

April 1, 2021

All of the Sisters and staff at Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence wish each of our resident's family members a very happy and blessed Easter. We recall the strict quarantine the whole Commonwealth was under during the Easter Season last year and know we are blessed to have a more open community this year. While we have a long way to go to be fully open to all 'normal' engagement opportunities, we treasure the fact that we can have visitors for the resident, even if there are parameters put upon the visits for safety sake. We and especially the residents are very glad that they can circulate within the facility more, having meals together in the dining rooms, albeit at a respectable distance from each other, engage in group activities, attend Mass and other services in the Chapel, and have their appointments at the Beauty/Barber salon. Last Easter none of these activities were possible.

We hope each of you reading this will offer a pray of gratitude and petition that we are and that we remain Covid free. We are very concerned about the rising numbers in the region, and continue to monitor residents and staff to decrease the chance of potential exposure. We know having visitors in the facility increases our risk, and therefore we remain vigilant and are trying to decrease that risk to the best of our ability. It takes a great deal of effort on a lot of peoples' parts to do that. We are scheduling as many visits as possible. While most of our residents and many of our staff are fully vaccinated, we know that many of the family members who visit are not. We believe vaccinations are a protection and we strongly encourage them. They do not eliminate but they significantly lower the risk of spread of the virus.

Attached to my note is a letter from our Infection Preventionist Nurse, Laura Bankert. She has been the front line key person throughout the Pandemic and we are very grateful for her expertise and leadership throughout the past year.

My sincerest wishes to you for many blessings during the Easter Season. Let us all focus on the message of Hope and unconditional Love that Easter gives. We are not alone when we walk our life's journey with God. Through difficult times and through times of peace and joy, a conscious intention to walk with God makes all the difference. Even without that awareness on our part, He will still always be walking with us - we just need to turn to Him to find Him there.

Sister Joachim Anne, Administrator