

June 8, 2020

Dear Family Members,

We want to share with you the good news that our Residents in the skilled nursing units were tested for Covid-19 by the Department of Health, and have all tested negative! We have one Little Sister, who after two and a half months of precautionary isolation, tested positive with no symptoms. She is nearing the end of her time in isolation and will be retested. We failed to mention in previous updates that if you have any questions or concerns about Covid-19, you may address them to the Department of Health at covidnursinghomeinfo@health.ny.gov.

On Saturday, we had an infection control survey from the Department of Health. You may be aware that the Department will be surveying every nursing home in the State of New York between June and July. Two surveyors were on site for the survey and two joined in remotely. We received results today and we are “in compliance with State and Federal requirements related to proper infection prevention and control practices to prevent the development and transmission of COVID-19. The facility was in substantial compliance with participation requirements and no deficiencies were cited.”

Our staff have continued to enjoy the complementary meals. It gives extra work to the kitchen, for it is they who prepare the meals since nothing is brought in from outside. The Unidine staff have supported generously all the changes entailed in dining for the units and for the staff. The Resource Manger emailed me the following: “I wanted to say “Thank you” to you and the rest of the Sisters for your commitment and patience with all the changes we have had to endure together. Everyone has been wonderful to work with and together we have and will continue to make it all work. ...”

Everyone — Associates, volunteers, and you, of course are looking forward to the time when visitation will be possible. I want to share with you something that one of our young volunteers texted to a Little Sister: “Good afternoon, hope all is well!!! Say hi to the Residents and the other Sisters. Let me know when I can come back to help and read. I will take the Covid test so I can come and help. I miss everyone. Love you all and I will continue to keep all in my prayers. We do the rosary every night as a family. Thank you again.” How grateful we are for the family spirit, initiated by Saint Jeanne Jugan, that reigns in our “family” of Queen of Peace!

Next Sunday, we will be celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi. In normal times, there would be a procession with the Blessed Sacrament from the Church of Saints Joachim and Anne that would stop at the Novitiate, where an altar was always prepared for a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Residents and Little Sisters would join in honoring Our Lord there. This year, Father Evans has asked to carry the Blessed Sacrament through the floors of Queen of Peace. We Little Sisters have concentrated on being on one floor during this pandemic and so, the ones who normally serve on the different floors will accompany Father on “their floor.” The Residents, if they wish, can join in this silent adoration by sitting in their doorways.

Thank you, again, for supporting us with your prayers during this difficult time. God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Sr. Celine Thérèse, l.s.p.