



RURAL PARISH CLINIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rural Parish Mobile Medical Clinic Temporarily Suspends Service

The Rural Parish Mobile Medical Clinic is temporarily suspending service due to concerns created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those concerns include limited access to personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies, such as respiratory masks and shields.

This decision is in line with those of charity mobile clinics around the nation, and was made in order to put first the safety of patients and their families, as well as the volunteer-provider staff members of the Rural Parish Clinic. The clinic has plans in place to care for current patients by phone regarding prescription refills and other appropriate support.

Sister Marie Paul Lockerd, Medical Director, and Patrick Bira, Executive Director, stated that services will resume once safety and supplies can be ensured.

The Rural Parish Clinic team promises continued prayers for all past, current and future patients in these historic times of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. They ask that God continue to avail His grace to all those affected and their loved ones.

The Rural Parish Clinic provides primary medical care by compassionate and competent volunteer physicians and nurses to uninsured and financially challenged patients. Since April 2019, when services began, more than 230 patient visits have been provided at both St. Joachim Parish in Washington County, Mo., and St. Clare Parish in Franklin County, Mo. Volunteer physicians and nurses have provided over 1,300 hours of charity health care.

The Rural Parish Clinic is a separately incorporated ministry, not operated or controlled by the Archdiocese of St. Louis. All updates and resources from the Archdiocese of St. Louis regarding COVID-19, including stories from the *St. Louis Review*, can be found at archstl.org/coronavirus. Please direct questions to communications@archstl.org.

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