A ritual during COVID times

Annual Day of Remembrance at
Santa Clara Medical Center, San Jose, CA

Usually we distribute wreaths to the nurses stations on all the units that they decorate with memories of those who passed in the previous year. We invite musicians and local religious to a ceremony at which we bless the wreaths and then leave them through the night with luminaria. This year we could not have that gathering safely, so instead we made prayer boxes for each unit decorated with sunflowers. Each box had papers for them to write the name of someone who died in the past year or a kindly thought for those who have died, and memorial cards For All Who Died in the Past Year with a little poem/prayer. They were asked to leave a prayer and take a card to pray on Halloween. The boxes were collected on Halloween and the prayers were offered up in a private prayer service with the Dominican Sisters at Half Moon Bay where the prayers were read aloud with the refrain, ‘May you be at Peace and live on eternal light.’

Peace and Blessings,
Sr. Donna Maria J. Moses OP, BCC
Los Altos, CA