

May 24, 2020

Dear Family Members,

As I'm sure you are aware, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has issued an Executive Order in which he has required the testing of all personnel of Nursing Homes and Adult Care Facilities twice per week. We had our first testing on Wednesday, May 20. There were 119 persons tested, including the Little Sisters. We have not received the results of all the tests, but as of date, the Little Sisters, whose results have been issued, are negative. However, three of our personnel have tested positive and are out on quarantine for 14 days. We will notify you if any other staff members test positive.

We have not tested the Residents yet, but will do so in the near future. Our hope is that none of them test positive! However, as a precaution, we have taken four rooms in the Medical Suite (2 doctor's offices and 2 nurse's offices) and have made an isolation area with private rooms and private bathrooms for four Residents who may test positive for Covid-19. We are hoping not to have to send them to another facility for isolation, if this is possible. The doctor's office has now moved to an empty apartment on the fourth floor and the nurses, whose offices were taken, have moved to the inservice room, where they have set up cubicles. We are in the process of establishing staff who would only care for the Covid-19 Residents. We have also set aside 3 guest rooms, on the 4th floor, for any Little Sister who may test positive and will need to be quarantined.

On a happy note, the Knights of Columbus sent bagels, muffins and danish as a "thank you" for all that we and our staff are doing at this time. The Residents and staff enjoyed this special treat. To add to this, a group of them came on Friday afternoon and stood outside to applaud the staff coming on duty and those going off duty. Keeping social distance, they each carried a poster of a heart containing the words "Thank You" in large red letters and a listing of all first responders and essential staff during this pandemic. They also presented me with a check which is certainly appreciated, especially now.

Father Evans has started "The Chatroom of Divine Mercy." He prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet via television on Friday afternoons at 3 p.m. As of this past Friday, he has opened the chatroom after praying the chaplet. There is a dial in number and an access code. His idea is for the Residents to share stories, good news from family and friends and intentions for prayer. As he put it: "A Time to Shoot the Breeze. A Time to Chew the Cud. But not time to Spill the Tea"!

As the weeks progress, we will be looking at how to initiate "the new normal." We will have to look at dining, chapel services and visitation. Directives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the New York State Department of Health will need to be adhered to as we discern the right decisions to be made for the good of our Residents. Sacrifices will be demanded of all of us, but paraphrasing the words of Saint Jeanne Jugan will help us: *Making the elderly happy [and keeping them safe]— that is what counts!* God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Sr. Celine Therese, I.s.p.