

Dear Cousins,

March 20, 2020

Well, this is an unprecedented entry to the Round Robin with this Corona Virus looming large in all our minds. Numerous opinions aside, the facts remain that as a nation we're in for a rough road!

At present in our household, John is working from home although we are fearful since he works for a camp and of course right now there aren't too many inner-city schools coming up to enjoy a week in the Catskills! Arianna is the only person who is physically going to work every day since she works with the mentally and physically handicapped. Therefore, we still get to babysit the apple of our eye, Isaac now almost 14 months, a few afternoons per week. Kaylin, now considered a junior at SUNY Cobleskill credits-wise, is finishing up her spring semester with on-line courses. This is a bit difficult since three of her classes include Labs, but as is the "new reality" these days, the professors will have to get a little creative. Matthew, Mark and Luke, freshman in HS, are also doing an abridged curriculum at home. We are so very thankful that we live in the country! We can still maintain a somewhat "normal" lifestyle since we already spend so much time outdoors!

Mom is blessed with being oblivious to it all! At 89, she's probably the ONLY Mom who DOESN'T have a heart condition!!! She still has no problem eating and it seems the only thing she really enjoys besides hugs and kisses and lots of affection. She LOVES Isaac too! Thank you ALL for your continued prayers.

I will close by pointing out how blessed we are as a family. Even though we're so far apart, it's good that we try to stay so connected. Be assured you and your families are in my heart and prayers.

Love, Romanie, John, Arianna, Kaylin, Matthew, Mark & Luke ♡ XXXXXX

Greetings to all from our Covid-19 **Twilight Zone**. Who knew we'd all get to have parts in this 2020 **TZ** episode? We are in the thick of it now so we sure hope it has a swift, safe conclusion for all our friends and loved ones. Once in a lifetime pandemics do not compute.

We are in week two of shelter-in-place. I am doing library work from home – what can be done. George's spring track season is a probable wash. Matt, Carolyn and Ian are working from home, too. Life is so digital. And don't forget Claire (6) and Nate at home. We really miss our weekly visits with them. Guess we'll have to take our car and not train when we are allowed to go to NJ again. Frank canceled his trip east in March. We hope that Kate can get out of Mexico if necessary. Her campus has just gone into shutdown mode. Kristen Zirkel postponed her May 30 wedding to August 16.

On a positive note, the mild winter (what winter?) has gotten us off to an early gardening start. We hope we can find good seedling plants, but George has started plenty of seeds in the basement as a precaution. So we do get lots of outdoor time despite Covid. In fact, we can just walk over our back property line and we are in Hempstead Lake State Park for a safe-distancing stroll.

A toast to FAMILY! May Family and all our families. FAMILY will get us through this TZ!

Hooray for relaxing and adventurous travels, and grandchildren and the humdrum of "normal" everyday life that we will never take for granted again. As always, praying and thinking especially of you who've had loss and extra challenges.

Happy Easter. Happy Spring! Rebirth, we need you NOW.

Barbara & all

April 5, 2020

Our love and greetings to all as we enter into Holy Week. We continue to "celebrate" the Holy Eucharist from our living room. Not only do we celebrate Palm Sunday today but our Happy Birthday wishes are going to Madeline as she celebrates her 75th Birthday. (Happy Birthday in Heaven Charles). With our family history, it is an accomplishment to achieve these milestones; however, Aunt Claire continues to raise the bar for May family longevity.

On another note, **PRAYERS** are needed now as Debbie and her sister, Jackie, have just tested positive for COVID-19. Debbie is at home under quarantine but her sister was hospitalized last week with pneumonia and especially needs our prayers since she suffers from lung disease.

Since Augie is on continuous oxygen now, his big outings are to sit on the porch and read and greet a neighbor here and there. I am on my third week recovering from back surgery and have gone out **ONLY** for drive through and have curtailed that as well. The kids stocked my freezer with prepared meals after my surgery (along with Madeline who came the first week to care for me). Patti, Michael and his wife Kelly are always nearby if we need groceries or prescriptions so we are well looked after.

Let us all come together "virtually" this Holy Week and ask the Risen Lord to shine his love on our broken world.

HAPPY EASTER

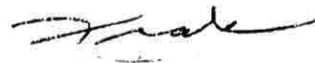
*Love,
Ronnie & Augie*

4/9/20

Hi from the bunker in Milwaukee —

Can't say it's been too bad for me. Supermarket right across the street, open at 6 a.m. for geezers, plenty of fat books and DVR'd movies off Turner Classic, a big lakefront nearby for long walks... Biggest problem is that with Marquette U shut down, there's **NO SWIMMING!** I can do a lot more distance on land, but water sure is easier on joints that are soon to enter their 8th decade!

Best of luck to us all...



April 13, 2020

Dear Family,

It was surreal watching the Easter Vigil on a computer screen in our kitchen, with exactly 10 people in a church that would have been packed to the point of overflowing!

Since we last saw the letter, we completed our 11-day cruise on the Rhine River, with cousin Ed & Janet Ebert and several other family and friends of theirs. After a busy holiday season, we took off again in January for a road trip to see **Ronnie & Augie**, visit the Biltmore Estate at the end of their Christmas display, and spend a few days in Gatlinburg, TN. With a plethora of entries on our calendars for the next few months, we planned no other trips for the period. The next window of opportunity for a longer getaway was to come in May. We were scheduled to take an 8-night cruise out of Baltimore to the Bahamas and Bermuda, but, of course, that trip won't happen. Instead, like everyone else, we're stuck at home. For the first time in years, our Google calendars, that are usually filled with colors of blue (K of C events), yellow (St. Michael Church related activities), green (general catch-all) and purple (Danie's activities) are now just white screens, with occasional tangerine colored medical and blood donation appointments.



In Breisach, Germany, Danie saw this car (it's purple AND French!) and wanted to take it home. She struck up a conversation with the owner, and they became fast friends

Further into the year, we're supposed to travel to CO to see Danie's quilting buddy in late June/July, however, we haven't spent any time working on plans at this point, as that trip is still doubtful. More likely is an 11-night cruise out of Montreal in September with Ed & Janet Ebert, which we hope to expand on both ends as we plan to drive to/from the cruise. There will likely be no window available this year to return to France for Danie to see more of the cousins she didn't see while we were there last year. Maybe next year, after a February Southern Caribbean cruise out of San Juan.

As for now, we are trying to keep the local economy moving a bit by frequently ordering take-out from the restaurants that we ordinarily visit. However, since we are eating in, we're using our own dinnerware, which has caused us to dramatically increase the number of loads that the dishwasher normally sees. So far, it's holding up!

Danie and her buddies held off as long as possible before cancelling quilting classes and retreats, but alas, governor-mandated occupancy limits finally stopped them from happening. They have moved some classes and meetings to computer based, and she now has time to work on several projects that have been in the mill for a while. She also made 10 face masks for family and friends.

For her 40th (!) birthday (today!), **Claudine & Laughton** had planned to take a 10-day trip to France with a couple of friends. That trip has, of course, been scrubbed. At least, they received vouchers for the full amount of their reservations for a future trip. Both have been working from home (Laughton in his man-cave, the "Nuckolhead Pub", and Claudine from the dining area table). That was, however, until she received a call during the last week in March, that she was being let go - an action that was unrelated to the current COVID-19 situation, but rather downsizing as a result of a company merger that took place six months ago. As soon as word of her availability spread among her acquaintances, she had leads for several positions that are immediately available.

Applications and phone interviews followed the next week and she was offered a job a week later. She will actually not lose a paycheck, as her severance from the old company covers her until the new one picks up. The new company shipped a laptop for her to start working at home. Once she starts reporting to the new office, her commute will be twice as long as it was to the old office (4 miles vs. 2).

After 10 years of marriage, and living in a small 1-bedroom condo, **Chris** (42) & **Kristy** signed a contract in November to have a townhouse built for them in a new community that is barely two miles from their old place. The place is considerably larger than their condo, with 3 bedrooms on 2 floors (garage & living space on the first floor). Construction continued in spite of the COVID-19 situation, and they closed on the townhouse on April 9. They took appropriate precautions when having their belongings moved to the new place on April 10, and they are now re-situated. Address: 239 Hanging Fern Alley, Glen Allen, VA 23059.

They have both been working from home, and while Chris remains very busy, the business flowing into Kristy's company has dwindled. She spoke to her boss, and offered to 'step back' for a period (go on unpaid leave) so that she can focus on setting up their new abode, and she would relieve pressure at the company to lay off others.

Me: For the first time, I was tapped to be on standby for jury duty (Henrico County Circuit Court) from mid-January through mid-March. I was called to report for a jury in February, however, the afternoon before, I received a call that the trial had been cancelled. The remainder of the period elapsed without any additional calls. So my record of never having stepped into a court room continues.

I'm a bit hopeful that I am bucking our family's cardiovascular problem trend. In February, I received a call from my Cardiologist's office to schedule a follow-up appointment. When the doctor came into the examination room, she asked me "What's the matter?" I said, "Nothing! I'm here because your office called to set up a follow up!" She was glad to hear that, and was relieved because everything looked good with the cardiac catheterization. She checked my periodic blood test results and I was instructed to stay away unless I have a problem.

I continue, and, in fact have increased the frequency of platelet donations because of the severe reduction in blood drives. Naturally, the retirees breakfasts I organize came to a screeching halt. (I had been taking a former co-worker, who suffered a stroke shortly after retiring to the breakfasts (it was the highlight of his month), however, he passed away in early March (unrelated to the Coronavirus)). Similarly, there are no funerals or receptions and St. Michael, or K of C meetings / activities ongoing (makes putting together newsletters difficult). And while we have no in-person meetings of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we continue to have conference call meetings. As expected, calls for financial aid have gone through the roof, yet funding resources have been severely disrupted. A considerable portion of our funding is from St. Michael. Without Sunday masses, collections have dropped. While 60% of the income comes from auto-draft donations, the remaining 40% would be money dropped in collection baskets. Since I'm already paid to just stay home, my portion of the economic stimulus will be going to bolster the Society's funds.

We hope everyone manages to stay clear of the virus, and that your lives return to 'normal' soon!

Eric & Danie

Dear Family,

4/22

Wow, it's really a crazy time!! I'm in my office a few days a week while June tries to teach her 1st graders remotely. Very difficult!! Even Billy is doing REMOTE physical therapy with young children, and making it work as best he can. Megan and Tim work remote, and Nicole and her boyfriend escaped their small Brooklyn apartment and are quarantining with Ken up on Lackawock Hill. I've driven up a few weekends to be able to be outside but not around a lot of people.

That's really it for now very much hoping the next time we see this letter the WORLD is greatly improved!

P.S -- Joe, glad you are feeling better!

Love to AM,
Steve, June, Nicole, Billy, Megan + Tim.

Dear Family,

I had to smile when I re-read a few Round Robin entries from Jan. & Feb. in which the writer was saying things like "Not much new here" & "Nothing has changed," who could have imagined the ways in which our lives were about to change in what seemed like overnight! Certainly not our Kristen & her fiance Josh, who were in the last few months before their long-planned May 30th wedding. They jumped at the opportunity to rebook everything for August 16th, but are realistic enough to admit that it now seems as if even that date might not be far enough away. They are both teaching remotely, and our Danny is also able to work remotely from his apartment in New Jersey, so we fortunately are not seeing the financial hardships that many families are facing. (Bill is fully retired, and I am mostly retired, but still doing some "remote" tutoring.) Michelle has some 3 hours/day doing remote activities on "Zoom" such as yoga, Karaoke, lessons on staying safe & coping, etc. Without many of our usual distractions, it hit us all even harder when we lost our sheltie "Kallie" last week; we had known she had some chronic problems, but the end was a shock as she died within hours right in our kitchen. But of course we realize how good God has been to us in not taking any of our relatives or friends during this terrible pandemic. The hardest part for me personally has been the sudden announcement that we eucharistic ministers could no longer go to the nursing home I had visited almost every Friday for 2 1/2 years. Although privacy laws won't let the nursing home release any information about its residents, by googling individual names I have found at least 6 of my "regular visits" who have already passed on.

On a lighter note, another casualty of the pandemic was the surprise party that was planned for March 21st at Matt & Carolyn's house, to celebrate Frank's 70th birthday. Frank actually cancelled his trip east in order to avoid traveling through airports & such, and possibly bringing the virus to any of us. So we owe him one heck of a get-together when this is all over!!

Stay safe & healthy, everyone! Love, Bernadette, Bill & family

5/14/2020

Dear All,

I pray that you are all well and using this time to deepen your prayer life. The Lord is certainly telling us something by the virus. Perhaps those who are lukewarm in their relationship with Him will realize that this time will end and we will have to give an account of our earthly life. I often think of how glorious it will be to see our beloved parents, relatives & friends again in Heaven - that is our goal!

Glad to know that you are safe. Joannie & I pray daily for your safety - Love to all, Theresa + Joannie

6/20/20 [2-396]

GREETINGS FROM QUARANTINE! Things have certainly been strange

these past few months. Everything changed March 11, when we were evacuated from CBS' Broadcast Center - and told to grab laptops and meet in a hotel around the corner. 11 of us in 1 room! Somehow we didn't get sick that night - and I've been working from home ever since. Writing the news about what's going on in the world when you're stuck at home is a bit disorienting. But at least things are opening back up.

One day last week, there was a Black Lives Matter march up our block -- and the restaurant around the corner opened for outside dining.

Mary Jo just finished her semester teaching from home, which is a completely different experience. Our oldest, Joseph Jr lives in Brooklyn and got infected. Once he got better, he came back home for 7 weeks. For a while, there were 5 of us all working online simultaneously, with Terence tutoring students & Kira working on her animation.

At least the internet worked -- as did the electric supply.

Hopefully, everyone in the family is doing well as we confront this new normal.

Love to all -
Joe Clines

6/27/20

Dear Family,

Wow! So the 'news' doesn't come from Manhattan any more? It actually originates at Joe's house in Malverne?! It's actually comforting for me to read how real people are coping with the many problems of the world with prayer + humor. This letter is therapy! After a slow first 3 weeks of the shutdown, my business has been better than ever. Many websites underway. Visits to the Farm every 3rd weekend have been great for my sanity, to keep me away from watching too much [bad] news at home. 5 days a week running has always been a stress reliever. I've gone through a couple more roommates since last entry (stacking bodies in a corner of my yard.) 2 days ago went to a social-distancing visitation (wake) for a 65 yr old running buddy, and on the way passed a social-distancing HS graduation where kids in cap and gown individually walked past their school entrance to wave, snap a pic, and get back in their car. Wilmington was hit by a riot + Columbus + Caesar Rodney statues removed pre-emptively. I live just 4 mi from Joe Biden's house. Hit Latin High Mass in Ellenville last Sunday where Lorraine's triplets were 3 of the 10 altar servers. Praying, praying and praying some more. Love, Ray

(2-397)

4th of July 2020

I write my dear family with hope & love for everyone of you. Half the year is over & we're all weary of the times. Just as Ronnie asked for prayers for Debbie & her sister in April, I ask for prayers for Ronnie. He is very hopeful, she's doing well & thankful the cancer is not in the brain. God has already answered our prayers for that. Ronnie's attitude is amazing. She cheers everyone up & is very positive.

The Novena I'm saying end with "O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything. Thank you for all your powerful prayers.
Love, Madeline & Ralph

Dear Family,

16 July 2020

I'm glad to hear that Ronnie is in good spirits. We all can use some positivity these days. I blame myself for the pandemic; I was fervently praying that 2020 wouldn't be all about divisiveness over the presidential election. Be careful what you wish for!

Like most of you, we suffered through a lockdown phase in PA and are now moving through stages of reopening. Unfortunately, as I write this we have had an uptick of cases and our governor has moved us a step back by strengthening restrictions on bars, restaurants and gatherings. He says we are still in the "green phase", but... Bad news for us, because we have continued to plan for Emily's wedding in November, hoping for the best. It is just far enough in the future that conditions could be better by then, or a lot worse. Your guess is as good as mine. I am really hoping for some smooth sailing for Emily and her fiancé Andrew. She is an ICU nurse and spent most of the spring caring for desperately ill Covid patients in Boston. Andrew lost his father to Covid in April, following a long hospitalization for unrelated problems. His father lived in NY and was hospitalized in Jersey.

Other members of the family have been making the best of our circumstances. I should mention here that Bernadette's daughter Kristen did marry in a small ceremony on her original wedding date of May 30th and has re-scheduled her celebration for May 2021. In my branch of the family, we have been lucky not to have any layoffs /furloughs. We have been healthy, and Joe and I are continuing to help out with Meals-On-Wheels, with new rules and restrictions, of course. My son Colin will start graduate school for Chemistry in the fall, he was in the process of visiting schools when everything shut down in March. He will be "attending" U Chicago. At this point it is unclear how many in-person classes there will be. But, he has been encouraged to move to Chicago. They think he will be able to work in labs, and he has been assured that he will be employed as a TA (teaching assistant). Probably he will interact with the undergrads virtually and correct lab reports from their virtual labs.

Here's hoping that all of us continue to adjust to the twists and turns this year is taking. Thank goodness the Serenity Prayer is short and easy to recall as needed!

Love to all,

Eileen

Dear One and All,

The convergence of the virus, all the civil (and uncivil) unrest, and all else, is unsettling. It's easy enough simply not to watch the news, and avoid areas where there are problems. But the problems are still there and beg for solutions.

The Coronavirus hit home early for us, when a friend of ours (chef at the caterer who runs out of the High School kitchen) died. He had been to Mexico for his mother's death, came back and died relatively quickly. The fact that he was strong, robust and full of life made it difficult to conceive. Then a great High School teacher died, then several Capuchins (*tho not all from coronavirus*), and on and on. No one immediately connected with us, but that did not make it easier. This period reminds me of life after 9/11, when I stayed home for a while, and everyone was in a "reset mode". Aside from these deaths, we have not suffered physical or financial effects.

Will has been working from home from early March. The first hot spot in Westchester was over in New Rochelle, but when the people at his company heard "Westchester County", they asked Will to stay home. He's been working from home since, and his company may remain this way indefinitely. **Alysha** has mostly been here as well, since all her programs are now online, and her house in Albany has several online workers.

Gillian was supposed to be the teacher in her PreK classroom for the remainder of the year, but when COVID hit, the teacher (*then on maternity leave*) decided that since everyone was working remotely, she would cancel her leave and "return" to leading the class. So, G finished the year as Assistant. Then, the summer camp she usually helps run (*Destination Science*) decided to cancel in-person camps. Now she is remotely teaching HS summer school Math. Who knows what September will bring?

Shannon was working full time remotely for Magnificat, and gradually returned to the office. Her hard work was rewarded with a promotion when her manager left. So, she is now able to do most of the tasks required to process orders, update their customer database, and make remote deposits. Formerly, she was responding to customer email queries. She's excited about the new tasks and the fact that her work is recognized.

Deanne worked straight through this period. She was instrumental in communicating with parishioners during the closure, getting the Masses online, then the transition to in-Church Masses, ordering all the supplies for that (and for the schools). So, it's largely been a full-time job throughout.

Alan had some of the same Church tasks (*without the schools*), plus continuing to monitor the closed parish and the process of selling the property. Though I had gone over to the rectory less in the early weeks, I'm back to nearly full time. I'm also gearing up to give virtual classes for the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese (*D & G are 2 of my "students"!*). The first series is on the Sacraments, so the material isn't hard to prepare. But moderating a meeting on Zoom is another story! We'll see if they can teach an old dog new tricks after all!

We're trying to figure out vacation. We do need to get away from this surreal life, but anywhere we look to go has its own complexities. The Poconos community to which we belong has reservation systems for the now-limited facilities, and Monroe County has generally been having some issues with its reopening process. (I still do have to go out at some point to check on the house.) We thought about visiting Vermont to see a Capuchin friend, but Vermont still sees New York as too dangerous and wants us to quarantine (*or, better yet, stay away*). So, we're looking into staying within New York, probably upstate, and perhaps do a day trip into Vermont. We'll see what we come up with.

Hopefully, we are all learning to be happy with the goodness we usually take for granted – especially one another. Let's pray for each other, and for this wounded country.

with love
Alan, Deanne, Will,
Gillian + Shannon

Dear Family -

So much at stake with this awful Covid and the very very important election coming. Hopefully we will see an End of this virus and our president will be here for another 4 yrs. After 9 yrs. of being free of heart problems, the symptoms came back and I needed 3 stents put in to keep the ticker ticking. One week later I was on a plane to Fla to see my kids (yes took my chances) and flew again to NC in May - Have not worked since Feb and still having the country help me take care of paying my bills. I do miss work but this semi-retirement is very nice except for the boredom @ times. Will probably move in the next year to be near the family but have not decided where. Keeping you all in my prayers especially you Roxie. Pray the ROSARY it is so powerful -

Lone Maria