



Little Sisters of the Poor

From a humble heart, a great wave of charity
www.littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org
Celebrating 150 years in America

St. Martin's Home
601 Maiden Choice Lane
Baltimore, Maryland 21228
Phone: 410/744-9367

January 22, 2021

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

Our journey through this unprecedented pandemic is continually evolving. We are proud of our strong record of safety, the work being done by our staff, and grateful for the support we continue to get from our beloved Residents and family members as we work through this time together.

As I wrote in last week's letter, our second vaccine clinic is scheduled for February 5. This is a giant step towards a return to normalcy; however, it is also a precarious time. No one will have complete immunity to COVID-19 after the first dose and the CDC and the Maryland State Department of Health warn against letting our guard down even after the second dose is administered.

Reverence for the sacredness of life is the first of our core values and our highest priority and concern is ensuring the safety and well-being of those in our care. In keeping with that, we continue to aggressively work to minimize the risks of the coronavirus. We monitor and follow recommendations coming from the Centers for Disease Control, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Governor Hogan's office, and State and local health officials. Please be assured that we are committed to remaining vigilant in following infection precautions by wearing masks, maintaining physical distancing, and washing hands thoroughly and frequently.

I have some good news to report. This past Monday's test results have been all negative. Three of the Residents who previously tested positive have completed their days of quarantine and will continue to be monitored for any changes, but all are doing well. Of the other three Residents, two have a few more days of quarantine and one Resident was hospitalized. We pray that all who are affected by COVID-19 may heal quickly. As they are taken off quarantine, their rooms have been thoroughly cleaned using either the electrostatic machine or the fogging method as an extra layer of protection against the coronavirus germs, in hopes of preventing COVID-19 infections.

We currently have two of the staff who previously tested positive still on quarantine and they will be retested before returning to work. Today, we were informed that one staff member may have been exposed to someone who tested positive, and they have no symptoms but will self-quarantine, and will be tested before returning to work.

The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are more urgently needed than ever before as the Little Sisters continue to help the vulnerable in the face of the pandemic. Sacred Scripture reveals for us numerous accounts of Jesus' special concern for the sick, the needy, and the discouraged. In St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus instructs us that as Christians, we have an obligation to help those who need us when He says, "Whatever you did for one of these, the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Please be assured of the prayers of all the Little Sisters, the Residents, and the staff of St. Martin's. We look forward to the day we can welcome you, once again, into our Home.

Most sincerely,

Sister Joseph Caroline, I.s.p.
Superior



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