



## ***“I SAW the FACE of GOD”***

**By Joanne Leichte**

During Covid-19 I was blessed to see God’s face. In all my years as a nurse I have always seen the selfless love of others especially during trying times. During floods, blizzards and other natural disasters, hospital care teams leave the comfort of their home and loved ones to care for the sick. I see God’s face in them. While they do this every day, especially during these recent times, they have been asked to sacrifice even more of themselves. During Covid-19, like other heroes, they rushed into danger to care for others. Jesus says, when you do it for another you do it for me. There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for another (Jn.15:13). This sacrifice did not last a day, it lasted weeks and now months. The danger to self and sacrifice is still great. The team included doctors, nurses, housekeepers, food services, transporters, therapists, storeroom teams and more unsung heroes.

The community knew the sacrifice and responded with an unprecedented show of love, generosity, prayers, admiration, and gratitude. The outpouring of love was a flood of the light of Christ. The love was shown in so many ways. Maybe it was in the prayers said, food delivered, girl scout cookies donated, restaurant owner cooking for the entire hospital team on Easter Sunday, masks & head coverings made, homemade cards by the scouts, inspirational notes by seniors, stones with encouraging words along the walkway into the hospital, signs of thanks, calls made to let us know they were driving around campus praying or singing outside with songs of praise to the Lord in thanks for the workers.

The love lightened spirits and renewed strength. The sick became like Christ and there was a collective community effort to care for Christ. It was one of the most powerful forces of love I have ever witnessed. Jesus was so near, and He will make a good of anything we give Him. I witnessed the Lord doing just that during this time of crisis. Everyone gave of their gifts – many gifts but one Spirit and a mighty work done unto the Lord. I can say I saw the face of God during Covid-19!



Joanne Leichte has been happily married for 43 years and is blessed with a daughter and married son with 2 granddaughters. She is a Registered Nurse for 43 years, and a member of St. Francis parish and a team member of the Marriage Prep Ministry for 42 years. She is one of the co-founders of Interfaith Health and Support Services of Southern Ocean County Inc., that provides support to frail isolated seniors and their caregivers.