

May 15, 2021

Dear Residents' Families,

We're still all negative, thank God! Usually "negative" doesn't usually denote a good attribute, but in this case, it's the best way to be! The flowers have been blooming and so has visitation. It has been nice to see some of you!

More of our staff have been vaccinated and the encouragement continues! Even before CDC mandated providers to educate and offer the COVID-19 vaccine to both staff and Residents, our campaign was already in progress.

I'm sure you've heard about CDC easing the mask wearing regulations for vaccinated individuals. However, New York has not yet adopted this guidance. So, you'll still have to wear a mask and keep social distance if you come for a visit. Also, you will read, or may have read already, how CMS has opened up nursing homes and has allowed many changes. However, New York State has not adopted the New CMS Nursing Home COVID Standard. Hopefully, that will change soon.

This week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Residents will be having a retreat preached by Father Victor Hoagland, Passionist. Father was scheduled to give the retreat last year, but it had to be cancelled because of the restrictions of COVID-19. Father will celebrate Mass in the morning and give a homily. In the afternoon, there will be another conference, Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Since not everyone will be able to come to the Chapel or Chapel balcony, we're happy that they will be able to participate via TV.

Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to pray the rosary during the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, for an end to the pandemic. In his own words: "At the beginning of the month dedicated to Our Lady, we unite in prayer with all the shrines across the world, with the faithful and all people of good will, to entrust into the hands of our Holy Mother all of humanity, sorely tried by this period of pandemic."

On Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Rosary will be prayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C. The intention will be "For all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations." You can unite with those in D.C. praying the rosary on Catholic TV at noon.

As we continue to do all we can to stop the spread, let's be united in prayer, whenever we can, wherever we can, for an end to the pandemic. Keep safe!

Sincerely,

Sister Celine Thérèse