



A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

May 2020

Dear FIRST NAME(S),

To say that the past weeks have been difficult is an understatement.

I know that many people are struggling right now. There is a lot of uncertainty, and the unknown can be hard to deal with. I want you to know that the Sisters are praying for you and your family.

This is not the letter I had planned to write to you this spring.

In fact, as the COVID19 pandemic began to hit our communities I thought about not sending it.

Then I remembered your commitment to the residents of Bethany Health Care Center.

I realized that you would want to know how your dear friends here are faring in the midst of this crisis.

I can tell you that our residents are faring well. I won't sugarcoat the fact that it is difficult for them to not to see their friends and loved ones right now. And they miss celebrating daily Mass in Bethany's Chapel of the Holy Spirit. But I am delighted to share how meaningful the phone calls and video chats truly are for our residents.

Social distancing for us means viewing Mass on CatholicTV. It means joining exercise classes over closed-circuit television in-house and activities like touring the Smithsonian virtually. Playing BINGO in residents' rooms using walkie-talkies has become part of the new norm.

It looks different than the Bethany we know for sure, but it's working to keep our residents safe.

Several residents have shared that they appreciate the one-on-one visits from our Spiritual Care staff. They're enjoying the many unique ways that the Activities team has dreamed up for our residents to be engaged and entertained. Not to mention the special treats that our Food Service group have cooked up for them.

It is still the same joy-filled Bethany Health Care Center you have come to know, but with a bit of a twist.



Of course, to keep the residents and staff safe and healthy, a number of protocols have been put into place. We are closely following and strictly implementing all of the recommendations from the local Department of Health and the CDC.

In the first month alone, costs of acquiring adequate personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, gowns, and hand sanitizer, as well as the cost of extra sanitizing equipment, cleaning agents, and extra hours of housekeeping have been extensive. It's taking all of our resources to ensure the health and safety of our residents. And it goes without saying, the health and safety of staff working tirelessly to care for our residents' physical, spiritual, social and emotional well-being is paramount.

If you are in a position to help Bethany Health Care Center during this crisis, we would be grateful for your support. Your gift in any amount will go a long way to helping us fight this pandemic within the walls of Bethany and keeping our residents and the staff who serve them safe.

If there is something that we can do for you during this crisis, please do let me know. In the meantime, I and the residents of Bethany will pray for you and your family and look forward to brighter days to come.

With my gratitude for all that you do for Bethany and our Sisters,



Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy, CSJ, RN
CEO and Administrator, Bethany Health Care Center

P.S. Visit our website at BethanyHealthCare.org to leave a message of encouragement, thanks, or inspiration to #TeamBethany!





Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy, CSJ, RN

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The world is closed. Please open this envelope!

