

July 26, 2021

Dear Residents' Families,

This is my first letter to all of you and I begin with good news: we are still Covid-free! There are still some of our staff who have not been vaccinated, but the number is low.

I arrived on July 8 and received a very warm welcome: songs, speeches and friendly greetings, besides the beautiful bouquets, all of which show the wonderful family spirit here in Queen of Peace. I am still acclimating myself to the Home and I look forward to meeting all of you when we can get together again.

There have been changes made by the Department of Health regarding communal dining and visitation. Last Thursday, the Residents on the second floor began having their meals in the dining room! There was happy communication and everyone enjoyed seeing their friends up close and being able to socialize during meals. The saying goes, "the food always tastes better when you don't have to eat it alone!" Today, the third floor Residents began going to the dining room and spending mealtime together. Hopefully, we will be able to continue without a lockdown interruption. We will be putting a new visitation policy on our website soon. As always, you can contact the Little Sister Supervisor of your loved ones' unit to reserve a time and for more information.

Yesterday, we celebrated the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, initiated by Pope Francis. In his message for this day, the Holy Father began with these words: "I am with you always" (*Mt 28:20*): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. "I am with you always" are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!" We join with the Holy Father for we too, Little Sisters, care about and love our Residents!

Hopefully, we will soon get to know each other. In the meantime, be assured of my prayers for all of you and your families. God bless you all. Keep safe!

Sincerely,  
Sister Joseph Caroline