

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

December 1, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of our Residents,

Warmest greetings as we enter the month of December.

Our efforts to keep the COVID-19 cases at bay continue. We are testing all of our staff members twice a week and our Residents weekly. We have had no new cases among the staff, all have been negative for the past two testings.

We currently have 4 Residents in the COVID Unit. Two of the four are fully recovered and as of tomorrow will have finished their days of quarantine and move back to their rooms. Flowers, balloons and a happy staff will welcome them back. The other two are more recently diagnosed so they need to stay in the Unit for 14 days. Both are doing well. Symptoms have been very mild, thank God.

Our Nurses and C.N.A.'s who have volunteered to work in the COVID Unit are extraordinary. Often they work 12 hour shifts. They stay in that unit the entire shift, not mixing with anyone outside. They enter by a different stairway, take their breaks alone, and they are doing their **best** to keep their Residents happy and comfortable. We are bringing in a tablet so that the affected Residents can Skype with their families. Dr Sanchez, our Medical Director is following everyone closely through tele-medicine. He has been so available and we are deeply grateful for his attentive care.

We had an inspection by IDPH last week, the inspector focused on our COVID-19 practices and she was pleased to say that she found no deficiencies. Every department is taking their responsibility very seriously.

Although I know Thanksgiving was difficult for you and we can't take your place, we did our best to make it a festive, lovely day for all. The Sisters even studied a lesson on you-tube for making extra special folded napkins and nice place cards. The meal, which was delicious, was provided by a benefactor, who brought it from the Inverness Country Club. Peterson's Bakery sent over 30 pies and several cakes that were in the form of Turkeys. Other friends left boxes of fine chocolates at the front door. It was a nice day, in spite of difficult circumstances. One Resident summed it up when she said "my family felt so sorry for me because I couldn't be with them for Thanksgiving, but I told them it's not so bad! I have friends here. We keep our social distance, but we can still laugh and talk and gossip and enjoy a glass of Bailey's. I've actually had a really nice day."

You are keeping us busy with the ideas you have suggested since our last update ... more buttered noodles are on the menu, an extra happy hour between Thanksgiving and New Year's each week, and more ethnic food. We started with that last one. We decided to celebrate the feast of Mother Cabrini,

the first canonized Saint in America and a valiant Italian immigrant. In her honor we asked local pizzerias to provide pizza for lunch. Another benefactor purchased delicious tiramisu cake for the whole house. Everyone enjoyed it. Keep the ideas coming, we appreciate them.

St. Anne's parish in Barrington continues to provide lunch every Wednesday for the Residents. They use various local restaurants and surprise us each week. It is so generous of them and we are so grateful.

God bless you. Please continue to pray for us. Nothing will make me happier than to be able to write to you and say that we have no positive cases here at St. Joseph's. This is our goal.

Sincerely,

Mother Margaret Charles, lsp

Administrator