

November 23, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you! I'm sure you never could have imagined this time last year the situation we would be living in while anticipating the holidays for 2020! The traditional family gatherings are on hold for sure, but we must remain steady in our faith, knowing that everything serves a purpose, even when we neither know the reason nor understand. We at St. Augustine's are striving to do just that in order to keep safe yet still mark special occasions.

We celebrated our Employees with a special Appreciation Day Thanksgiving Dinner and believe it or not, we did it while adhering to social distancing, wearing masks and washing our hands! Arranging shifts of four settings, we managed to accommodate everyone and it was a rather smooth undertaking. It was a moment to count our blessings and it was a wonderful means to show our gratitude to all our staff, our heroes, who help make it possible for us to continue our mission of serving the elderly in a compassionate and humble way, each and every day. Their devotedness and generosity are so evident at this time when we face the ever-changing pandemic demands. Words are not adequate enough to express our appreciation for all they do and the many sacrifices they make for our Residents and us, Little Sisters, in order to assure a safe environment while delivering the highest standard of care to those for whom we care.

The latest COVID tests results saw one staff member test positive. As you know, early detection of the virus (as a result of our testing procedures) allows us to immediately quarantine anyone who has been infected. Prevention of the spread of the virus is attributed to the good precautionary measures practiced by our staff members. This is evidenced by Residents who continue to test negative. Please continue to pray that our Home will remain on this level of safety.

As we move into the holiday season, we are saddened that new regulations regarding visitations have curtailed visits during holidays and interfere with family traditions. We also empathize with all of you as many plans have had to be cancelled.

Since this is the season of *giving thanks*, we offer again our grateful prayers for your understanding and cooperation with all the sacrifices that have been asked of you and your loved ones especially through limitations on the times and duration of visits. We can only pray that as we continue to do what we can to prevent the spread of this disease, we do so in the faith of St. Jeanne Jugan who left nothing unsaid when she prayed to the Lord!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

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