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A Message of Gratitude from Joe Impicciche

1 message

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A Message of Gratitude from Joe Impicciche

It was one year ago – March 11, 2020 – when the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. At the time no one could truly foresee the impact on our ministry, our nation and our world. As we determined how to respond to this challenge, we had faith that focusing on the needs of our patients and our associates would be the right course, no matter what lay ahead.

This faith was based on two key convictions – our Mission, rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus; and the dedication, compassion and commitment of our extraordinary caregivers and valued associates.

As we reach this milestone of a year that is unprecedented in any of our lifetimes, I want to again personally express my deep appreciation and the gratitude of our Ascension leaders for all that you have done – and all that you continue to do – to serve those most in need of our care.

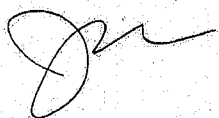
In his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis speaks of creative courage, saying that “in the face of difficulty, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it. At times, difficulties bring out resources we did not even think we had.” These words truly resonate with the response of our caregivers and associates to COVID-19. We have been challenged like never before, yet in many ways, our ministry has grown stronger, more united, more focused on working together in a spirit of shared commitment and service.

Today, as three vaccines have now been authorized in the U.S. for emergency use against COVID-19, and as the rates of new cases have dropped over the past few weeks, we have a renewed sense of hope. We continue to vaccinate our own associates and vulnerable members of our communities, making special outreach efforts to those who are marginalized and at risk.

And as we look forward with hope, I'm reminded of a prayer shared on the Catholic Health Association website from Laura Kelly Fanucci. Her short prayer, *When This is Over*, closes with these words:

*When this ends,
may we find that we have become
more like the people we wanted to be,
we were called to be,
we hoped to be.
And may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.*

Thank you for answering our call and bringing our Mission to life each and every day. You continue to inspire me. May God bless you and all those you hold dear with health and well-being this spring season and throughout the year.



Joseph R. Impicicche, JD, MHA
President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension

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