

May 15, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

It is hard to believe that we have been in pandemic mode for two months now. I am happy to send you this update — which, I'm sorry is overdue — about life here at St. Joseph's Residence.

Thank God we have remained Covid-free among our Residents. Among our staff 2 individuals tested positive for the virus and have been in quarantine. There are a couple others who are awaiting the test results, so we have asked our Residents to accept another week of isolation. We expect to be able to test all the SNF residents in the near future.

As you probably know, Connecticut will begin phase 1 of its reopening May 20. The state's 4-step plan includes many incremental "baby steps," as they are being called. At this point we do not know when nursing home visitation will be allowed, but I can say for sure that it is not envisioned during phase 1.

I know that this enforced separation has been difficult for both you and your loved one here at our Home. Thank you for your understanding and support of all of our efforts to protect the Residents from Covid-19, and for the useful supplies you have dropped off at the Home over these past weeks.

We hope you enjoyed our Mother's Day virtual visiting. It was a great joy for both the Residents and ourselves! The Connecticut Health Department gave us an ipad to facilitate video chats, and we already had one, so I think everyone is becoming quite comfortable using Skype, Facetime and Zoom.

The Health Department and National Guard paid us two visits the first week in May and were satisfied that we are doing all we can to remain Covid-free. The Residents' biggest concern seems to be their hair. The Little Sisters are willing to do some trimming and curling, but the coloring is a bit risky. I hope that you will recognize your loved one when you are finally reunited with them!

We continue to hold a daily holy hour to pray for protection from the coronavirus and we are confident that God has heard our prayers. We also realize how indebted we are to our faithful employees, who have remained so devoted to their various roles throughout the pandemic. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with any concerns you may have.

God bless you!

Sr Genevieve Regina and all the Little Sisters