

October 11 , 2022

Dear Families and Friends,

It has been quite a while since our last letter, so I would like to give you an update on the current situation at Jeanne Jugan Residence and St. Joseph Villa.

Thank God there have been no cases of COVID among the Residents for quite some time, and only an occasional case among our staff members.

We experienced some difficulty scheduling a vaccine clinic for the new bivalent COVID booster, as well as the annual flu vaccine, but a vaccine clinic has now been set up. Both vaccines will be offered to Residents, staff and Little Sisters on October 25.

You may have seen in the media that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued new guidelines for masking and the use of personal protective equipment in long term care facilities. As a result, some nursing homes are no longer requiring staff and residents to wear facemasks. We are still awaiting the necessary updates from DC Health on how health care facilities in the District will put these guidelines into practice, and so as a result, our Residents, Sisters, staff and visitors are still required to wear facemasks.

On the other hand, we have been able to liberalize some of our in-house procedures. Residents from the different levels of care can now “comingle,” which means they can socialize together and even visit one another in their rooms — *as long as they remain masked*. They are very happy to be able to hang out, play games and socialize with friends once again!

Finally, I wanted to inform you of a long-awaited “event” to take place at the Home this Friday and Saturday, October 14-15. Beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, our maintenance department will oversee the final installation of our new generator. As a result, the Home will be on reduced power until about 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Telephones will still work and most of the Residents will have limited electricity through an emergency outlet in their rooms thanks to our emergency generator. We are doing all we can to reduce inconveniences to the Residents and staff during this time.

If you plan to visit your loved one Friday or Saturday we encourage you to come before 5:00 p.m. on Friday or after 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. Thank you for your cooperation on this and so many other occasions over the past two-plus years!

Today is the anniversary of Jeanne Jugan’s sainthood; please know that we confide to her your loved one here in the Home and all of your intentions and needs.

God bless you!

Sr Margaret Regina and the Little Sisters