

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
P. O. BOX 742
CAMPTON, KY 41301**

Spring 2020

**Mrs. Olive Hupf
4386 260th St. E.
Randolph, MN 55065**

Dear Olive and all our dear friends in Minnesota,

I write this note on a cool Sunday morning in the middle of an exceptionally beautiful Spring in Eastern Kentucky. Wish you could see our beautiful dogwood and redbud trees against the brilliant blue sky!! Oh yes, we are also deep into the Covid-19 pandemic with our fourth weekend of no public Masses anywhere in the diocese. Sunday mornings, watching Mass online, feel especially surreal to me although nearly every aspect of what our small mission engages in on a daily basis has been turned upside down over the past month. We are doing the best we can, under the circumstances. I'm sure it is the same for all our friends in Minnesota. So far, we have no confirmed cases in our county although this is largely due to so little testing being available to us. God willing, we will come out of this crisis as changed people with a greater sense of what is important to hold onto and uphold in our country!

On behalf of the 153 Appalachian families and their 373 children who were served by our 2019 Christmas Outreach Program in Campton, I just want to offer our heartfelt thanks to each person, family, or parish who had a hand in filling that huge tractor trailer parked at the Hupf homeplace last Fall. This year as we unloaded the semi in record time, I was so very mindful of how much love and hard work goes into filling that truck. For me, I simply organize and coordinate the huge effort it takes to make sure each toy, shoe box, coat, hat, blanket, clothing item, and Christmas treasure that we receive is put into the hands of a needy family in Wolfe County. I know that many children, hard-working families, and retired folks all pull together to make sure our people have a joyful Christmas celebration each year. The wide range of donors is a tender witness that each of us has something to give, no matter our age, our physical condition, nor our station in life. *All our local volunteers join me in a circle of prayer each day before the Christmas Store opens – we feel your mystical presence with us as we bow to pray - asking God to bless all our benefactors as well as our visiting families.*

I continue to pray that God will raise up a core group of leaders who will faithfully carry on this ministry, God willing, so that our collective sense of solidarity - what it truly means to be brothers and sisters in Christ - will be a lived reality and witness to all. *THANK YOU ALL - from the bottom of our hearts!!*

May God graciously bless you as we remember, "We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song!"

S. Susan Marie

S. Susan Marie Pleiss, OSF

On behalf of our sacramental ministers (Fr. Bob and Fr. Livinus) and all our parishioners