For The Gift of Time and Talent ...

Our Merry Mask Makers

In the early days of the pandemic, Sr. Trish temporarily stopped making quilts and turned her talents to making masks, and she recruited fellow quilt maker and friend, Ida. Not to be left out, Ida recruited her husband John (for pattern cutting). Covenant Companion Mary Krystinak also joined in the sewing of masks.

Through our Wheaton Franciscan social media and personal connections a request for “helpers,” went out, particularly for the cutting of fabric. More than a dozen people responded to this request. With the assistance of these helping elves more than 1,000 masks were donated to local nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Sr. Lynn also joined the band of Merry Mask Makers. Sr. Lynn has made more 300 masks, some toward Sr. Trish’s masks project and others for family members and friends. Sr. Lynn is living consciously through this pandemic, mindful of how one might move through a process while reducing one’s exposure to contagions and saving one life at a time.

We are grateful for the contributions and gifts of all of our Merry Mask Makers and their helper elves. We know they blessed each and every mask with their love and gifts of time and talent.

“The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better.”- Robert F. Kennedy
Serving the needs of the times behind this mask is Covenant Companion Paige Samdel. Paige is using this time to pull “from the back burner” different opportunities to serve. She writes, “because of telework, I am able to split my work shift. This has allowed me to drive for Meals on Wheels for DuPage Senior Council. When I return to the car after each delivery, I say a prayer for the person — asking that the mal provide hi/her strength, freedom from illness, and affirmation that someone cares for them. Often, I notice a cross worn or hung on the wall and exchange God’s peace.”

In addition to driving and delivering for Meals on Wheels, Paige has taken the opportunity to shop for others, and to cook for others so they may remain safely at home. Paige says, I view my ministry as helping other … the new restrictions have actually offered me new opportunities to be of services.

We are grateful for Paige's heart for service and know that her presence has been a blessing for those she has served.

Gardens of Grace - from Lisa Flannigan

I love to garden. I have four flower beds, an herb garden, numerous flowering pots and a vegetable garden at home. Three years ago we wanted to expand our vegetable garden, but decided to go a different route and join the Plano Community Garden, a non profit organization. The Garden has been around since 2012. The members of the Garden grow food not only for themselves but for the Kendall County Community Food Pantry. The Garden averages about 6,600 pounds of fresh vegetables for the Pantry every year. Our main crops are cabbage, peppers, tomatoes and squash. We harvest, wash and deliver to the Pantry every Wednesday. Due to Corona virus, there weren't as many plant donations this year. To help out, I started more than two hundred plants by seed for the pantry. A BIG THANK YOU to Sr. Martha who donated extra tomato and pepper plants to our Pantry. My husband, Gordon, is pictured tilling one of the pantry plots that will be planted with tomatoes and pumpkins. My daughter Samantha and I are pictured in one of our plots planting acorn squash and Napa cabbage. We are also growing kale, potatoes, cabbage, zucchini, yellow squash, pole beans, peppers and kohlrabi in this plot for the Pantry.