



1725 Brentwood Road
Building 1
Brentwood, NY 11717-5589
Phone 631-299-3000
Fax 631-952-2378

April 2020

Dear Maria Regina Family Member,

Please accept our sympathy for your loss and also our gratitude for the privilege of caring for your loved one. Please know you have our love and prayers as you grieve.

The passing of a beloved member of your family is always a difficult and heartbreaking time. However, the COVID-19 pandemic adds an additional level of stress and grief because of the social distancing restrictions. As a result, many of you are electing to hold a memorial service or have a Mass said at a later date. Unfortunately this is our current reality and we have no choice. Yet, the need to outwardly express feelings and emotions with family and friends about a loved one who has died, is part of the grieving process.

To offer you support you at this time, I have created a memorial service that you may like to use as a guide. You can include music, use your own readings, etc. to make it more personal. Family and friends can gather at a specific time to honor your loved one via Zoom, conference call or Facebook Live Stream. (Hopefully, you have a computer savvy person in your life who can help you out with this.) Obviously, this is not the same as attending a wake service or a Mass, but it may provide an avenue for connectedness and closure when everything else around us is shifting. If you would like me to send you this service electronically so you can share with others, please email me at mboccia@mariareginaresidence.org. Feel free to call me at 631-299-3191. In case you weren't aware, NYS has a 24/7 Mental Health Hotline: 1-844-863-9314.

Please accept this as an offering of compassion. My heart hurts for you and I want to do whatever I can to ease your suffering. The Sisters, Theresa and I pray that the tenderness of our God is a source of healing and comfort for each of you.

With love and care,

Michele Boccia
Director of Pastoral Care