

St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly
Little Sisters of the Poor
80 W. Northwest Hwy
Palatine, IL 60067
www.littlesistersofthepoorpalatine.org

October 24, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of our Residents,

Greetings from all of us at St. Joseph's Home! As the number of coronavirus cases increases in our country we continue to be as vigilant as possible. Thank God, all remain negative here.

Our weekly COVID teleconference with our Medical Director, Dr. Sanchez and our very frequent contact with IDPH have helped all of us to stay focused and united in our efforts. We recently administered the flu shot to our staff, as well as to our Residents. And we continually offer in-service on the importance of wearing masks properly and of frequent hand washing.

Our Sisters and Staff are trying their best to keep everyone active, safe and happy and I can say it is working. In a recent quality assurance meeting our consultant pharmacist, who tracks all of our pharmacy patterns noted that although the trend in long term care at the moment shows an increase in anti-depressants and anti-anxiety medications among elders in many facilities, we have remained at a relatively stable level. Respiratory infections are down, too, most likely thanks to the masks and our heightened awareness of infection control.

We are on the waiting list for the anticipated coronavirus vaccine, which could still be months away. But local pharmacies are working with us and will keep us informed.

We recently hired Ross, a new assistant manager in the dietary department. He is eager and energetic and will add some new culinary ideas and skills to our already devoted kitchen staff. Food is even more important now that outings and other normal social activities are curtailed. We're trying to enhance the dining room experience as much as possible. If any of you have ideas for meals, please don't hesitate to share a favorite recipe or suggestion. Mariann, our dietary manager, would really appreciate that. Every Wednesday we are the recipients of a catered meal from various local restaurants, thanks to the goodness of St. Anne's Catholic Community in Barrington. The Residents and Staff look forward to the weekly treat, the kitchen Staff appreciate the break in their workload and various local restaurants benefit from their business.

And of course, fun continues. Recently one of the Residents received a Baker's Square peach pie for his birthday. He left the table for a minute and another Resident said "watch this" ... and hid his pie. There were a few good laughs before the pie resurfaced. Thank God we can still laugh.

We had a great turnout for an outdoor sing-along with Rick, one of our favorite volunteers. Music from the 50's and 60's filled the parking lot and everyone enjoyed being outside for one of our last flings before winter. Social distancing was maintained and apple cider, cinnamon donuts and hot pretzels were enjoyed by all.

The family visits have moved indoors — unless, of course, you prefer to be outside on a nice day. Rules concerning distance, masks, the limit of 2 visitors etc. continue, as well as the pre-screening and scheduling policies. We can only use rooms near the front entrance and are working to make these areas safe and accessible. Visitors from any region that has an infection rate higher than 5% are still prohibited.

Stay well! Send your thoughts, ideas, or concerns to us at any time. And know that you are part of the team that makes St. Joseph's special. We are in this together. I want to thank Anne S. for her suggestion of small group outings in the bus. As soon as the state and local numbers go down a bit more we will put that into practice.

God bless you!

Sincerely,

Mother Margaret Charles, lsp

Administrator