

Faith overcomes fear: A COVID-19 story
By Sister Alma Chew

On March 27, 2020, I tested positive for COVID-19.

Little did I know my faith would also be tested.

On that fateful Friday, I felt tired on my way home from work.

Because I had a fever of 102 degrees, I called the advice nurse.

I was instructed to go to urgent care and get tested right away.

Confirmed three days later, I was scared.

A disease unknown to man. Experts were guessing. Drug companies were experimenting. And there was no cure. But the worst of it was the loneliness.

No one could come near me. Food was left by the door. My only contact was through the phone, either in text or email. And even then, I was too tired to answer them.

I was one of the lucky ones. I was in my home and with my family, yet in isolation to keep them safe, I was still so alone. Just me and my fear.

My symptoms worsened. Body aches. Shortness of breath. I was rushed to the ER.

I cannot die. I am not ready. Lord, please help me. Why God? Why me?

With the worst flu-like symptoms I have ever felt, I cried out in despair. I was angry. I wanted answers. Answers in a world where there was NO VACCINE, NO DRUGS, NO CURE.

Lord, why have you abandoned me?

But He didn't.

A miracle: 200 messages of hope and encouragement from people whom I loved all over the world, pouring in daily, reviving me.

Home remedies and holistic cures were offered and gladly taken along with nightly rosaries. Daily masses heard with verses from the Bible, giving me hope again in the Lord because He did not abandon me.

God answered my prayers through the strength of others. I listened. I lived.

My renewed faith and hope kept me going. Slowly, I got better, although there was NO VACCINE, NO DRUGS, NO CURE.

But I had my own spiritual healing. Jesus was with me in EWTN, Facebook and YouTube, through the Vatican masses and the Papal prayers to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and seek its cure.

God is with me always. He did not abandon me. He is my champion.

In May, I tested negative for COVID-19 on two separate days.

With my healed lungs, I wanted to shout Alleluia! I wanted to shout it from the top of a building.

Alleluia! God is good! His love and mercy healed me. He restored my faith.

And now it is my turn to help others. If science is willing, I will gift my antibody-rich plasma so others too may be healed.

I pray daily to heal the afflicted and repose for the souls who have died.

Although both lists still continue to grow, just remember, we are not alone.