

December 14, 2020

Dear Family Members and Friends:

The third Sunday of Advent is celebrated as *Gaudete Sunday*, which in Latin means *rejoice*. It is a reminder for all of us to have the spirit of joy as we prepare and patiently look forward to celebrating the miracle of Christmas – the birth of JESUS, our Savior! Yes, during this advent season, we can rejoice and rise above our difficulties and challenges in spite of the pandemic by simply counting our blessings. We invite you to rejoice with us as we count our blessings...

Rejoice as we share with you the good news that St Augustine Home is once again COVID-free! All our staff members tested negative last week and our Residents who were quarantined due to close contact with a staff who tested positive are now able to resume their “normal” activities. Although one of our consultants who comes quarterly tested positive, she was sent home immediately before she could have contact with other staff members. This too is a reason for us to rejoice for we prevented the virus from coming in to our Home!

Rejoice... the waiting is almost over! Pfizer and Moderna have applied for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA. Pfizer covid-19 vaccine has already received an EUA from FDA, while Moderna vaccine is still waiting for approval. According to Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), once FDA issues EUA for these vaccines, they could have them ready to be administered in Indiana before the end of the year. The IDOH followed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiated guidelines for prioritizing vaccine allocation - health care workers and staff and residents of “long term care facilities” will be the first to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

Rejoice... the Lord is near! The spirit of the season – love, joy and peace – is surely in the air here at St Augustine Home! We all work together, Little Sisters, Residents and staff, as we prepare for Christmas. Every corner of the Home is now beautifully decorated with nativity scenes, Christmas trees, poinsettias, etc. It is really starting to look like Christmas here. Aside from this, the Home is preparing something special for Christmas. Hopefully, we’ll be able to share the fruit of our labor with all of you... so please stay tuned, rejoice and celebrate with us the birth of our Lord!

In the words of St Paul to the Thessalonians, we would like to encourage you to “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” God bless you all!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

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