

May 5, 2020

Dear Family of our Residents,

I am very happy to send you our weekly update from St. Joseph's Home. A week certainly goes by very quickly and the month of May is moving along, much to everyone's delight. It is the month of May flowers, and the Month of Mary, mother of Jesus.

What a blessing to be able to tell you that our residents are doing well, we have had no one with the Covid-19 virus in our Home, this includes Sisters and staff as well. We pray everyday that the Lord preserves us from this crisis. I am also most certain that we can attribute this freedom to the care and attention that everyone is putting forth to maintain an "infection free" atmosphere. Sisters and staff are very careful to follow the CDC guidelines: we wear face masks, pay special attention to hand washing and are aware of "social distancing throughout the Home, and even in the yard during walks.

We are preparing a special Mother's Day celebration in our Home. We're making lovely, brightly colorful flowers to put on the doors of all the ladies for Mother's Day. On Monday we follow with a Banana Split Bonanza!

This week, walks around our beautiful grounds have taken place every day, which makes the residents very happy. Accompanied by staff, they enjoy every minute of the fresh air. They even have their own face mask to wear, if they wish. Two U of L Music Therapy students came last Friday; near the gazebo and facing all the windows, played their guitars and sang for the residents. Another visitor, Sherman, our golden lab, came with Judy to the "Visiting Window" on Thursday afternoon, to find a long line of devotees waiting for him!

As you know we will be maintaining our lockdown directive for this month and we expect it to go even longer. The safety of the residents, Sisters and staff is of utmost importance to us all. We know well how much this means to you, that your loved ones are safe from the virus. Not being able to visit, take them out, be with them, has to be a great sacrifice for you, and we feel this with you. I assure you that our Sisters and residents pray very much for all of you, our families and friends. We thank you for understanding these regulations we try so hard to keep.

Please feel free to call me; Oglanda our Social Service Director, or Jeanette, our Director of Nursing, together we are here to help you, to answer any questions, or give you any assurances you may need. With our residents, we are trying to "take a little time" to enjoy the May flowers! Hope you will join us and do the same.

God bless you, thank you, and take care of yourselves; and keep us in your prayers.