

March 22, 2020

Dear Roberto, Emon, Brian, Claire,
Grace, Emily, Will, Emily C.,
Oralle, Macey, Sam, Megan,
Ajay, Remy, Kat, Brenden,
Lucy, Matty, and Shannon:

I write this with a heavy, yet hopeful heart. Each of you are experiencing the ripple effect of this global crisis in your own ways. You are each going through this differently - yet, we are all in this together.

I think about high-school seniors with no prom, to our own seniors who won't get that Department Senior dinner and award celebration.

Then, I think of those who never had those opportunities to begin with. So many high school seniors never get to go to prom, maybe due to being too poor or perhaps they are too "odd" or "not cool enough" to feel comfortable even going. So many kids don't even get to college due to their position in life - the hand they were dealt - maybe too poor or they have to care of their siblings or parents.

Life is complex and full of sadness. Yet, we must train our minds to see that silver lining. See, right now, in the midst of uncertainty - I try to find that lining. Suddenly, we are blessed with being told to literally be home, with our immediate family. Nowhere else should we go. We are being called to remain diligent, resilient and responsible - for the common good.

I was that senior college student who never got to attend that Senior dinner. I was the high-school student who grew up very poor and was teased. I was "odd". I recall many, MANY, dinners where my

Mom never ate because after four kids had our meal, nothing was left. Sacrifices are being made around the world. My daughters have fathers who can't see them right now. And babies grow faster than the speed of light. Nouveau's father may not see her for two months! Yet, we do this for others because that is the Marianist message.

With that said, I pray you each take this time, as that — **TIME**. Time to be grateful for any privileges you know you have, from that roof over your head to those socks on your feet. I ask that you imagine what it must be like for homeless folks right now, and for families with several children, who are now laid off and can't provide — their world is crumbling. The poor are suffering even greater now. I ask that you pray for those who are suffering the most. Pray for medical workers and delivery drivers and grocery store employees who are extending themselves and scared too. Many have **NO CHOICE** but to work.

AND, IF YOU DON'T PRAY — DO POSITIVE MANIFESTATIONS FOR THOSE IN NEED. CLOSE YOUR EYES, TAKE DEEP BREATHS AND MANIFEST ONLY POSITIVE ENERGY OUT.

This time gives science the endless hours it needs to research this novel virus and provide solutions to the world. Science is incredible.

May you see this time as one of reflection. We will recover, but we won't ever be the same. Yet, we have one another. We have the ability to create change and give hope. We have the privileges of education and hot meals, comfy beds and water. Take this time to love yourself. To be grateful for life and what you have to offer — and for each of us that calling is different. To practice social distancing and remain home. If you go out, be protective of others. See, that's the

Silver lining too. Life is about others, Not just you.

You are young. Blessed to be without a ton of responsibilities. Stay focused on those positives while remaining sensitive and empathetic to those negatives.

I will miss your faces. So very much.
I hold a deep invested interest in your success and personal well-being. Let's continue our relationship via cyber world, and embrace it with positive thoughts.
We will accomplish the rest of the learning outcomes. And we will remain focused on our education as that provides us with hope and understanding.

Sincerely,
Misty

Note: This is the text of a handwritten letter from Misty Thomas-Trout to her Graphic Design I (VAD 411) students in March, sent the day before classes resumed following spring break. Initially, virtual education was a precaution, set to last for two weeks; however, it extended for the remainder of the term and the summer term. By the time the fall semester began in late August 2020, more than 5 million cases had been reported in the United States.

The indents of the paragraphs reflect the way the letter appeared on paper.

March 22, 2020

Dear Roberto, Eman, Brian, Claire,
Grace, Emily, Will, Emily C.,
Drake, Meg, Sam, Megan,
Ajay, Remy, Kat, Brendan,
Lucy, Maddy and Shannon:

I write this with a heavy, yet hopeful heart. Each of you are experiencing the ripple effect of this global crisis in your own ways. You are each going through this differently – yet, we are all in this together.

I think about high school seniors with no prom, to our own seniors who won't get that department senior dinner and award celebration.

Then, I think of those who never had those opportunities to begin with. So many high school seniors never get to go to prom, maybe due to being too poor or perhaps they are too "odd" or "not cool enough" to feel comfortable even going. So many kids don't ever get to go to college due to their position in life – the hand they were dealt – maybe too poor or they have to care for their siblings or parents.

Life is complex and full of sadness. Yet, we must train our minds to see that silver lining. See, right now, in the midst of uncertainty – I try to find that lining. Suddenly, we are blessed with being told to literally be home, with our immediate family. Nowhere else should we go. We are being called to remain diligent, resilient and responsible – for the common good.

I was that senior college student who never got to attend that senior dinner. I was the high school student who grew up very poor and was teased. I was “odd.” I recall many, many dinners where my mom never ate because after four kids had their own meal, nothing was left. Sacrifices are being made around the world. My daughters have fathers who can’t see them right now. And babies grow faster than the speed of light. Nouveau’s father may not see her for two months! Yet, we do this for others because that is the Marianist message.

With that said, I pray you each take this time as that – TIME. Time to be grateful for any privileges you know you have, from that roof over your head to those socks on your feet. I ask that you imagine what it must be like for the homeless folks right now, and for their families with several children, who are now laid off and can’t provide – their world is crumbling.

The poor are suffering even greater now. I ask that you pray for those who are suffering the most. Pray for medical workers and delivery drivers and grocery store employees who are extending themselves and scared too. Many have no choice but to work.

And, if you don't pray, do positive manifestations for those in need. Close your eyes, take deep breaths and manifest only positive energy out.

This time gives science the endless hours it needs to research this novel virus and provide solutions to the world. Science is incredible.

May you see this time as one of reflection. We will recover, but we won't ever be the same. Yet, we have one another. We have the ability to create change and give hope. We have the privileges of education and hot meals, comfy beds and water. Take this time to love yourself. To be grateful for life and what you have to offer – and for each of us, that calling is different. To practice social distancing and remain home. If you go out, be protective of others. See, that's the silver lining, too. Life is about others, not just you.

You are young. Blessed to be without a ton of responsibilities. Stay focused on those positives while remaining sensitive and empathetic to those negatives.

I will miss your faces. So very much. I hold a deep, invested interest in your success and personal well-being. Let's continue our relationship via cyber world and embrace it with positive thoughts. We will accomplish the rest of the learning outcomes. And we will remain focused on our education as that provides us with hope and understanding.

Sincerely,

Misty