

August 17, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

Earlier this month the Church celebrated the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord — a manifestation of the splendor of God on Mount Tabor. Despite the sadness of this period we see miracles in our Home everyday — little manifestations of God’s splendor and glory.

We see God’s image first and foremost in the Residents who, like Jesus in the Tabernacle, are respected and loved; his glory is revealed every time we witness our dedicated care staff in action, or when we greet those who collect, shop for or deliver needed items to our Home. We can see the splendor of God in all our prayer partners, in our collaborators, and in you family members who have had to endure a long and at times arduous path of uncertainty during these crucial months.

As stated in past letters, we have been in close collaboration with the DC Health Epidemiology Team following CDC and CMS guidelines. This involves juggling several teleconferences each week as we try to develop feasible plans for reopening our Home in accordance with government ordinances.

We are happy to inform you that all our Residents and staff remain COVID-free. Since our last letter, all staff and Sisters are being tested on a weekly basis. We have been most grateful to DC Health for organizing the Nurse Strike Team, a group of nurses who have been coming to our Home every 8 days for our scheduled staff testing.

Co-mingling of Residents from different areas of the Home (apartments, nursing units, and residential units) is still not allowed at this time. Such limiting of contact between Residents is another layer of transmission safety. The new norm has become that everyone, including Residents, must wear a mask while with others, maintain the 6’ social distancing, practice good hand hygiene and disinfect areas after use.

As of August 6<sup>th</sup>, in coordination with the DC Health Epidemiology Team, we have now advanced *cautiously* to Phase 2 of the Reopening Guidance for Nursing Facilities. This reopening includes communal dining and small group activities with no more than 10 Residents, always with social distancing, proper hand hygiene and complete disinfection measures. The “No Visitors” restriction remains in effect.

We are also pleased to share that our Activities staff have facilitated over 100 Zoom conferences, FaceTime, and window visits of Residents with family members since our lockdown in March. Feel free to keep scheduling these calls; they are so valuable brightening the Residents’ days.

We would like to thank everyone for your on-going donations, which are helping to defray the unexpected costs brought on by COVID-19. Recently, we were the recipients of two iPads given by DC Health in order to help the Residents stay connected through social

media. These gifts were hand-delivered by the leadership and members of the Department's team!

We also are grateful to FEMA and DC Health for PPE supplies, to the Knights of Columbus for a monthly collection of supplies, and to those who have sent donations anonymously.

We can never have enough surgical face masks, disposable isolation gowns, gloves, disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer, so we are grateful for these contributions as well.

We would like you to know that as we approach the feast day of our Foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, we are giving our staff members who worked during the pandemic a "thank you bonus" for their dedication and tireless efforts in helping us care for the Residents.

We pray that through the intercession of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our core values of reverence for the sacredness of human life, family spirit, humble service, compassion and stewardship will continue to reflect the splendor of God in our Home.

God bless you,  
Sr Mary Michael and all the Little Sisters