

June 20, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

On this feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which follows yesterday's feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I write this letter with great peace of heart and relief because we have been COVID free for 3 weeks now! That sounds SO good for all of us, but we are certainly not putting down our guard, knowing that this vicious virus is ready to attack anyone at any time.

Life is returning to some type of normality, although everyone is still in their rooms with the exception of a walk outside or a visit with a couple family members. Our dining rooms are still vacant as well as our prayerful chapel, since we cannot yet have Mass, but we have been giving the Residents Holy Communion in their rooms each day. There are still no group activities. The important thing is that no one is suffering from the virus. One Resident went to the hospital weeks ago with COVID-19 and is now finally improving and is negative!

This past week we had another on-site audit from the Health Department. We will receive our 'report card' soon, but I think we did well. Through this ordeal we have certainly learned a lot about infection control and are constantly perfecting our techniques.

As life settles down in regard to the virus, we now need to concentrate our energy on the upcoming transition of the ownership of our home to VNA which is planned for August 1st. There is much to be done so as to make everything as smooth as possible for the good of your loved ones. Lately, we have seen more of Linda Cornell, the president of VNA here in Somerville, who is working diligently to get things and systems in place. She is now helping us to acquire physicians who are greatly needed as our Dr. Hakim, who has cared for many of our Residents since 1985, has decided to retire. He is a true friend and we will surely miss him.

Linda is looking forward to introducing the PACE program to our Home. I would like to quote her:

"The VNA has had a long excellent working partnership with the PACE program. PACE is the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. The VNA is delighted to make this program available to all Residents at both buildings at Jeanne Jugan and will be starting the Enrollment process next week so that everyone who is interested and qualified will be enrolled as of August 1st. There is no cost to Residents and lots of benefits!"

Since we cannot have on-site meetings about this undertaking, Linda will be providing brochures with explanations regarding the program. If you have any questions, you can call Linda Cornell at 617-718-2200.

To all our fathers, we wish you a Happy Fathers' day and assure you of our prayers. May Our Heavenly Father continue to watch over you and all your families! Take time to enjoy this beautiful weather together!

God bless you!
Mother Maureen and all your Little Sisters