

September 8, 2020

Dear Families of our residents,

At the beginning of this new week, I am happy to send you the latest happenings at St. Joseph's Home. I apologize for missing my letter last week, hopefully I can recap it and make it up now!

A group of staff had Covid-19 testing done last Wednesday; this brought us up-to-date with our testing. Gratefully, everyone was negative. At present, Residents, Sisters and staff are COVID-19 free. No one is on quarantine.

Presently we are testing only the Staff and the Sisters; Residents are tested according to symptoms. This coming Wednesday, September 9th, we will do testing again, then hopefully we will be 28 days COVID-19 free and we will be able to look at opening visiting for the residents. You may ask what the criteria is determining the frequency of testing. Testing is based on the percentage of positive COVID-19 cases that currently exist in a given county. With the help of our Infection Control team, we follow the daily percentages in Jefferson County. If the percentages are at a high increase, our testing is more frequent. We are at weekly group testing now. If a concern arises outside of the group testing period, we are able to do individual testing.

During the past week two of our dearly loved Residents were called home to God. As with each Resident who leaves us, we thank God for the privilege of caring for them, and ask that you please keep them and their families in your prayers. Neither Resident had COVID-19.

The Kentucky Derby took off on Saturday, and our Home was a little derby outreach of the celebration! The activity department and kitchen worked together to make it a true Derby celebration for the Residents. Real Mint Julips were served along with Derby Pie! We even had an authentic finish line! A few Residents had "big winnings" (smile) at the day's end!

We are now able to welcome Father Steve Reeves as a new priest-friend to our Home. Father will give the Anointing of the Sick to our Residents. During this pandemic the Sacrament of the Sick will be a real source of support and consolation for our Residents, giving them strength to continue the days of living through this pandemic. Father will anoint their hands and forehead with Holy Oil, and the Holy Spirit will most assuredly fill their hearts with joy and peace. It will be a blessing for all of us.

With the help of Deacon Pat from Holy Family Parish, our Residents in the apartments are now able to receive Holy Communion on Wednesday and Sunday. They are so happy and grateful to receive the Blessed Eucharist to give them strength for their daily journey. We thank Deacon Pat!

As always, the Sisters join with me in thanking you for all you do to help us, in so many varied ways. Your prayers are greatly appreciated, our staff are grateful also for your prayers for them and their families. We are very blessed, and as I love to tell newly hired staff: "this is God's House"!

God bless you all,

Mother Paul, lsp