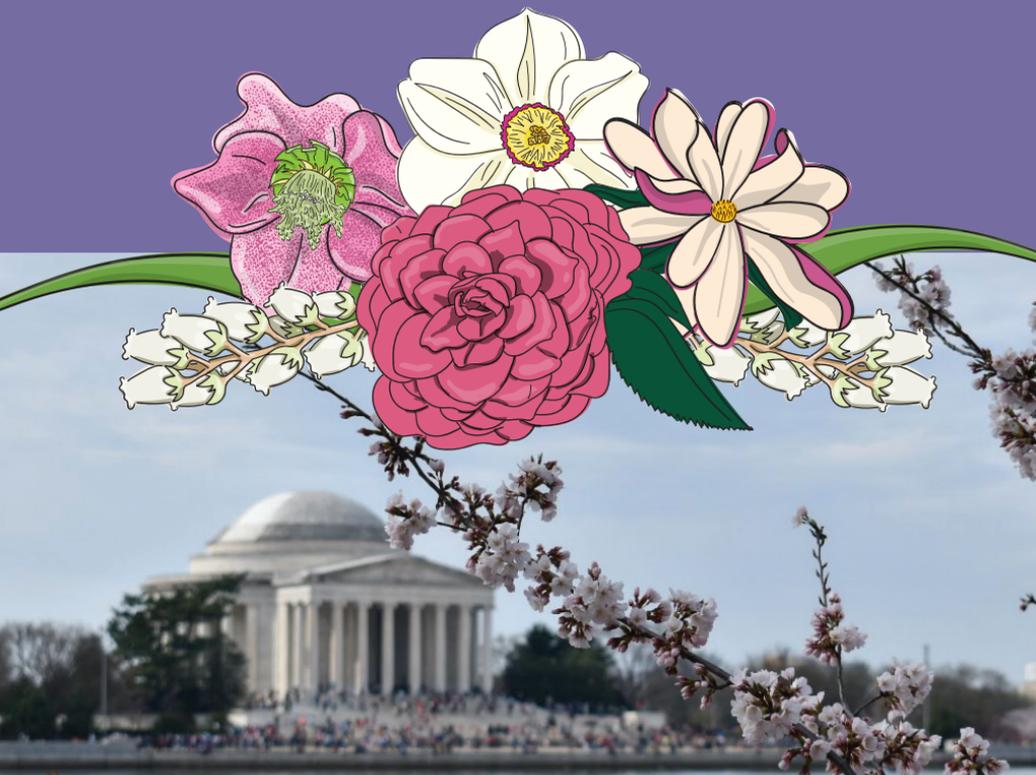


The winter is past.  
The rains are over and gone.  
The flowers appear  
on the earth.

[SONG OF SONGS 2:11-12]



Dear FMS family,

Greetings from all of us at FMS! We hope this spiritual coloring booklet and Summer Appeal find you and your loved ones as nourished as possible. While we celebrate a time of gradual opening, we are also aware that there is still much pandemic-induced suffering and that the blooming is not equitably distributed in our world.

Yet flowers are indeed blooming. A year ago, I reflected with many of you on what FMS' ministry of presence looks like during a time in which our physical presence with one another is limited, and one year later I am so proud of this Franciscan family of ours. We remain connected as the Body of Christ; amid online masses, remote Discernment Days, and regular staff prayer in which we pray for each of you, we do not stand alone. We still find sacredness in the present moment; FMS welcomed a Casa full of 15 individuals this fall who affirmatively responded to the call to mission. Amid commitment to ministry sites, delicious dinners, murder mystery parties, and solemn spirituality nights, this has been a year of mission, laughter, and reflection. We still stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable; FMS missionaries and volunteers overwhelmingly chose to remain at their ministry sites in the midst of the pandemic. We still celebrate with joy the many gifts in life and mourn with those who are suffering and grieving. We still walk in community with one another; FMS was one of the only programs to run a full in-person Formation and continue supporting overseas mission during the pandemic.

Thank you for your generous support to FMS that makes this life-giving, transformational mission possible. We couldn't do it without you, and I ask you to continue to join us with your spiritual and financial support.

Peace and all good,



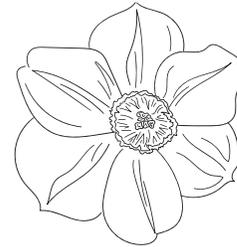
Elizabeth Hughes  
Executive Director

As we enter into this time of slowly opening up, we offer this blooming floral coloring booklet and Summer Appeal as a spiritual bouquet of intentionality, resilience, and hope. We will be coming together as an FMS community for the following events throughout this new season with additional details to follow via email.

## fms events \*More information to follow via email

### may

*Reflections on Telling Clare's Story  
with Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF  
Location: Online Date: TBD*

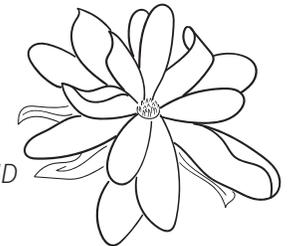


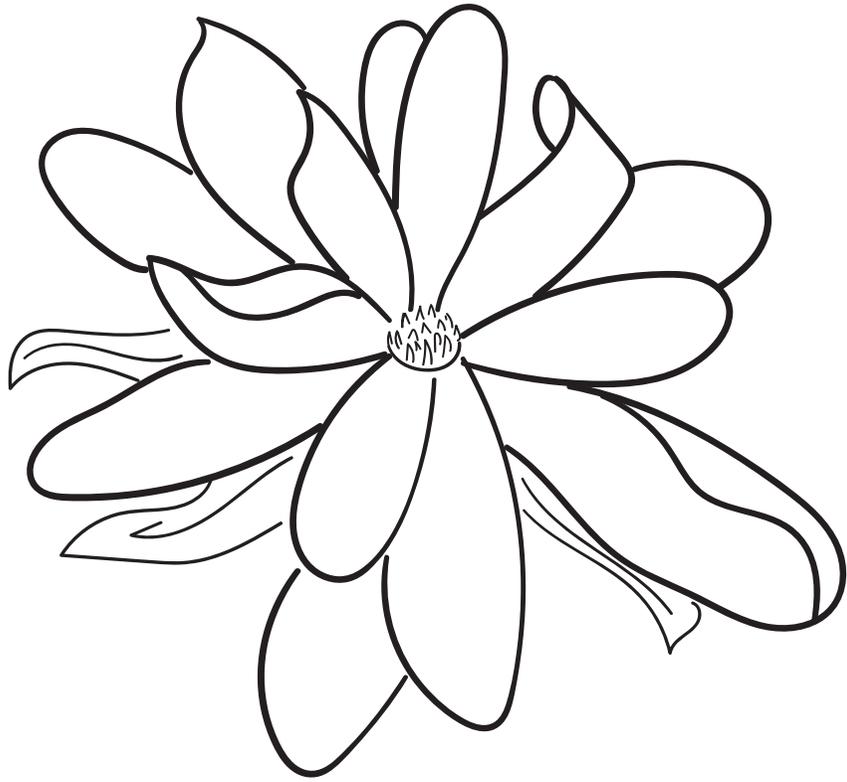
### june

*Brotherly Baking: Reflections on Francis-  
can Hospitality with Br. Andrew, winner of  
the Great American Bakeoff  
Location: Hybrid, DC/Online Date: TBD*

### july

*DC Service Corps Closing Mass  
Location: St. Camillus Parish, Silver Spring MD  
Date: July 27th, 6pm*





## Star Magnolia

*Magnolia stellata*

\*All floral drawings are inspired by those in bloom within the Franciscan Monastery gardens, located a few blocks from the FMS volunteer house



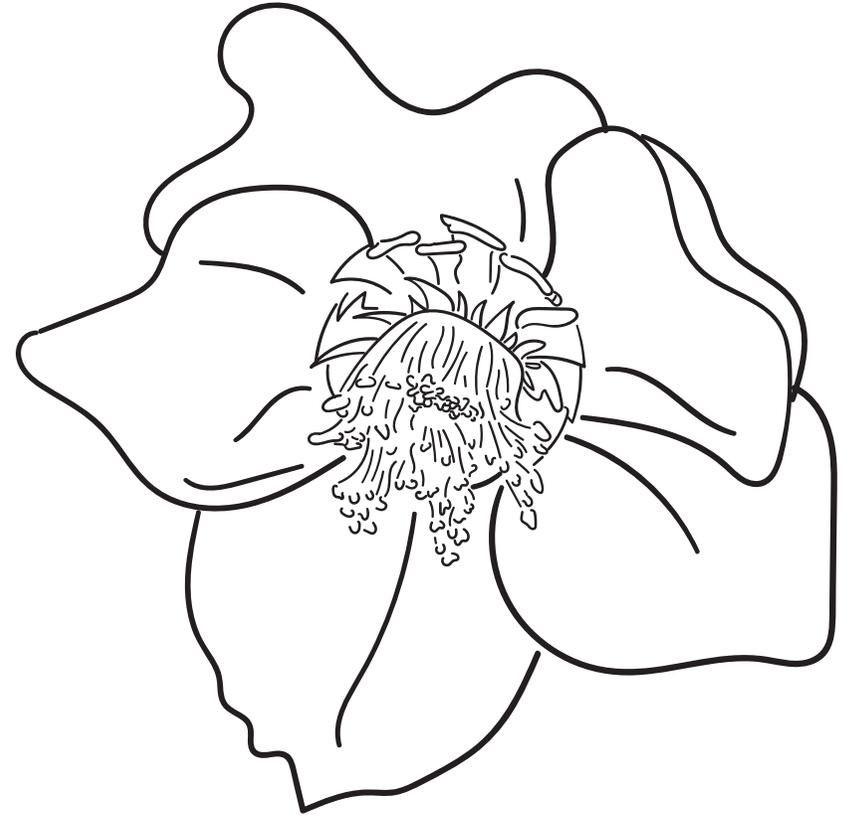
**“Spring is here on the US-Mexico border bringing new life and hope. The pandemic has devastated families, but hope and a brighter future is felt on both sides of the wall.”**

Rhonda Eckerman, Overseas Lay Missioner  
US-Mexico Border Region



“It is in difficult moments that we discover who we really are. This past year with the pandemic, I have been shaken and uprooted. These 8 months with FMS, I have been grounded enough to find my footing, to discover renewal in my soul, and to move forward with a steadfast hope.”

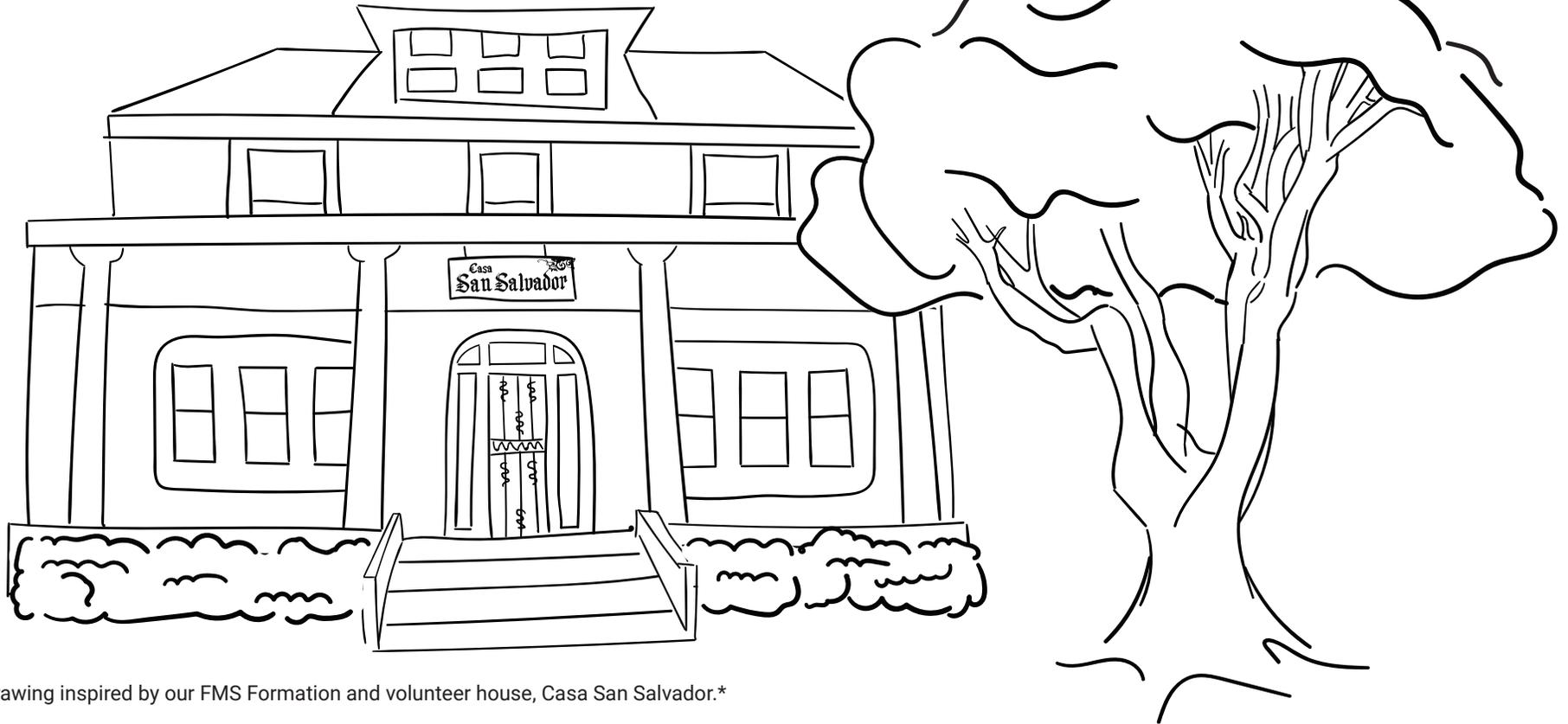
Erin Brown, DCSC  
Father McKenna Center Volunteer



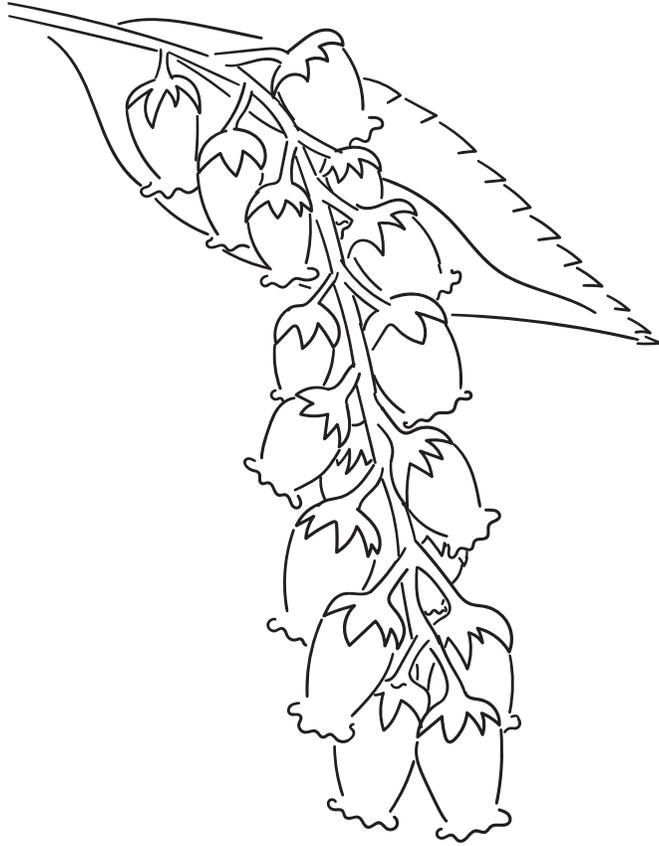
**Lenten Rose**  
*Helleborus orientalis*

**“These challenging times have pushed me to be creative when connecting with new people and staying connected with friends and family. Inspired by this hopeful springtime, let’s tend to the garden of our relationships, weeding those that do us no good and watering those that need our love and attention.”**

Federico Wettstein, DCSC  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Volunteer



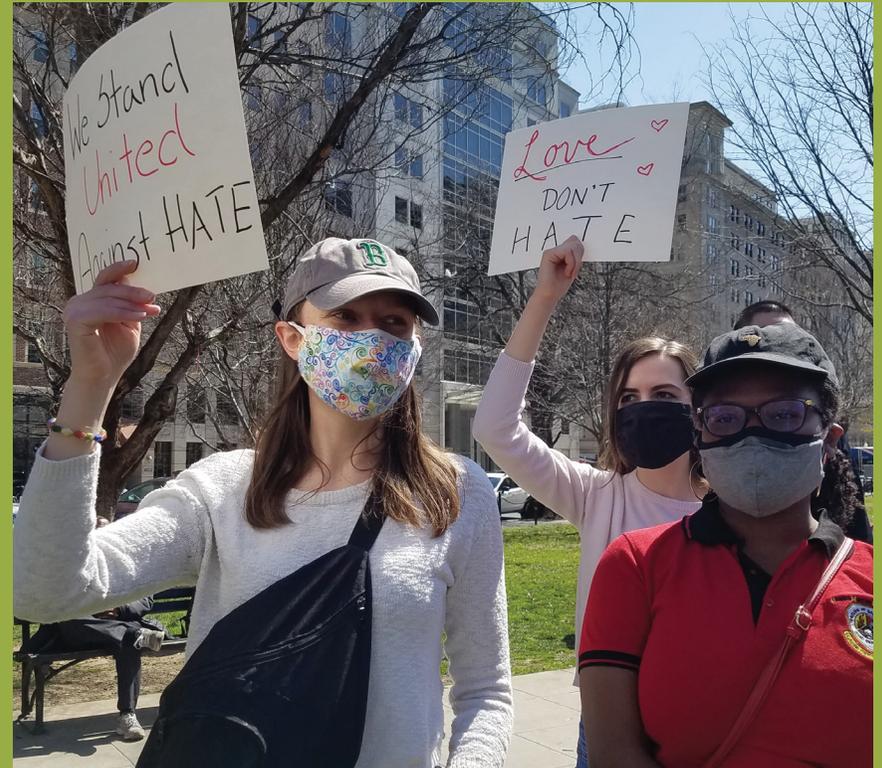
\*Drawing inspired by our FMS Formation and volunteer house, Casa San Salvador.\*



**Japanese andromeda**  
*Pieris japonica*

“This last year hasn’t been easy, but it has been meaningful. I give thanks for the creative ways we’ve grown closer as an FMS family. If community can bloom at a time of keeping physical distance, it can bloom at any time.”

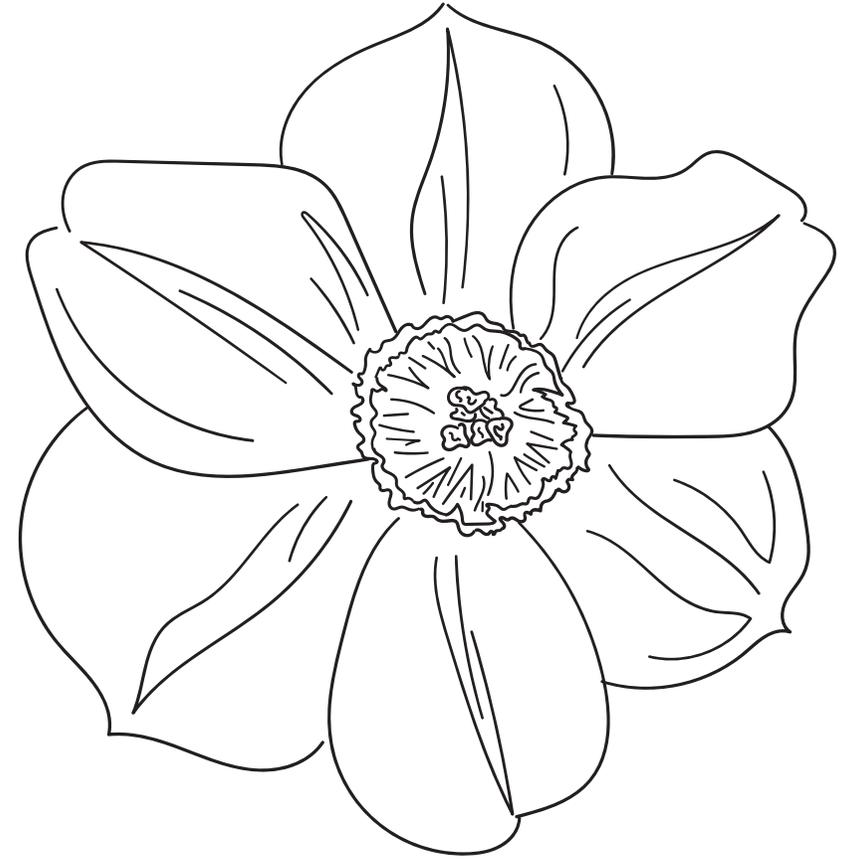
Meghan Meros  
FMS Associate Director





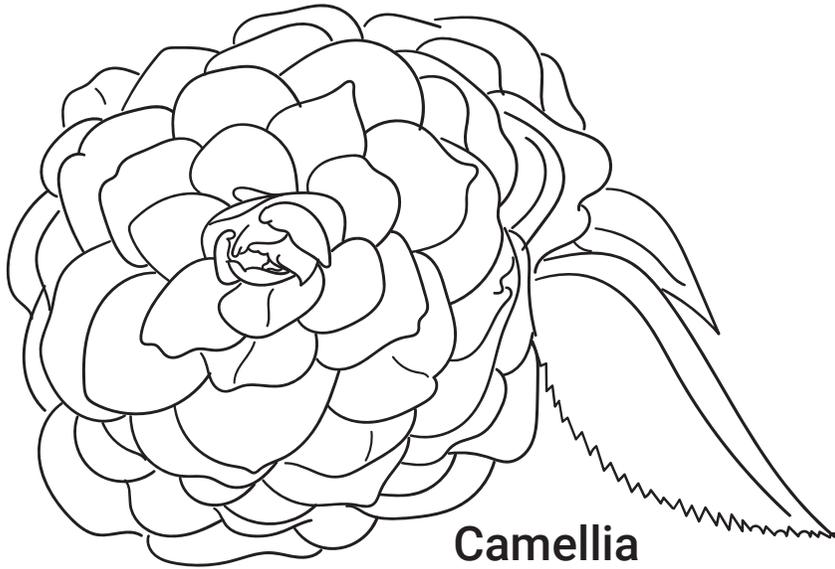
**“If your heart is rooted in Christ, joy and peace can grow and flourish no matter the circumstances.”**

Anna Metzger, Overseas Lay Missioner  
Cochabamba, Bolivia



**Poet's narcissus**

*Narcissus poeticus*



**Camellia**

*camellia sasanqua*

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## What Is Blooming at FMS?

- ▶ A new mission site on the US-Mexico border.
- ▶ New partnerships with DC Service Corps ministries, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Georgetown University.
- ▶ Renewed investment in Casa San Salvador following a professional inspection to prioritize deferred maintenance needs.
- ▶ New Formation partnerships with OFM friars and the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

**Join us in reaching our \$30,000 Appeal Goal!**

## What Your Generosity Made Possible during the Winter of the Pandemic:

- ▶ A full in-person Formation program for missionaries and DC Service Corps volunteers. FMS was one of the only programs to continue forward with Formation and both overseas and domestic placement in 2020.
- ▶ 15 individuals living, learning, and serving from Casa San Salvador in fall 2020.
- ▶ 5 missionaries who discerned to remain overseas in Bolivia and Jamaica for much of 2020.

## San Damiano Giving Circle

Please consider becoming a monthly donor! By making a monthly gift, you help FMS missionaries and volunteers continue to cultivate authentic cross-cultural relationships based on mutuality and compassionate presence. You also have the opportunity to join the Board, staff, missionaries, and volunteers for special events throughout the year.

## Estate Planning

Because you believe in FMS' ministry of presence, you may be interested to know that you can ensure that FMS flourishes for decades by including a gift for Franciscan Mission Service in your will.

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## Interested in either option?

Please indicate so on the remittance envelope or via your online donation, and an FMS staff member will contact you with next steps.

# Franciscan Mission Service

415 Michigan Ave. NE | Suite 104  
Washington, DC 20017



**"FMS has helped me blossom into a more generous, responsible, and loving person. I constantly see the ways that each person in my community helps me grow."**

Madeline McKissick, DCSC  
FMS Development Associate

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**PAID**

Silver Spring MD

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