



# EMBRACING THE CALL TO CARE

## The J.A. Panuska, S.J., Panuska College of Professional Studies E-NEWSLETTER

APRIL 3 | 2020

My Dear Friends,

After talking to friends across the country, I feel so grateful to be working remotely with my colleagues in the Panuska College of Professional Studies: the faculty, staff and students. The Panuska team gives me great joy and lets me dream of possibilities.

How are we going to rise from this cruel virus?

With a Call to Care. A hallmark of the Panuska College of Professional Studies is how our students, faculty and staff care for one another – and for the world. In recent weeks, we’ve heard stories from near and far about how members of the PCPS family are Embracing the Call to Care during this world pandemic.

I hope that the stories we share in this e-newsletter will help to inspire you in the ways that they have inspired me.

God bless you. Stay well!

*Debra Pellegrino*

Dr. Debra Pellegrino

HERE IS A POEM FOCUSED ON THE PRESENT & POSSIBILITIES. The poem, entitled *Lockdown*, was written by an Irish Capuchin Brother is long, but worth reading.

*Lockdown* by Brother Richard:

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick,  
the weary

• All over the world people are slowing down  
• and reflecting  
• All over the world people are looking at  
• their neighbours in a new way  
• All over the world people are waking up to  
• a new reality  
• To how big we really are.  
• To how little control we really have.  
• To what really matters.  
• To Love.  
• So we pray and we remember that  
• Yes there is fear.  
• But there does not have to be hate.  
• Yes there is isolation.  
• But there does not have to be loneliness.  
• Yes there is panic buying.  
• But there does not have to be meanness.  
• Yes there is sickness.  
• But there does not have to be disease  
• of the soul  
• Yes there is even death.  
• But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
• Wake to the choices you make as to how  
• to live now.  
• Today, breathe.  
• Listen, behind the factory noises  
• of your panic  
• The birds are singing again  
• The sky is clearing,  
• Spring is coming,  
• And we are always encompassed by Love.  
• Open the windows of your soul  
• And though you may not be able  
• to touch across the empty square,  
• Sing

## MESSAGES OF INSPIRATION

**BAYLIE GERBER** | Nursing Major  
Class of 2022 | Hometown: Wyckoff, NJ

Baylie has been making cards with inspirational messages for healthcare workers at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, NJ.



## UNIVERSITY DONATES MEDICAL SUPPLIES & VENTILATORS

The University of Scranton donated much-needed medical supplies, including three ventilators, to area hospitals.



### SHE'S ALL EARS ABOUT THE CALL TO CARE

#### TAYLOR SCHATZ

Occupational Therapy Major

Class of 2021

Hometown: Broomall, PA

The ears of healthcare workers are starting to feel the strain of prolonged use of elastic around their ears to hold face masks in place. Taylor decided to make headbands with buttons that allow healthcare workers to attach the elastic bands of the face masks to the buttons instead of their ears. "I've been including a note of encouragement and thanks with each headband," she says.



Thank you so much for all that you are doing to help others through this difficult time! I hope that you stay safe and healthy!

The University of Scranton donated more than 7,000 surgical masks, 15,000 examination gloves, 300 personal protection equipment items including gowns, shoe covers and goggles, and more than 8,000 miscellaneous items such as disposable oxygen tubing and nebulizers, alcohol pad, cotton applicators and sanitary wipes. The items, given to three area hospitals, were collected from the Leahy Clinic, the Departments of Nursing and physical therapy as well as biology and chemistry laboratories. The University's Panuska College of Professional Studies also lent three ventilators used in hospital simulation laboratories on campus for clinical training in the Department of Nursing.

The personal protective equipment and medical supplies were donated to the Commonwealth Health Regional Hospital of Scranton, Geisinger Community Medical Center and Moses Taylor Hospital. The ventilators will be used by Geisinger during the COVID-19 crisis. Geisinger will upgrade two older-model ventilators for use in the hospital and will thoroughly clean the equipment prior to returning it to the University.

Andrea Mantione, D.N.P., director of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center, cataloged and organized the items donated from the departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Panuska College of Arts and Sciences.



Personal protective equipment and medical supplies donated by The University of Scranton to three area hospitals include 7,000 surgical masks, 15,000 examination gloves, 300 personal protection equipment items and three ventilators used in nursing simulation laboratories.





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 Jesuit educated  
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 family are, too,  
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 Preview Day.”

## SURPRISE VISITORS DURING VIRTUAL PREVIEW DAY

During the University’s Virtual Preview Day, held March 28, Teresa Conte, assistant professor of Nursing, and other student volunteers gave prospective nursing students a virtual look at our nursing program.

Among the 60 accepted students who participated in the event via Zoom technology was a special set of guests.

“Someone signed on with the name ‘Pop Pop.’ When the video stream opened, it was a couple who are grandparents of one of the accepted students,” said Dr. Conte.

“‘Pop Pop’ told us that he was Jesuit educated and many of his family are, too, and so he wanted to participate in the online Preview Day.”

According to Dr. Conte, “Our students couldn’t say enough positive things about our faculty and the program. They all spoke about the community and connection they feel. They spoke about how the faculty continues to reach out and maintain contact and have worked to reassure them. It was very heartwarming ... and a reminder that even during this time we are still making a difference in their lives.”

## PRAYERS FOR OUR ROOKIE NURSES

This is unquestionably an enormously hard time for all nurses. For rookie nurses being thrust into a world pandemic, it’s particularly difficult. Rev. Herbert Keller, S.J., vice president for Mission and Ministry, held a special, private Mass on March 30 to pray for our nursing alumni. Please join Fr. Keller – and all of us – in praying for those who are caring for others.



If you have a  
 positive story about  
 the Call To Care,  
 please send your  
 story in an email to:  
[debra.pellegrino@scranton.edu](mailto:debra.pellegrino@scranton.edu)