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Dear (personalize name if you can),

You are in our hearts and prayers during these especially challenging times. In the midst of the uncertainty, we have come to a renewed appreciation for the gift of life and the value of relationships. We thank you for your prayers, your care and concern for Camp Maria Retreat Center.

Even as the coronavirus pandemic has caused group cancellations, we have used this time to reach out in ministry in new ways. Thanks to a Payroll Protection loan granted to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, we have been able to maintain a core staff since we suspended operations due to COVID-19 in March. Following the Mission of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and in partnership with our local soup kitchen, the Camp Maria Food Service staff has donated surplus food and is providing meals for people enduring food insecurity and lack in our local community. Our Maintenance staff is hard at work on improvement projects and caring for this beautiful property.

As we move through unique times there is a certain constancy here. While we have experienced many improvements over the years, we are always happy to hear that it feels as though nothing has changed at Camp Maria. Members of the recent Stefko family retreat commented that Camp Maria is their home away from home. The natural surroundings including the glorious sunsets and the bay help to ground us, taking us down to our very core to be open to what really matters to us in our lives.

As you can imagine, COVID-19 has severely limited our ability to host programs. Camp Maria relies heavily on fees from these programs. Additionally, our traditional fundraising efforts have been impacted. **We are once again reaching out to all of our friends for help with this urgent need for financial support to get us through this period.** Your gift will assist us in covering COVID-19 related costs so that we can continue, although on a limited basis at this time, to offer a lifeline to families, school groups, church groups, veterans, and all others who come to experience peace, rest and spiritual refreshment in this holy place.

There is good news. Following all guidelines and standards of the State of Maryland, we have reopened in June on a limited basis to family groups and private retreats. All of our groups that cancelled for this year, plan to return next year. We look forward to the day when we can welcome all as we have for the past 83 years to enjoy the new pier, the famous sunsets and the spirit that is unique to Camp Maria. Your support helps make this possible.

We are grateful for whatever you can offer for this urgent need and for your ongoing support of Camp Maria.

With a thankful heart,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Kovalcik".

Ann Kovalcik SCNA