On April 27, 2020, Pope Francis offered a special intention for artists at morning mass. He invited artists to show “the path of beauty” during the lockdown, praying: “We pray today for artists, who have this very great capacity for creativity. May the Lord give us all the grace of creativity right now.” This poster presents ways that Catholic artists have responded to this call.

[1] Outside his studio in Detroit, Edward Stross painted a mural to memorialize the thirteen Felician sisters who died from COVID-19 this spring. Cognizant of the fact that the ongoing pandemic restricts communities from gathering together in mourning at funerals, Stross painted the mural as a way to help his community heal.


[2] Patria Rivera, a poet, and her husband Joe Rivera, a painter, created a collaborative exhibit entitled “Art and Haiku in the Time of COVID” at the Toronto Public Library. Patria relied on the sparse form of the haiku to communicate the fragility of life and the persistent need for community. Joe’s paintings celebrate members of the community on the front lines of the pandemic. Their shared hope was that their collaboration could “bring heightened awareness” of the sublime during this time.

https://www.catholicregister.org/features/arts/item/32027-catholic-poet-artist-put-spotlight-on-covid

[3] Catholic creatives have adapted programming to create spaces for connection and community via online modalities. At Wyoming Catholic College, poet Dana Gioia hosted a “Virtual Poetry Hour” for students when his reading scheduled for the spring had to be cancelled. Events from other institutions (not pictured) include Zoom panels on Catholic writers like Shūsaku Endō and Flannery O’Connor from The Collegium Institute (run by faculty and alumni of the University of Pennsylvania) and a virtual poetry reading to celebrate the launch of this year’s edition of Presence, a journal of Catholic poetry (hosted by Caldwell University).

Through a diversity of mediums, Catholic artists demonstrate imagination in pursuit of justice, creating pieces that reflect a deep awareness of what it means to care for each other during the pandemic.