

May 18, 2020

Dear Families and Friends,

As you might have heard, pandemic restrictions have been lifted in some parts of New Mexico, but not here in McKinley county, one of the hardest hit areas in our state. Likewise, the threat from Covid-19 has not yet subsided here at Villa Guadalupe.

Unfortunately we saw 2 more Resident deaths this past week. We also saw 4 new Residents testing positive and 4 new Residents with symptoms. Among the staff 4 new employees tested positive and 9 others are waiting for test results.

Villa Guadalupe has become one of the hardest hit among the Little Sisters' 24 U.S. houses. Although this is certainly not a distinction we would have ever wished upon ourselves, we are consoled to know that it has brought us an abundance of prayerful support from our other Homes and many other people.

We continue to battle this invisible enemy as hard as we can. This week we worked with the New Mexico Department of Health, Deputy Chief of Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue, and the Gallup Fire Department to establishing zoning areas in the Resident unit, laundry, and hallway to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Next week we anticipate the visit of the National Guard to help with major disinfecting in the Home.

Because of the toll the virus has taken on our devoted staff, we found it necessary to reach out for assistance with nurses' staffing. The New Mexico Bureau of Nursing has sent out a request for 2 nurses to come and work at Villa Guadalupe temporarily. One of our regular physicians also reached out to the Medical Reserve Corps on our behalf and we have had at least 2 MRC's helping us each day.

We are grateful beyond words for the prayers of so many people and the donations of all sorts that keep arriving at our doorstep. Thank you so much! Please know that we pray for all of you each day.

God bless you,
Sr. Sarah and the Little Sisters