

March 13, 2021

Dear Resident Families,

I guess you might say that we're like a yoyo – today everyone tests negative and tomorrow there are positive cases. There are now two employees who have tested positive. Unfortunately, you know what that means: they are in quarantine and you cannot visit. Since the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has come forth with new Covid-19 restrictions, we were hoping that we could at least allow visitation for Residents on the second floor. However, as always, we must follow guidance from the New York State Department of Health, so we are in lockdown.

Two of the Residents on the second floor ventured out for a walk the other day (before our lockdown). Needless to say, they enjoyed it! Once the weather gets warmer and restrictions are lifted, I know we'll see more than two going out for a walk!

Saint Patrick's Day is fast approaching. Our kitchen staff is planning an Irish menu for that day. For those who wish, there'll even be a nip of Bailey's Irish Cream! We had a bagpiper lined up to play from the chapel so that everyone could see and hear him on their TV, but we've had to cancel.

Father Amato, our chaplain, told us earlier this week that we're at the mid-point of the Lenten season. For Lenten practices this year, we decided to spiritualize our efforts to abide by the Covid-19 restrictions. On the wooden cross which faces the chapel, our efforts are listed:

- I'll wear a mask and offer it in reparation for the outrages Jesus suffered to His face.
- I'll keep a 6-foot distance from others in the corridor and offer it in reparation for the distance Jesus had to walk to Calvary laden with a Cross.
- I'll offer not being able to visit the Residents in reparation for the loneliness Jesus suffered in the Garden of Olives.
- I'll offer in patience being only two people at a time in the elevators, in reparation for what Jesus had to endure from the ridicule of His executioners.
- When possible, I'll take the time to unite myself, via TV, with the Stations of the Cross prayed in the chapel on Fridays, or I will take time to pray the Stations of the Cross on my own.

Hoping that all of you are well. Keep safe! God bless you.

Sincerely,
Sister Celine Thérèse