

June 15, 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

This will be my last update as I hand it off now to Mother Mercy and our new interim Administrator, Kay Owokoniran, as I head to my new assignment in San Francisco, the Home where I served before I came here this time around!

Our new phones are still a work in progress. We have more phones that work, than don't, and we are headed in the right direction.

We went Covid-free for two weeks and so we were able to go back to monthly, rather than weekly, testing for everyone. We were all happy about that.

We continue to get closer to normal, though because we are a nursing home we are still under some restrictions. Thanks to the fact that all the Residents have been vaccinated on the nursing side and only one could not be in the apartments, the apartment Residents have been able to return to the main dining room to eat with the west side Residents. Activities are a bit freer.

Visitation is also a bit freer. Even though visits must still be scheduled, and you must still be screened when you come in the building and wear a mask as you go down the hall, at least now you are free to go without the masks if you are both vaccinated.

The Residents seem to appreciate the new Retirement Home TV that was installed. We hope to get it connected to the auditorium to have closed circuit there as well, so that if they can't leave their room for whatever reason they can still see the shows. We still have the closed circuit TV for our chapel too.

So that is the latest state of our Home. Mother Mercy is finding her way around now as she meets everyone. Hopefully you had a chance to check out our blog at [Blog - Little Sisters of The Poor Palatine](#)

I won't be leaving until this coming Friday morning but was surprised today with a farewell party. It was beautiful and instead of laughing and giggling I was crying! Goodbyes are always hard but they are part of the journey. Some day there will be no more goodbyes and no more tears. Our Lord promised it and I believe Him. Meanwhile I thank God for those with whom he allows me to share my life along the way. Since this was my 5th time here Palatine, it is really home away from home! There has always been a great spirit here, one of which St. Jeanne Jugan would be proud, and I feel blessed to have been a part of. Though it sounds cliché, I will carry you all in my heart – especially my 3 West Residents and all those to whom I've grown close over the years.

Thank you once again for your friendship, thoughtfulness and support. We are all deeply grateful.

God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Diane, lsp