July 17, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

Mission accomplished! All our staff, as well as our Sisters and priests who celebrate Mass for us, have been tested and are all negative for the COVID. What a blessing that is! Now, in two weeks the plan is that 30% of staff will be tested again. All is well here as far as COVID is concerned.

We continue to work with VNA to prepare for the transition of our home. Every day we meet with challenges, but somehow we surmount them and move on to the next one. God is with us and our good and faithful St. Joseph is watching over us.

This past week Bishop Robert Reed was kind enough to come and do a brief filming to enable us to offer our profound thanks to all the people of Boston who have supported us over these past 150 years! Yes, our first Little Sisters arrived in Boston on April 19, 1870 and then came to Somerville nearly 20 years later to build our first Home here. The blessings of these many years are too many to count. All we can offer is thanks and the assurance of our heartfelt prayers always. When finished this brief video will be put on YouTube and other social media. Besides an article in the Pilot, it is the only way to reach everyone because of the COVID. Thank God for technology!

Each day at 11:00 we have Mass, which is wonderful. Unfortunately, this past week we were informed that according to Canon Law the Blessed Sacrament cannot be reserved here without the presence of a religious community. This is most definitely a huge disappointment for those Residents who savor their time before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Please God, there will be Mass each day or at least most days, but there will be no tabernacle to reserve the Eucharist. From time to time a priest could remain after Mass and provide the opportunity for adoration with a holy hour.

Mother Provincial Alice Marie and Fr. Mark Cregan will be here this coming week to help with all the final details of the transfer. Please pray that all goes well.

Before I close, in last week’s letter I neglected to mention the success of our Supreme Court case. We rejoice with that news as it is truly a great win for religious liberty in our country. Please say a good prayer for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty who did a fantastic job and, who by the way, offer their legal assistance to us pro bono.

Have a wonderful week and I hope you can enjoy the beautiful weather!

God bless you and all your loved ones!

Mother Maureen and all your Little Sisters