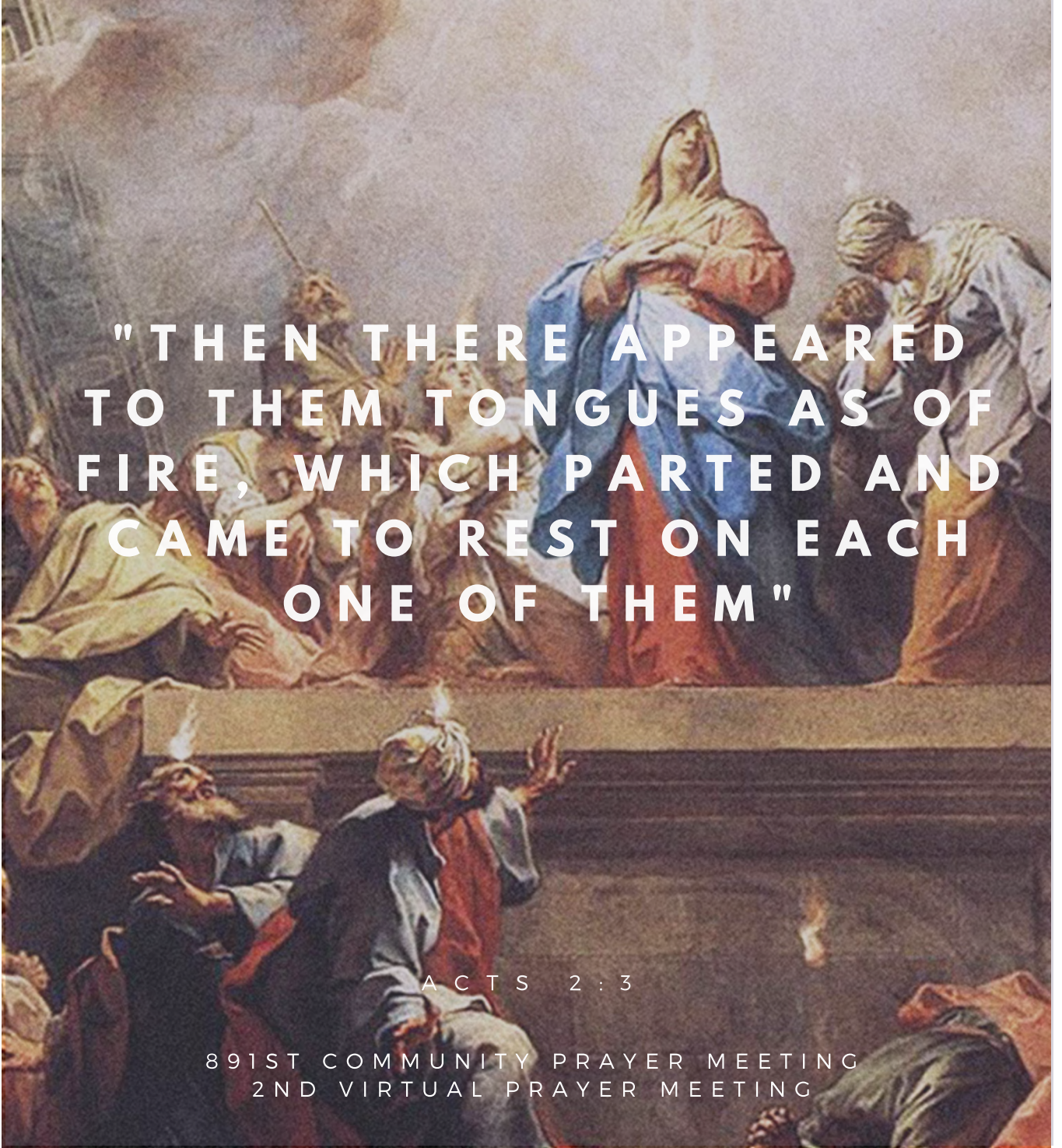


JESUS IS LORD!

# PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION



"THEN THERE APPEARED  
TO THEM TONGUES AS OF  
FIRE, WHICH PARTED AND  
CAME TO REST ON EACH  
ONE OF THEM"

ACTS 2:3

891ST COMMUNITY PRAYER MEETING  
2ND VIRTUAL PRAYER MEETING

MAY 31, 2020





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"THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS  
FOR US; WE ARE FILLED WITH JOY"

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## Waiting

Turn on the TV or listen to the radio and you will find a commercial touting the speed of the latest modern device. Entire industries have been built around speed. We have fast food restaurants, companies that can deliver your package overnight, we have movies on demand, and if you can't wait for Amazon to deliver your book tomorrow you can always download it. All of this because modern man does not like to wait.

**But that is not how our heavenly Father created things.** It takes weeks for a seed planted in the ground to yield fruit, nine months for a baby to be born, 365 days for the earth to orbit the sun, years of education to develop a skill or trade for your life's work, hundreds of years for a giant sequoia to mature, and forever for a watched pot to boil.

Why is it so difficult for us to wait? Waiting involves patience and perseverance on our part, and it often means not being in control of our life. For sure there are times when immediate action is required, but waiting can be a good thing and the right thing to do. It can give us time to think before making a rash judgement or acting in a regrettable way. But waiting in itself is not important, but rather what we do while we wait is important.

In Acts 1:4-5 we read, **“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”**

Our risen Lord knew well the weaknesses of his disciples. Therefore, he commanded them to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In their waiting, their plans were put on hold, their trust in the Lord was tested, and as they prayed their hearts were made ready to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. From this waiting was born a new church which was completely reliant upon the Lord and infused with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Through the power of the Holy Spirit their waiting turned into bold action as they witnessed to the Resurrection, proclaimed the Gospel, built community and drew many to a life in Christ.

**Over the past 3 months, we too have had our plans put hold and our trust in the Lord tested.** We have before us a unique opportunity. Instead of waiting for things to return to normal we have an opportunity to wait on the Lord and to prepare our hearts through prayer for a new Pentecost. I believe this is a time for our church to be born anew and we, like the first Christians, to be bold in living and proclaiming the gospel so that we may draw many to a life in Christ.

**Come Holy Spirit!**



May 28, 2020



# GIVE IT A SIDE GLANCE

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## A look at community life amidst a pandemic

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I'm quite confident that most of us, not only in the People of Hope, but world wide, have become familiar with several new buzz words and phrases over the past few months. Do these sound familiar?:

Pandemic, "Keep well, stay safe!", 6 ft. social distancing, Covid-Zoom meetings, Hunker down-stay HOME!, No mask, no entrance, "Watching" Mass virtually, doctor visits, virtual school.

Like it or not, these expressions have settled into our everyday language, rising from a need to express new life circumstances since the coronavirus has invaded our world. Not just our language, but our jobs, our schooling, shopping, worshipping, recreating, traveling...you name it, and it has been impacted!

Now, how do we deal with these changes and challenges? Of course, that is a loaded question with answers on many levels. Personally, I have been able to take extra time for prayer, spiritual reading, and rosary time with the Blessed Mother. Serving others has been a joy and privilege during this trying time. In addition, something that has truly blessed me is a memory from our dear family friend of many years, Fr. James Carroll. In the early 70's I was an overwhelmed, young mother. I was seeking the Lord through spiritual direction with Fr. Carroll. A bit of sound advice given to me 50 years ago can be applied to our lives in this pandemic. Father said to me, **"Throughout hectic days, keep your eyes on your heavenly home, and give everything else a side glance."** In other words, don't be stressed over the everyday challenges of young family life. Just perform your duties in love as your eyes remain fixed on Jesus.

So, applying these words to this current state of affairs, my prayer life keeps me focusing on the heavenly reality that Jesus Christ is my Lord. The second part of that advice-the part about giving everything else a side glance, has admittedly challenged me. When I let my mind and heart wander from heavenly thoughts, it becomes difficult for me to give that "side glance of less-than-important" to many overwhelming aspects of this strange way of living. Praised be Jesus Christ, I don't have to fight this battle alone.



I have been blessed with a beautiful family that is loving and supporting me through these times. My broader, spiritual family, the People of Hope, has helped me keep my eyes on Jesus. The technological advancements that so many community members have generously and tirelessly worked on to keep us connected, have blessed my life greatly and have sharpened my spiritual focus. Here I name a few:

I love the virtual prayer meetings! When I'm feeling a sense of isolation from my sisters and brothers, I might re-listen to the praise and worship music, joining in with the singing. It lifts my heart. The display of the song's words in a large font, has been very helpful. I've been fed spiritually through the exhortations from Marty, Fr. John Gordon and others. If the quarantine continues, I pray these online messages continue. In addition, watching my brothers and sisters as they share their new and unique family favorite moments, many times spiced with humor, puts a smile on my face. At other times, receiving heartfelt witnesses from members has inspired and encouraged me.

A number of weeks ago, joining in with the Lord's Day prayers reminded me that I'm not alone on a Saturday evening. Knowing I can't be with my sisters and brothers in person, I'm joined with them in spirit, feeling closer to them.

Our women's group has not mastered a zoom meeting and not all of our sisters have computers. Therefore we are staying in touch through phone calls, emails, and writing notes of encouragement when possible. With the weather warming up, we had our very first outdoor social distancing women's group!

How I am enjoying our online community bulletins. What a blessing! Thank you to our tech savvy members whose knowledge, diligence and creativity have gifted us with a beautiful composition of love and information. The varied topics enclosed have given me inspiration for prayer, encouragement, and a reminder that I am a member of a body of people! I'm not alone. In addition to his own personal messages, I thank Marty for sending us links to various, inspirational articles from around the Sword of the Spirit and the Brotherhood of Hope.

Of course, as the saying goes, there's nothing like the real deal! We were not created to live a quarantined life, deprived of human touch. However, we have been given this challenge in our lifetime and Our Lord is still at the center of it. I am so grateful for the ways in which the People of Hope continues to assist me in keeping my eyes on Jesus and connecting me with members of our community. This enables me to give those other anxiety ridden challenges of the pandemic a **side glance**.

- WRITTEN BY THERESE MOCCIA



# AN SPO FAREWELL

SAYING GOODBYE TO SOME OF OUR  
LONG TIME SPO MISSIONARIES

*THE MISSIONARIES OF ST PAUL'S OUTREACH HAVE  
NOT ONLY BEEN A GIFT TO COLLEGE CAMPUSES  
ACROSS THE NATION BUT ALSO TO US HERE IN THE  
PEOPLE OF HOPE & COMPASS.*

*We are blessed to have so many of them participate in our  
community life while serving as campus missionaries at Seton  
Hall University and Rutgers with SPO. Please keep in your  
prayers two of our long time NJ missionaries as they move  
forward with the next step of their journey with the Lord.*

*[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPO](#)*



# Monica Butler

*Could you tell us a little about yourself?*

**I was born and raised in beautiful Arizona, the 6th of 8 kids. I grew up in a covenant community much like POH. In college I studied Spanish and Italian, but tongues was my first language. I have always had a desire to share the Gospel, and when I encountered SPO, I knew it was something I wanted to commit myself to. I served as a Missionary at Arizona State, Ohio State, and a Chapter Leader at Rutgers these past two years. As for my next step, I am moving to the Twin Cities.**

*As you leave NJ, what is one thing you learned here that you will take with you in your next step?*  
**If I toast my bagel while no one is looking, it doesn't make it okay. Integrity matters.**

*What are you most excited about right now?*

**I love summer! Seriously, I love it. And I am a godmother for the first time to my nephew Matisse.**

*How has the People of Hope/Compass played a role in your time in NJ?*

**I have really enjoyed my small group. It has been a tremendous blessing to share my life with other women who are running the same race as me. Also, I love the intergenerational experience that I get in POH; there is so much wisdom!**

*What parting words or final message do you have for those you leave behind in NJ?*

**Thank you for your yeses, both big and small, especially the little daily "yes Lord's" that no one sees but Christ. Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to me these past two years. Thank you for the witness of your lives!**

*"Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to me these past two years. Thank you for the witness of your lives!"*





I'm originally from the Chicago suburbs, I went to the University of Dayton, and then I became an SPO Missionary and was sent to the Garden State! I have spent the last five years in New Jersey working for SPO, from serving as a Missionary in the dorms on campus at Seton Hall to serving as the Regional Administrator for the Northeast Region (supporting SHU, RU, and NU in Boston). I will be moving to Columbus, OH, getting involved in the Cornerstone community, and working on a small organic farm, growing vegetables!

One of the biggest prayers on my heart throughout college was that the Lord would give me community and a people to be a part of. The Lord has outdone himself in generosity, for he has given me so many friendships, a rich community life,

sisterhood, and a deeper knowledge of what it means to be part of a people through my time as a SPO Missionary and my time in the People of Hope. I am so thankful for the support the People of Hope provided me during my time in New Jersey - the pastoral leaders who've walked with me, the women in my share groups, and the families that have welcomed me into their family life.

I've loved going to families' homes for Lord's Days, laughing and being silly during women's retreats, going to the Flea market with Norma and Regina, St. Patrick's Day and Easter celebrations at the Buganskis, learning to make Lord's Day Bread with Donna Guido, having dinner and playing card games with the Hughes - just to name a few things I've been grateful for! You all have made an impact on me and I am grateful for the big and small ways we've been able to share life.

"I HAVE BEEN  
BLESSED TO  
BE PART OF  
THE PEOPLE  
OF HOPE."



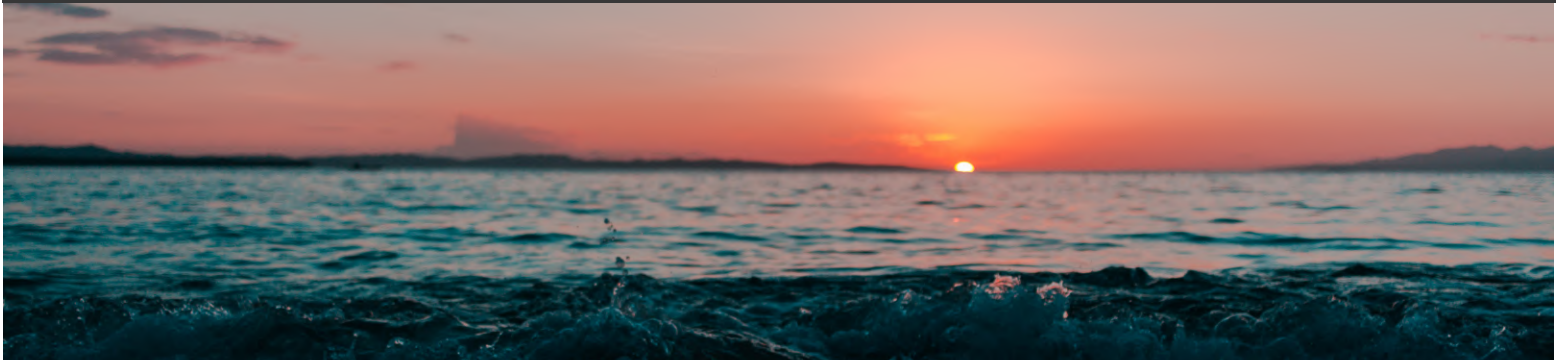
*Annie Michalica*

One scripture verse that resonates as I reflect on how the Lord has worked in the past five years is 1 Peter 2:9-10: *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy."* I am grateful for the ways the Lord has worked in my heart, especially through deep relationship and community. I have been blessed to be part of the People of Hope. Please know that you have made an impact on me and the other Missionaries who have spent time in New Jersey and know of my gratitude for you!



# JESUS AT THE HEART OF THE VIRUS

AN ENCOURAGEMENT FROM A NURSE WORKING WITH COVID-19 PATIENTS



WRITTEN BY JANE APUZZO

I am a hospice nurse at Morristown Medical Center, so in March when the pandemic was really starting to pick up I was asked if I would be willing to work on a covid unit, and I'm going to share a bit about this experience. This new unit was intended for patients who, for the most part, were not going to survive. My initial thought was to very quickly decline, but I soon felt the Lord leading me to accept this new challenge. So I said yes, during a time when great stress and anxiety was gripping everyone at the hospital as we all tried to wrap our heads around what would be our new norm.

Very quickly, nurses and doctors from all parts of Atlantic Health were thrown into these units with very little training, to help patients with a disease we knew very little about. Units were converted overnight to negative pressure rooms to try to protect the staff from this deadly disease and somehow, in the midst of it all, I felt a great peace in my heart about the decision.

Stepping onto our new unit with a group of staff members who mostly did not know each other would normally be a quite stressful experience, but every day as I worked on that floor I found myself feeling grateful for the amazing group of nurses we had, and the group only continued to amaze me each day after. We all really enjoyed getting to know each other and the great comradery that was built really made what we did a little bit easier.

*"I believe  
that the Lord  
would never  
leave these  
patients to  
suffer alone,  
but would  
stay at their  
bedsides  
holding their  
hands to  
glory".*



One of the hardest parts of this experience was that these people who were dying did not get to have their families by their side. Staff did everything we could to ease our patients' suffering, but it only added to the stress. I found, however, that all the nurses truly cared about their patients and would often put their own health at risk to spend extra time in these rooms comforting and caring for their patients.

As a hospice nurse, I have seen many beautiful deaths where I know the Lord was present in these rooms. One patient I had in the last year was a man in his 50's with cancer; he did not have any family here and very few visitors. The priest came every day to see him and give him communion, and during his last day on this earth as I was spending time with him, I noticed that between tremendous pain and suffering, he would have moments where his face started beaming as he looked up. I know he was seeing the Lord right

there in that room! After his death I was speaking with the priest who visited him daily, and he told me that he asked this man how he was doing one day, to which he response was, "the nights get very lonely, but Jesus comes and sits with me." That phrase often came back to me when I felt sadness that our patients had to be alone, and I believe that the Lord would never leave these patients to suffer alone, but would stay at their bedsides holding their hands to glory.

I believe the Lord is working in many different areas of each of our lives through this trial, and we may never know all the good that has come from this tragedy. I ask you to continue to pray for all the healthcare workers, as I know many doctors and nurses have and will experience some form of post traumatic stress from the things they saw and experienced. Thank you for all the prayers, I know I have drawn great grace and strength from them. Stay well!



APRIL 23, 2020

# {VIRTUAL} IGNITE EASTER CELEBRATION

## *Zoom Celebrations*

Due to quarantine, like much of our lives these days, Ignite Youth Group has turned to Zoom to continue our Ignite Nights and Small Groups. About a month ago, we were able to have our first ever Virtual Easter Celebration. It took some creativity from the Ignite Youth Workers to best plan a talk, a few games and to overall create an environment that was enjoyed by all virtually! Hear from one of Ignite teens how we were able to do this and her experience of the night.





# Teens' Perspective

## *What is one thing you miss from Ignite during this quarantine?*

As we are stuck inside I have realized how much I missed certain things. One of these things would have to be Ignite. A couple things I miss from Ignite would be being able to see everyone and sit around and talk about random stuff. I miss being able to get talks in person and being able to ask questions to really help push myself in whatever the talk may be about. I also miss the Ignite leaders, being able to talk to them randomly during Ignite was always one of my highlights of the day.

## *What was one thing that surprised you about the Ignite Virtual Easter Celebration?*

As many as you know we did our Ignite Easter Celebration via Zoom. I was a little nervous that it would not be the same Ignite we have in person. In some ways it wasn't like normal Ignite for obvious reasons but in other ways it was. I was surprised how we were still able to play a game, hear talks and for it still to be a lot of fun. This was surprising to me because I did not know how much fun you could have over Zoom but also still learn something about your faith.

## *Can you briefly describe the event? How did technology play a role in this celebration?*

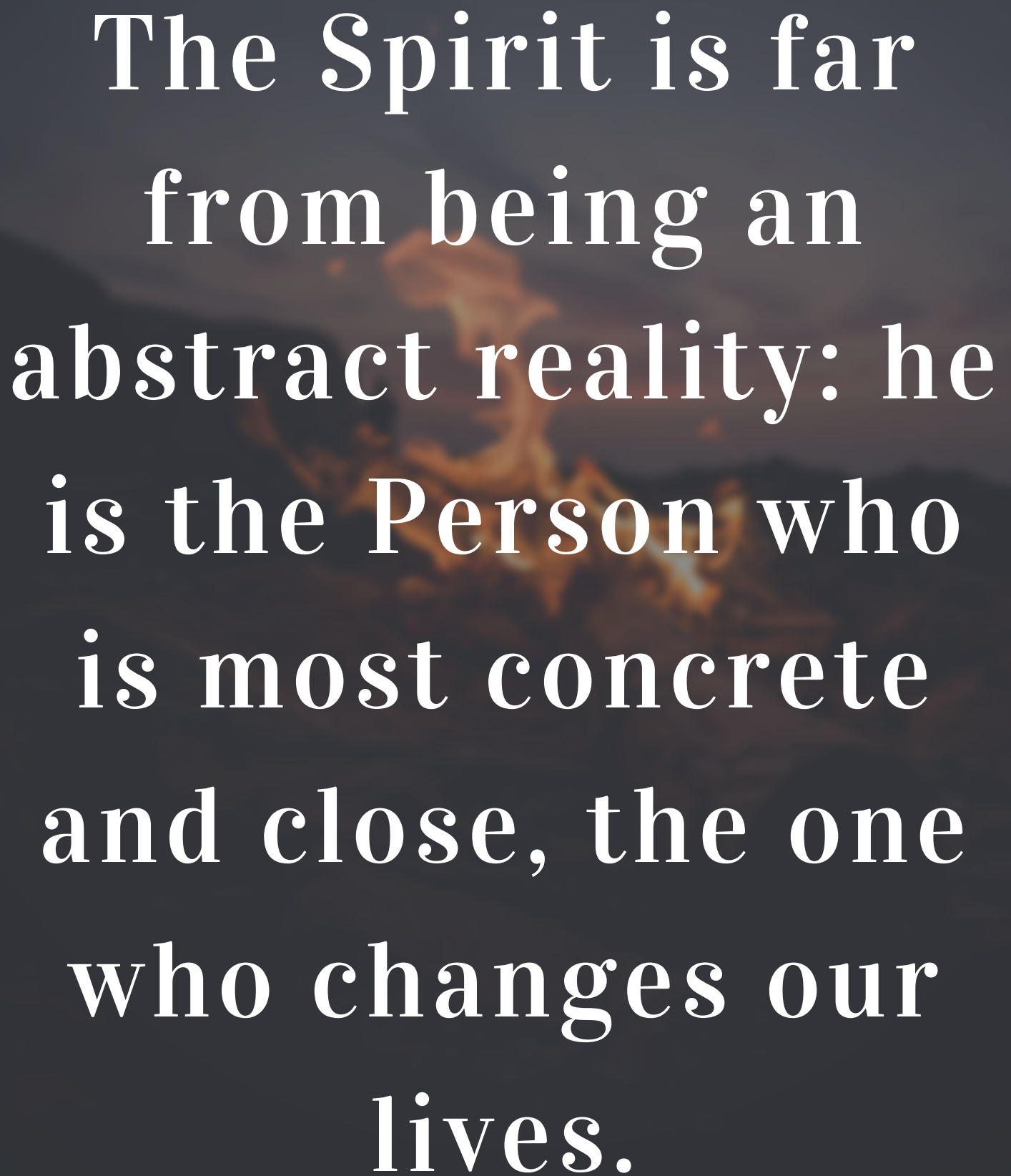
The celebration started off with a beautiful song from no other than Alicia Greey. After the song Julia Molnar took over and announced the first talk. We heard from Clare Holmes, Jen and Mark (two Ignite Seniors) about how their quarantine is going and what they are doing not to struggle. After that we headed into a game which was a scavenger hunt around our house. In this game we had to grab whatever we were told to and then show the camera. We then ended the night like we started with a closing song. Technology played a big part from the videos of people giving us talks to just being able to meet. Without it we would not have been able to have Ignite so I am thankful for Technology.

## *What did you enjoy about the Ignite Easter celebration? Did you have a favorite part?*

I really enjoyed everything about the celebration from the talks to the games. In Ignite no matter what happens we always strive to have the best possible time which I always enjoy doing. I would have to say my favorite part was just seeing everyone again. I did not realize how much I missed Ignite and everyone in it until I saw their faces.

- Grace, Ignite Junior





The Spirit is far  
from being an  
abstract reality: he  
is the Person who  
is most concrete  
and close, the one  
who changes our  
lives.



# *This Too Shall Pass*

An encouragement during quarantine



This too shall pass! Did we ever imagine that we would be isolated-quarantined for 10 weeks without being in a Church and receiving Our Lord in the Eucharist? How could I live without?

God is kind and merciful! During those sometimes long weeks, when I missed the hugs, fellowship of others, all the meetings and special celebrations, I had time to pray especially for those who were sick and the souls of those who died! And I read the Diary of St. Faustina a beautiful large book about the merciful love of God. It touched my heart in many ways, especially to know that God is offended by our ingratitude!.

Which lead me to thank God for time to pray, thank God for those who cared for me, mostly my son and daughter in law, Pat and Rebeca who kept me feed and filled my arms with their new baby Fulton Robert each day. Each week Nancy Appert gathered our small group of ten in a conference call, where we shared our life and prayed together! What a blessing! So yes, this too shall pass but it has made me more grateful for God's mercy and kindness! Come Holy Spirit!

*"So yes, this  
too shall pass  
but it has  
made me  
more grateful  
for God's  
mercy and  
kindness!"*

*by Ginny Gallic*

# SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

## THOUGHTS ON THE REMOTE CHURCH EXPERIENCE

INTERVIEW WITH PETE  
TOMASELLO

### Q: WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT PHYSICALLY ATTENDING MASS?

A: We miss receiving Jesus' body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. Also, every Sunday, we would attend the same mass as my parents and have brunch at their house afterwards. We really miss this family time.

### Q: WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING TO HELP MAINTAIN YOUR FAITH LIFE ON SUNDAYS? HAS THERE BEEN ANY TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED WITH THAT?

A: We use technology to attend our home parish (Little Flower) mass every Sunday. It is so nice to see a familiar setting and familiar faces. Besides the normal homily, our pastor, Father Andy, sends a video with a message every Sunday that warms our hearts. It usually contains "spiritual homework" for the upcoming week.

We've been hosting and attending regular virtual Lord's Days since the quarantine began. We start with the prayers, break for dinner, and come back on for fellowship and entertainment after dinner. It has been an amazing way to use technology to stay connected





**Q: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PRAY FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION?  
WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE WITH PRAYING FOR IT?**

A: We feel that God has provided the grace that has been needed for every moment and every challenge. We've had our breakdown moments like everyone else, but they end on our knees which is where we should have been to begin with. We can only describe this grace as sacramental grace, even with the absence of the physical sacraments. God yearns to be near us more than we could ever yearn to be near Him and so he is breaking the boundaries of time and space to be present in our lives.

**"GOD YEARNS TO BE  
NEAR US MORE THAN  
WE COULD EVER  
YEARN TO BE NEAR  
HIM"**



*The Tomasello family getting ready for Mass at home*

**Q: WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD  
TO AFTER THIS "SELF-ISOLATION" ENDS?**

A: Going to mass and confession for starters. Then, hiring a baby sitter and going on date night without the kids! Maybe we could combine both into one date. We also would like to stay at a beach house with the kids for a few days.





# HEALTH CARE HEROES

*Let's remember to thank and keep in our prayers the following brothers and sisters in the People of Hope, family and friends, who are on the front lines caring for those most in need during this pandemic.*

*Please visit our website [peopleofhope.net/healthheroes](https://peopleofhope.net/healthheroes) to see the complete list of all medical and emergency personnel we are keeping in our prayers or you would like to add someone to our list of intentions.*

- Jane Apuzzo
- Marianne Benson
- Anne Cantine
- Dr. Joe Clemente
- Kathy McCabe
- Daria Moccia
- Mary Kathleen Molnar
- Kate Nordstrom
- Charlie Pepper
- Arlene Peregrin

**Heavenly Father, we place in your protective hands all these healthcare workers and their families during this time. Bless their work, the patients they care for, and all affected by this virus. Amen.**



**IMMEDIATE  
NEED**

- Paul Giegerich
- Jackie Donnelley
- Don Campbell
- Judah Miklosovic  
(grandson of John  
and Mary Quense)

**SERIOUS &  
ONGOING**

- Eleanor Benson
- Dick Birmingham
- Margaret Fierro
- Laura Greey
- Shannon Hardy
- Danielle Neri
- Lee Scarfone

**AROUND THE SWORD  
OF THE SPIRIT**

- Steve Clark - Servants of  
the Word, Chelsea, MI
- Jan Munk - Work of  
Christ, Lansing, MI
- Mike Luea (Father in  
law of Cristin Touhill-  
Luea) - Work of Christ,  
Lansing, MI
- Peter Smith - Triumph  
of the Cross, MD

Please visit our website [peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions](https://peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions) to see our complete list of our prayer intentions and to add to our list.

**2020 PRAYER  
PETITION HIGHLIGHT**

**FAMILY LIFE:**

Bless and protect our marriages. May our families be models of faith, love, and respect. We pray for the end of abortion and assisted suicide. May we protect life at all stages. Please bless and protect the pregnant women in our community and those who wish to be pregnant. We pray that the traditional form of the family, husband, wife, and children, be morally and legally restored and held high as the fundamental unit of our society. Bless all of our efforts to support family life including Children's Ministry, Camp Hope, Ignite, KA, SPO, CSA, Daughters of Hope and Senior's programs. Bless all of us, married, children, single, widows, widowers, parents, and the elderly.

Amen.



*"Dismiss all anxiety from your minds.  
Present your needs to God in every form of  
prayer and in petitions full of gratitude"*

**PHIL. 4:6**



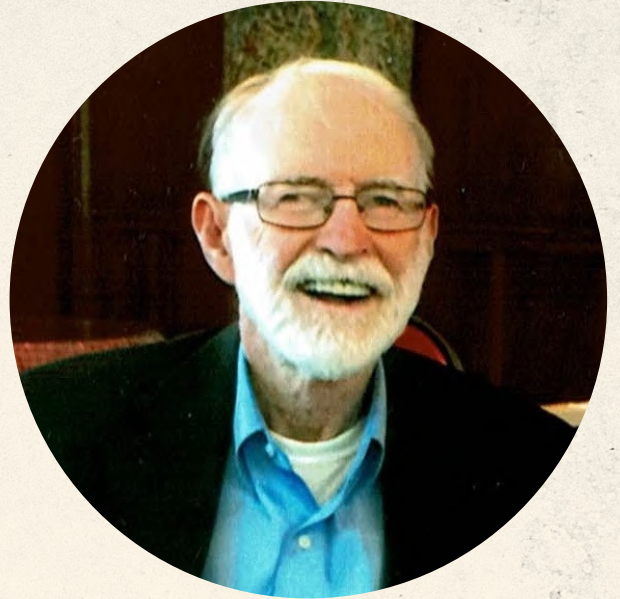
IN LOVING MEMORY

# PETER HARMON

**Born on July 17, 1937**

**Baptized on August 8, 1937**

**Entered Eternal Rest on Holy  
Saturday, April 11, 2020**



Pete was born to Irish immigrants and raised in West Orange. He graduated from Seton Hall Prep and Seton Hall University, and worked for many years in the Division of Disability Determination Services at the New Jersey Department of Labor until his retirement in 2002. Pete was an active parishioner at St.

Antoninus parish in Newark, NJ and later at Our Lady of the Mount parish in Warren, NJ. He also volunteered as a Boy Scout leader and served as Scoutmaster for Troop 3 in New Jersey for several years.

Pete began to attend prayer meetings of the Catholic charismatic renewal in the late 1970s. On the return flight from a conference in Kansas City he got to know Edwarda Quinn, and on All Saints Day 1980 they were married. "See what love the Father has lavished upon us" (1 John 3), a reading that day, was a fitting description for their married life for the next forty years.

The People of Hope was a very important part of Peter's (and his family's) life, a source of support, a place for deep friendships lasting many years, and most importantly an aid to following the Lord Jesus. After his retirement he volunteered for some years in the community office, and he richly enjoyed this time working with brothers and sisters in the Lord. We, the family, are grateful for the love and prayer you in the community showed Peter during his life, and for your faithfulness to the common life he shared in in the People of Hope. He loved you all very much.

After joining his own to Our Lord's sufferings during Lent and Holy Week, Peter went home to the Lord to whom he had devoted his life with trust just in time to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection in heaven.

- The Harmon Family



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**T H E P E O P L E O F H O P E**

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION