

April 23, 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Our Residents,

Hello from St. Joseph's as we get ready to celebrate his Feast day coming up on May 1st I wanted to take a moment to give you the latest updates. Most of you know me, Sr. Diane, I've been here a few times over the years! I am pinch hitting for Mother Margaret until we get our new lay administrator on board. She will be coming this week.

I know in her last letter that Mother mentioned that there would be some moves among the Sisters. These last two weeks have been hard ones as we had to say those goodbyes but we know life will go on as we prepare for new beginnings. Mother Margaret Charles is now at our Home in Denver getting some much-needed rest before heading to her new assignment in San Pedro. Mother Mercy is the Mother in Denver and she is preparing to come here to replace Mother Margaret. Mother Provincial Maria Christine comes back to Palatine today to prepare the way for our new Provincial's arrival on Monday – and that will be Mother Julie, whom many of you know as she was also here before and then went to our Home in Chicago to be Mother. Sr. Beatrice just left yesterday for her new assignment in Newark, DE, but will also get some rest at our Home in Washington, DC, before heading there. Sr. Rosana and I will also be leaving, but are waiting to hear when. Sr. Rosana will be going to our Home in Pittsburgh and myself back to our Home in San Francisco. Sr. Marcel, whom some of you may know from her time in Chicago, is coming to replace me from our Home in Pittsburgh.

Now for the “bad news” as many of you already know. We did have a positive case again after this last testing Tuesday. The good news is that not too much will change. No one has to quarantine. They can still have the communal dining and limited activities. The biggest change for the next two weeks if we don't have any more cases, is that families and friends will not be able to go to the Residents' rooms for visits – we have to go back to the gift shop visits or outdoor visits. It's supposed to warm up so let's hope so! We truly appreciate your understanding and we are relieved that we don't have to stop the family visits altogether. If there are no more cases then it will only be for two weeks. Everyone else in the Home tested negative. Thank God! But we know Covid is still out there even with the vaccines, etc. and we continue to be as vigilant as possible. For that reason, we are not allowed to open our chapel yet either to visitors – only Residents, Sisters and Staff are allowed to use the Chapel or go to Mass following the Diocesan Covid guidelines.

Please keep us all in your prayers. We count on them as much as you count on ours! Thank you again for your understanding and support. It means more than you'll ever know.

God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Diane Therese, lsp
Asst. Administrator