



Little Sisters of the Poor

From a humble heart, a great wave of charity
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Celebrating 150 years in America

St. Martin's Home
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April 23, 2021

To: All family members of a current St. Martin's Resident and to our friends

Life changed in ways both big and small over the last year. Plans were suspended and priorities shifted as we cautiously made our way through a situation we had never experienced much less imagined would happen. As we get closer to putting the COVID-19 pandemic behind us – thanks to wider vaccine distribution and safe practices to slow the spread of the virus – I know many of you are looking forward to getting back to the things you have missed. Planned vacations were put on pause, social gatherings were suspended, and just dropping by a friend's house for a coffee catch-up was not possible.

We have all put a lot of time and energy into protecting ourselves and those we love from COVID-19 and that is very important and worthwhile. There is one priority that we all shared that should remain high on your list – your health. If you have not yet been vaccinated against the virus, please consider doing so. All Marylanders 16 and older are now eligible and encouraged by the Department of Health to pre-register for vaccination at one of the state's mass vaccination sites. Pre-registration ensures you will be notified when you and your loved ones are able to make an appointment and you can pre-register now at [Covidvax.Maryland.gov](https://www.covidvax.maryland.gov). Let us do all we can to keep one another safe as we look to a brighter future.

I am happy to report to you that once again this week's test results were all negative. As we emerge from the challenges of the past year, we hold tight to the mission of knowing, loving, and serving the needy elderly that has been the foundation of our ministry since 1869, while also moving forward to find innovative ways of providing understanding, care and support to our beloved Residents. We understand the importance of family and the important role you play in the wellbeing of the Residents. We work each day to provide safe, convenient opportunities for Resident and family visits.

Danielle, our Activities Director, will help you plan your visit. Although restrictions are lightened, we are still obliged by the Department of Health to follow precautions to keep everyone safe. First, we must still provide for social distancing so this may mean limiting the number of visitors allowed in at any given time. Second, visitors must wear face masks at all times, use hand sanitizer upon arrival and as needed, and must pass our COVID screening process. Please do not visit if you have a fever, are feeling ill, or have been in contact with anyone showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19. We are counting on you to help keep your loved one safe.

The events of the past year were some of the most challenging we have ever faced, but they also taught us some important lessons. We were reminded to never take for granted the time spent with those we care about, to always say, "I love you" when you feel it in your heart, and to treasure each day because it is truly a gift from God. The Little Sisters are focused on applying these and all the lessons we learned to create the type of experience our Residents deserve. We want to be an even better place to call Home and to help those we are blessed to care for to live each day with hope, joy and love!

Most sincerely,

Mother Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.
Superior