

April 25, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

So much has happened here at Jeanne Jugan Residence since the beginning of April that it is difficult to know where to begin in giving you an update. Nonetheless, I'd like to start by thanking you all for your prayers, your understanding and your support during this most difficult time.

It is with great sadness that I share with you the toll that the coronavirus has taken on our Home. Since the last week of March, 13 Residents have left us for heaven. Eleven of these were confirmed or presumed cases of Covid-19, and 2 Residents died of other causes. There have been no Covid-related deaths since April 7<sup>th</sup> of Holy Week.

For us Little Sisters, every death leaves a void in the Home and in our hearts, even though we believe that those who have left us have found peace in the embrace of our heavenly Father. We pray for all the families and friends of our deceased Residents and ask you to do so.

At this point all of the remaining Residents with confirmed or presumed cases of Covid-19 have been moved to the same nursing care unit. This has facilitated staffing. Nonetheless, all direct care givers in both nursing units continue to use personal protective equipment (PPE), and even the nursing care Residents believed to be Covid-free are still being asked to remain isolated in their rooms.

None of the Residents in the rest-residential unit and independent living apartments have shown any symptoms of the coronavirus. We have been aggressive in keeping these Residents away from the nursing care units. They are able to circulate minimally in the building and to take walks outdoors, all while maintaining social distancing and wearing face covering.

A large number of our staff were infected with the coronavirus, but they have begun to return to work after recovering, a fact for which we are most grateful. Four of our Little Sisters also tested positive; only one of them has been released from quarantine so far.

We will be eternally indebted to the administration and staff of Christiana Hospital for assisting us with PPE and staffing due to the illness of our own staff during these weeks. We could not have continued to care for the Residents here without them. We are also grateful to the countless people who have donated funds and many needed items, from PPE to food, paper goods, and homemade face masks.

We are very aware that we would not be where we are today without the help of God and so many friends. The best way we know to repay you for your goodness is through our grateful and heartfelt prayers.

Sincerely,  
Sr Margaret Regina, I.S.P.