



Little Sisters of the Poor

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December 11, 2020

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

Even during this pandemic, we continue to be amazed at the resiliency of the Residents. It seems that nothing gets their spirits down as they await the birth of the child Jesus. We had hoped to be able to open our doors and our hearts to welcome all of you during this Christmas season so you could come and sit by the fireplace to visit with your loved one, but we know this is not possible this year. Our Residents know how to make the best of disappointing times and this is the generation that lived through wars and met many challenges during their lifetime. Throughout our country no one expected to witness a worldwide pandemic and they take it all in stride and continue to thank God for the many blessings they still have.

We are continuing our twice weekly testing and from last week's testing there was one positive staff member as I already stated in my last letter. The person has been on self-quarantine and will have 2 negative tests before returning to work.

Unfortunately, the testing from this past Monday has revealed that another staff member has tested positive. Fortunately, they are not direct care staff but the employee and anyone who was in very close contact with them will be on self-quarantine and will not return to work until they have two negative results. We are very grateful that all the results of the testing from the residents this week has been negative.

The good news is the vaccine is very close to being finally approved and distributed. According to Governor Hogan's press conference on December 8, 2020:

"PHASE 1A OF VACCINATION TO FOCUS ON CRITICAL HEALTH CARE WORKERS, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, FIRST RESPONDERS. During today's presentation, Maryland health officials announced that the state's initial vaccine allocations will go to critical health care workers, residents and staff of long-term care facilities, as well as first responders. The state has signed up all of the state's 227 nursing homes and 1,668 assisted living facilities for the federal distribution partnership through CVS and Walgreens." This is indeed wonderful news for our beloved Residents.

On a joyful but sad note, Father Stan DeBoe, O.S.S.T., who has been our chaplain for over six years, recently received his obedience from his Provincial and will serve as the new pastor of Incarnation – St. James Parish in Trenton, NJ. Father was a wonderful addition to St. Martin's Home and he will be missed by all of us. The Residents especially relied on Father Stan for his understanding and wit. If you would like to visit our website, you will find a short tribute to Father. Please join us in wishing him every good wish in his new assignment. We know his parish will come to love and trust him as we do. Until we have a new chaplain, Father Stan's order, the Trinitarians, have agreed to say daily Mass and minister to the Residents of St. Martin's Home.

In this, the second week of Advent, we ask that you remember us in your daily prayers and know that we hold you and your family in our prayers each day.

Most sincerely,

Sister Joseph Caroline

Mother Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.
Superior