

December 28, 2020

Dear Family Members and Friends,

CHRISTMAS is the most wonderful time of the year, for it was when JESUS was born for us as our Savior! During this octave of Christmas, we also celebrated the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, honoring together their life in Nazareth. St. Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, encouraged the Little Sisters to model our Homes after the Holy Family of Nazareth using these words, "See how Jesus, Mary and Joseph loved one another, in our little family it must be the same." How appropriate these words are during these uncertain times of the pandemic to serve as a reminder that our love and support for one another as members of the Human family is what will help us weather together the storms of life.

The COVID pandemic did not dampen the Christmas spirit here at St Augustine Home with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the center of our celebration. Following Mass, everyone enjoyed a very festive meal. Later in the afternoon, the Little Sisters went around the Home singing carols and spent some quality time with the Residents who were home. A great time was had by all! This Christmas celebration was especially enjoyed by one of the Little Sisters, Sr Madeline Marie, who we recently welcomed to our little family at St Augustine. It was her first Christmas as a young professed Little Sister of the Poor and it surely made an impression on her.

Despite the incredible surge of new COVID cases in our county, we are blessed that we remain safe and unaffected by the virus. However, last week, one of our direct care staff members was COVID positive, and was sent home before she had direct contact with any of the Residents or other staff. Again, we keenly felt God's loving protection over us, and He prevented anyone else in the Home from contracting the virus. We are hoping that the COVID vaccination will soon be administered to our Residents and staff for added protection.

Enjoy the rest of the Christmas season and may all of you have a joy-filled New Year!

God bless!

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