



Dear Alumni and Friends,

In a time of such uncertainty, I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. My heart goes out to everyone impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as it has touched all of us in differing but profound ways. During this time, I want to thank you for all of your support, including your prayers and encouragement, as well as to share information with you regarding Marywood's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures the University is taking to mitigate its impact.

Students are the heart of what we do and who we are at Marywood. In the interest of the health and safety of all at Marywood, we have closed our physical campus and moved to remote instruction for the remainder of the spring semester. While not physically on campus, many of our faculty, staff, and administrators continue their service remotely in support of our students. I have received many positive messages from faculty, students, parents, and alumni this week. While this health crisis has challenged all of us to think, learn, work, and live differently, I am incredibly proud of the greater Marywood community and extremely grateful for your ability to come together and support one another. I am inspired by the way in which each one of you lives the Marywood mission guided by our core values. This is our collective strength – the thread that binds us together.

It is said there is a pivotal catastrophic event in every generation. We remember where we were and what we were doing when it happened. We will never forget how it changed us. At times like these, we stop to assess what's important and how we can support and encourage those around us. I encourage you to reach out to one another by phone, email, and social media to check in with each other. The Office of University Advancement (Alumni and Development) is available for your questions or to assist in connecting with one another. You can reach out via email at alumni@marywood.edu or call 570-348-6238.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some updates on two important traditions that have been a part of Marywood since our inception. With the health and safety of the greater Marywood community in mind, we have moved Commencement to August 15, 2020. This special day will be even more special, as it is also the Feast of the Assumption. This Feast Day, of course, holds a special place in our hearts. Also, in consultation with the Class of 1970, who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, we have moved Alumni Weekend to October 16-18, 2020. During that weekend, it is our hope to also honor the Class of 2020 with a special celebration, given their missed opportunity to gather on campus this spring. To see how we are responding to COVID-19 and for the latest campus updates, please visit: www.marywood.edu/covid19.

I am forever grateful for your support and your messages. Inspired by alumni and friends who have reached out and asked how they can help at this time, I would like to share with you the opportunity to support our existing Student Emergency Fund. This Fund supports Marywood students in need, as it provides critical resources to help ensure their ability to continue their education. This Fund is especially important at this time. It can help students access technology resources, such as laptops or Wi-Fi access, to continue their education, and it can help students meet other unexpected expenses. A gift to this Fund can help students who need immediate assistance. If you have an ability to help, I kindly ask you to consider a gift at this time or when you have the opportunity to do so: www.marywood.edu/studentfund.

May we be inspired by the good people we have in our lives and by the hope Marywood has brought to the world for over a century. While we cannot anticipate all the impacts of this pandemic, we do know that the Marywood Community is strong and resilient and that we will navigate these challenging times together.

The following is a prayer written by one of our IHM Sisters. I hope you will pray it often during this incomprehensible moment in history.

With gratitude,

Sister Mary

Prayer during a Pandemic

Loving God, Holy One,
Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.
We hold in tenderness and prayer
the collective suffering of our world at this time.
We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.
We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.
We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.
Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.
Help us to practice social distancing
and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.
Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,
You, the God who does not abandon,
You, the Holy One,
breathing within us,
breathing among us, breathing around us
in our beautiful yet wounded world.

- Sisters of IHM, Scranton, PA