

12/24/2020

To the Families of our residents,

It is with a heavy heart that I must report to you today that three additional residents on the same unit tested Covid positive this morning. We continue to closely monitor all the residents on the Marian Center –E-1 for symptoms and will be testing frequently. We are taking all the precautions we can to contain the virus, and have the E-1 designated a RED ZONE, with the same staff ordinarily on the unit for consistency. All residents of Our Lady of the Alleghenies tested negative today.

All staff are being tested today, but we will not have results from the laboratory until possibly the weekend.

Even with this unfortunate news, we are making every effort to make this season special for the residents. Santa Claus visited each resident – remotely, yet personally and over their televisions, as the staff presented each one with a gift from the Sisters. (see clips on our facebook page) We have Christmas Music playing continuously from the chapel, which is fully decorated for Christmas as the focal point of our Christmas observance. Christmas Eve Mass from our chapel will be broadcast at 3:30 PM today and Christmas Mass at 9:30 tomorrow morning. Residents from Our Lady of the Alleghenies are able to attend Mass in person, the nursing home residents only by closed circuit television. The residents will have a festive Christmas dinner of Prime Rib, with all the fixing including a glass of wine, if they are able to have it. Staff are wearing their full Protective garb, but they have been creative in providing a holiday presence as they serve the residents from any department. Many staff are sacrificing being with their own families and distancing themselves from family celebration in order to be here safely with your loved ones

We wish you could be here with us. We know this is the hardest part of this Christmas Season. Though it does not soften the ache in your hearts, we can spiritualize the pain of being absent physically from each other by reflecting that Mary and Joseph, lived in a country controlled by an oppressive dictator. They had to leave their families and home in Nazareth at the time Mary was ready to give birth, and travel a 100 miles to Bethlehem to be registered for the census in the City of David. Alone, in a strange place and without the presence of their loved ones, the Christ Child was born in an animal shelter with a manger for his crib. These unfortunate circumstances, of course, still are recounted every year, and resulted in our eternal salvation.

As hard as circumstances are for all of us now, please try to look toward the positive, toward the blessing in the midst of the hardships and toward the future. We wish you a Blessed, Peace-filled and Healthy Christmas and New Year. Let us pray for each other and for all those we hold dear.

God Bless you,  
Sr. Joachim Anne