . . .Every few



days, I cut a few flowers, place them in a lovely vase and put them in a place where I can see them throughout the day. . . Using the stairs more often to climb the three flights to my flat instead of using the elevator. . . Sleeping a little later each morning. . .

.Continuing my morning prayers and Lenten reflection each day. . . . Attending Mass each day online either with Pope Francis or the Paulist priests and receiving Communion. . . .Evening Lenten prayer. . . Continuing my ministry/work through online contact with alumnae. . . Zoom Mass with my Caravita Community on Sundays. . . . Zoom digital coffee breaks for conversation with faculty/staff most mornings. . . .Zoom gatherings with family. . . .Pray Pope Francis's Prayer to Our Lady each day. . . . Important that daily routines are flexible. . . . Hope/Pray that when all this is over, we will be a better, more caring, compassionate and peaceful world.

**SACRED HEART OF MARY MOTHER HOUSE. BÉZIERS, FRANCE:** On March 11, 2020, as every year, I was to receive 54 students and 10 faculty from Marymount School New York. The virus invasion canceled everything. Every day, like everyone else, I live in confinement and I enjoy the space given to me for my physical exercises. But in the emptiness of this big house filled with the past, it is a new and confusing experience that leads me to think even more about its future. How can this past still give life to today's world? How can it help our contemporaries and those who will follow us to find the way to their happiness and their freedom? How can it participate in the advent of a new time for our world after the ordeal we are going through? This is enough to fuel our reflection in this time of silence and prayer.



**FROM MOZAMBIQUE:** May the sense of rebirth of Easter bring you love, affection and communion and much happiness in your lives. Despite the coronavirus that plagues the world, we will not stop being women of faith and hope. Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

## LIVING, PRAYING, AND BEING COMMUNITY, continued

### AN RSHM IN RIACHÃO DO JACUÍPE, BRAZIL

There's time for everything. . . . There's time to look at the world with a different view

There is time to look into ourselves.

There's time to ask yourself, how is my spiritual life? Have I had time to talk to God?

There is time to strengthen faith and trust in God's merciful love

There's time to stop and get back to life in another way.

There's time to be with your family, enjoy your kids and love more.

There is time to smile, sing and see the beauty of life.

There is time to ask forgiveness and be forgiven.

There's time to call someone you haven't spoken to in so long.

There's time to say, You're special to me, I'm missing you, or even, I love you.

There's time to tell someone: are you in need of anything? What can I do for you?

There is time to do differently, perhaps we had no time, or perhaps we prioritized other things and left aside what was most important before.

Don't let the most important things in life go by without taking account of them, then there is no turning back to start over.

There is time if we are more sensitive and loving to the people who wish us well. . . . There is time to learn from the simplest things of everyday life.

There is time to learn from others what little we have to offer. . . . There is time to be grateful for all we have received from God.

And time to know ourselves as human people that we are.

Now it's time to look at what we're living in at the moment with the corona virus pandemic. There are not rich and not poor, we are all in the same boat suffering the same consequences.

Maybe there's someone who can even wonder! What's all this about, what does God want from us?

For this is not God's doing, for God's love for us is infinite. What's happening is to review and reflect what

we're actually doing in this world. Are we loving people, asking for forgiveness, forgiving ourselves, and helping others without looking at whom? Are we building bridges of justice and solidarity?

And now are we understanding what God is asking of us? Or are we going to close our eyes by making sure nothing's happening? Or just think, it's a pandemic that will soon pass and we'll get back to normal.

Yes, with faith in God all this will pass. But may we return different and transformed with God's merciful love. More human and supportive.

Because the new one will only be there if we do it differently and we are sympathetic to others. Don't just stick with words. But with practice, actions, attitudes and gestures. Let's unite Brazilian people, it's time to walk together and fight for the same equality.

May God help us to have a renewed gaze and a burning heart that knows how to love without measure.

**RSHM NODDFA CENTER, PENMAENMAWR, WALES:** We are missing all the groups and people who had booked with us and should have been here to see the daffodils!

