

July 12, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

Here it is another week and all is well, thank God. We are still trying to arrange the COVID testing for our staff, but it has been very difficult to acquire the swabs/test kits. This testing is supposed to be done by July 19th. We have asked help from Doug Kress, the Director of our Local Board of Health, but even he is meeting with challenges. Please say a prayer we can achieve the plan for this undertaking early this coming week.

We continue to work with Linda Cornell, the president of VNA (Visiting Nurse Association), for the smooth transition of our Home, which will take place on August 1st. The Sisters will remain here for short period of time after that as we will still have a lot to clean up! Sr. Joan has organized a sale in our auditorium for the items we have accumulated over these many years. Unfortunately, since we are still on lockdown, we can only open the sale to our Staff and Residents. I hope you don't find too much 'stuff' in your loved one's room when you finally get in the house! This sale is very tempting for irresistible shoppers!

Linda Cornell has hired the company 'Commonwealth Senior Living Management' to help her with the overall operations of our Home. Therefore, Joseph Veno, Chief Operating Officer, has been here each day to get acquainted with everyone and to see how things run. He has begun meeting with individual Staff members. He is very friendly and at the same time a seasoned administrator, having many years of experience working in nursing homes and eventually operating them. He began as a dishwasher and dining room aide when he was a teenager in the home where his mother was the director of nursing. Everyone seems to feel very comfortable with Joe. He will be the administrator as of August 1st and will be so until a permanent one will be hired around October. Joe will remain here for about 6 months to assure the organization and smooth running of the Home, the name of which I believe will be *Visiting Nurse on Highland Ave.*

I am very happy to tell you that we are having Mass today in our chapel for the first time in a few months! We gave each Resident an invitation and they are thrilled to know they can finally go to Mass, something which we so easily take for granted. Everyone must wear masks except when receiving Holy Communion, which will be distributed in their pews. After Mass the Residents from the 5th floor will have dinner in the main dining room since there are only 12 of them and one will sit at each of our 12 tables...Social distancing! We are being extra cautious about communal dining. Mass today will be our chaplain, Fr. Pat's, last Mass here as he is moving to our Home in the Bronx so as to be closer to his family. He will be a great loss for all of us, except me, who will eventually be going to the Bronx. I feel spoiled.

I hope and pray that you are all well and remaining cautious when out and about. Please keep your masks on and maintain social distancing.

God bless you!

Mother Maureen and all your Little Sisters