

September 25, 2020

Dear Families of our dear Residents,

In the midst of the turmoil in our beautiful city, I want to begin my letter with the assurance of the prayers of all the Little Sisters. May God watch over and protect each of you during these days when our city is suffering.

As of yesterday, we have had one person in our Home who is positive for COVID-19. Today we are in the process of testing our Residents, hoping and praying that everyone will show a negative outcome. Last week our Sisters and staff were tested and all were negative, thank God! Because of the positive COVID-19 test result of yesterday, we have had to cancel our visiting once again. We will test each week, for the next two weeks; when we have 14 days free of COVID-19, we will begin the visiting again.

All of us truly realize the hardship it causes when families cannot visit, see their dear ones. We feel that with you and want you to know that generally speaking, our Residents are amazingly understanding, even though they feel it more than anyone.

We will continue the outside walks, which the Residents love; we're also able to keep up the patio picnics, even with spacing. Seeing other Residents in the yard with you, tasting the grilled picnic lunch, and just enjoying the breeze and the music, turns the Residents' day into a great afternoon.

Today we are celebrating "European Day" with Maria preparing some great French food, with some good oldies playing throughout the halls. One Resident had a special request for a tune by Nat King Cole!

Tina, our Development Director, has used her expertise to put out some really great short videos of our Residents on YouTube. She has just completed one, in which she interviewed Residents asking them their thoughts on living in the COVID-19 era! Their responses are worth hearing, as you can imagine! She did not censor any of their responses!

Last week we had a cook-out in our backyard to thank our staff for the devoted care and their effort to be here for work and to help one another. The Bob Holt Band came and played for 2 hours to make it a perfect afternoon. Even some of the Residents were able to sit outside, tapping and swaying with the music!

With the body well taken-care of, the heart and soul of each Resident — each person within our Home — is of greatest importance. On Wednesday at 2 p.m. Father Steven Reeves, from St. Patrick's parish, came to our Home and administered the Sacrament of the Sick to every Resident. This sacrament gives strength to the soul, God's graces just flooding the person with peace and strength. It was a special afternoon and I must say that I think Father enjoyed it as much as the Residents did. Father is ordained 2 years, and we are so very happy to have made a new friend for St. Joseph's Home! Staff also were given a very special blessing by Father Steve.

Welcome to the beautiful Season of Autumn! Please take time to enjoy all the beauties that God has placed all around us! God bless you and watch over you all.

Blessings,

Mother Paul, lsp

