

April 22, 2020

Hello everyone,

Since I wrote last Friday the 17th things continue to evolve here at our Home. Many professional and caring individuals are offering not only suggestions but helping us tap into their resources and contacts. This is so greatly appreciated. Our Sheffield Neighborhood Association has even started a GoFundMe page to raise money to provide meals for our employees and other support for our Home.

We have converted one Resident care unit into a dedicated unit for those who have tested positive for the Coronavirus or who are symptomatic. There are currently 10 Residents on that unit. They receive the special attentions of the staff and Sisters who serve them. As St. Jeanne Jugan said, "It is Jesus whom we serve in the poor," and we encounter Him in a special way in these Residents. We have learned of an additional confirmed case among the staff (bringing the total to 5) and one among the Residents (bringing the total to 11 in the nursing units, four of whom have passed away). Yesterday we had all of the Residents tested for the virus and will be waiting for the results. The whole process didn't appear to bother them greatly. They seem to understand this is part of the whole experience that we are going through.

In order to provide the best atmosphere possible on our dedicated unit we have consulted an HVAC company and are making plans to rent air scrubbers for the rooms of those who are sick. We will also be contracting with an outside cleaning company to disinfect the rooms of the Residents who have tested positive and do the regular cleaning. We hope these measures will help to even better ensure the health and well-being of all.

Before closing I must say how grateful we are for all of the support we have received from so many people, both financial and material, and for how the Holy Spirit inspires our friends in our regard. Here is a sample: earlier this week a friend who is at her winter home in Florida called to tell us she was seeking out supplies to send us. She asked what we needed most at the moment and we told her "thermometer probe covers." She stopped in a medical supply store and, when she mentioned who she wanted to buy them for, the salesperson told her that there was a company headquarters not far from us which should be contacted. Long story short, she reached out to them and this outreach enabled us to obtain this product which has been on back order for weeks.

Asking God's blessings on all of you as we continue our journey through this Easter season, be assure of our grateful prayers for you and all those dear to you.

God bless,

Sr. Julie, lsp