



April 14, 2022

Dear Residents and Staff Members, Families and Friends,

During this Easter week, we are blessed to celebrate together. There are so many reasons to be grateful for our community's resilience. And, of course, all of us are inspired by the grace and wisdom residents share with us every single day.

Our staff members' diligence and support give us confidence so that residents now are returning to daily life as they knew it before the global pandemic. Please join me in thanking everyone who works at Mercy Circle for their amazing dedication. We also appreciate all the accommodations families and friends make by complying with our commonsense safety protocols.

On behalf of the School of Nursing at Saint Xavier University, I thank the residents who helped SXU nursing students prepare for their careers by participating in ways for them to polish their skills for conducting assessments, for interviewing residents about their medical history and for taking vital signs. They also helped staff on our COVID-19 testing days.

### ***New way to combat the virus on the horizon***

While there has been no new case of COVID-19 here since March 3, we remain vigilant about protecting everyone who belongs to our Mercy Circle family. So even though there are fewer new cases and hospitalizations related to COVID-19, we see a surge of a new variant of Omicron in the Northeast, a precursor to what might occur in the Midwest.

This is why

- We are planning for a clinic to soon administer the second booster shot, now approved by the FDA and CDC, to fortify the immune system of all residents and staff members. I will share the specifics as soon as they are confirmed.
- We continue to
  - Screen all visitors before they enter our community
  - Require everyone to wear a mask when in common areas
  - Ask guests to visit residents in their apartment or suite
  - Maintain social distancing and hand-washing precautions



With springtime finally here, we encourage residents and visitors to enjoy our beautiful campus, including our patio and courtyard. Soon we also will offer a reservation system so some guests can join residents in their dining rooms.

### ***New communication system for you***

Our pledge to timely, transparent communication has helped protect our Mercy Circle family. *Starting Monday, May 2, we only will notify you about any news related to COVID-19 via email to those who have registered to receive them.*

- If you would like to receive future notices, please send an email to Sandy Urbaniak at [SUrbaniak@MercyCircle.org](mailto:SUrbaniak@MercyCircle.org). Please type ADD ME TO YOUR E-LIST in the subject line.
- We are updating our website to post only current *Visitor Guidelines* as well as a summary of our current practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We expect all visitors to follow our best practices published in these guidelines.

### ***Easter season brightens our lives***

We are anticipating the joys of the risen Christ with a series of liturgies in Mercy Chapel. Earlier this week, Cardinal Bernardin's writings guided our community's Stations of the Cross and residents participated in a reconciliation service.

Today, we gather for Holy Thursday. As we mark Good Friday, we look forward to the hope-filled liturgies of Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

Please call me at 773-253-3627 to share your ideas about how we can continue to enjoy more of Mercy Circle's lifestyle and to discuss your questions.

Easter Blessings,



Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director