

December 7, 2020

Dear Family Members and Friends,

It's the season of ADVENT ... a time of waiting, of expectation and of hope! Although you might say that's how we have lived through 2020 so far, this time of year is a wonderful reminder to us all of **not to lose hope**, especially now as we continue the arduous journey of dealing with the many challenges brought on by the pandemic. Together we can build a better tomorrow if we continue to HOPE, live **today** with the eyes of FAITH and reach out to others with LOVE.

We **hope** that all of us here at St. Augustine Home — our families, staff, friends and benefactors and all those who collaborate with us — will remain safe and not be touched by the virus. Last week, all staff were once again tested twice for COVID and we rejoice to inform you that all tested negative. Thanks be to God!

Each day we anticipate in **hope** the lowering of the positivity rate for Indiana so our nation's health protection agencies would ease the visitation restrictions over the Christmas holidays. As of now, we have not yet received any changes regarding the visitation guidelines. We will send you updates as soon as we receive them. If you wish to keep abreast of the latest news regarding the virus, we encourage you to do so by visiting the dashboard for Indiana.gov, the ISDH website and/or Marion County Health Department website.

We **wait in hopeful expectation** for the distribution of a safe and effective vaccine that will prevent us from contracting the virus; it seems to be near. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended long term care facilities be the first to receive the vaccines. However, it is up to each State to make the final decision regarding vaccine allocation. Long-term care residents and staff members seem to be the priority. We are now in the process of developing a consent form that needs to be signed by responsible parties before its administration. This vaccination is probably the best hope we have to end the pandemic — may it be so!

During this Advent season, as we wait and look forward with hope for the end of the pandemic, may we even more seriously **await with joyful expectation** the coming of our Lord and Savior. Let us place all our hope and trust in HIM for He alone will see us through this challenging time! A blessed Advent to all of you!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Mother Francis Gabriel and all the Little Sisters at St. Augustine Home