

Messages of Hope

One of the prayers we offer at the Easter Vigil proclaims, “Christ, my hope, is risen!” Pope Francis called this message “a different ‘contagion’”, one that is transmitted “from heart to heart”. In his Easter “Urbi et Orbi” (To the City and the World) message on Easter Sunday, the Pope challenged us to spread this “contagion of hope.” How can we do that right here in Somerset/Swansea, especially as we are challenged with social distancing and stay at home orders? Here’s a little project for both adults and children/youth of our parishes.

In these weeks of pandemic, nursing homes and assisted living centers are closed to family and other visitors, leaving our elderly in a pretty lonely state. After checking with the various administrators of our homes, they would gladly welcome cards and written messages for their residents. So, I am asking our parishioners to make cards and to write notes offering Easter greetings and assuring our elderly nursing home/assisted care residents that they are being prayed for and are not forgotten. Here are some ideas for the children:

- + draw pictures of you and your family enjoying time together
- + draw pictures of Spring flowers or bright and colorful scenes
- + share stories of what you are doing to keep busy at home
- + draw your favorite animals or pets
- + write a note promising prayers and good thoughts for our elderly

You do not have to sign your full name; only your first name is necessary. You may want to tell your grade in school or that you are a member of one of our Catholic parishes here in Somerset and Swansea.

There is no limit on the number of cards you want to make or notes you may write. The more, the better! We have a good number of elderly residents right here in the three homes in Somerset.

Please deliver your cards/notes to the parish office (located at Saint Thomas More, 386 Luther Avenue) anytime *from now until Sunday, May 3*. A plastic bin marked “Messages of Hope” will be placed near the office door to receive your creations.

Together, let us be a “contagion of Easter hope!”

Messages of Hope

- What:** greeting card/written note campaign for our nursing homes/assisted living residents
- How:** make cards or write simple notes to be shared with residents
- Who:** the children/youth and adults of our three parishes
- When:** now until Sunday, May 3
- Where:** drop off your creations at the parish office: 386 Luther Avenue. a plastic bin will be located at the office door