

February 2, 2021

Dear Families of our Residents,

I am always happy to send you these updates on our Home, letting you know how our residents are doing and how they are spending their days...and their nights...during these challenging times of the pandemic. First of all, I must let you know that the Residents are admirable in every respect. They are very patient with the passing of the days, they try to do little things for each other, a kind word, a helping hand. In many ways, they are so very encouraging to all of us. Simply put, they are our blessing.

Without our Residents, we, Little Sisters of the Poor, would not be here. They are, as you must know, our family in every respect. The covid pandemic has given us so many opportunities to spend time with them, especially during these long months of lockdown. It's not the same rush that sometimes comes with a busy day, there is time to chat and visit, and share. This is true joy for all of us, to spend quality time with them. Of course, nothing can replace the presence of their own families and dear ones; their prayers are offered for each of you every day. They are so happy to share their family stories and happenings with us.

The Covid-19 testing goes on, twice a week, for Sisters and staff. For the past several months all test results have been negative. The residents have all tested negative for Covid-19. The Sisters have all tested negative; a few staff have had to quarantine due to contact with persons who have been positive.

On January 23 the Pfizer vaccination was given to residents, staff and Sisters, with only a few choosing not to take it. Our second vaccination is scheduled for February 13. CVS Pharmacy sent 6 of their staff to administer the vaccinations; one reaction occurred and was taken care of. The day passed very well.

The residents are very happy now that they are able to take their breakfast and dinner in the main dining room, 6 at a time, with everyone taking a turn. Our kitchen staff are as happy as the residents! We hope to be able to have the visiting begin again; our county (Jefferson County) needs to come out of the red zone for this to happen.

We have a full schedule for these first weeks in February: 1) we will celebrate Chinese New Year on February 11, with our own home-made Chinese Meal, prepared by our own Little Sister Dora and the kitchen staff. Also on February 11 is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, a special day to pray for the Sick among our families and residents and all the sick who need our prayers. On February 12, will be our Valentine Day party, and the 16, our Mardi Gras, before the beginning of Lent on February 17.

We want to assure you that you are all in our prayers every day. We share your great sacrifices of being separated from your dear ones during these days/weeks and months. May the thought that they are doing well and showing us their zest for living, the good and kind feelings they have for one another, and positive spirit they have within themselves, which keeps us all going.

May we all have a Lent in which we come closer to Jesus and one another, knowing well that we are in the hands of a loving and provident Father.

Mother Paul, lsp

