

## **Grateful - Thankful - Blessed!**

By Sister Cora Pediglorio

*Grateful - Thankful - Blessed!*

These three beautiful words remind me of God - the source of all life!

I am thankful and grateful to God for the many gifts in my life: my faith, my family and friends, my freedom, and all His creation.

Coronavirus, the invisible enemy, which appeared last year, caused all of us, to be scared and anxious. TV channels were filled with breaking news, sharing so much information from CDC and health experts yet so many lives were still taken away. Even the lives of those who are supposed to protect us, our doctors and nurses.

The pandemic spread to the elderly in nursing homes, then to our family and friends. No matter if they were young or old, rich or poor, religious or non-believers, the virus would be there. No exception.

Lockdowns were imposed, church services canceled, along with schools and most stores.

The state told us to wear masks, keep away six feet, stay sanitized and not to gather.

We had to stop living our lives in order to stay alive.

There must be a reason why this happened. There must be!

Since there were no church services in our Parish on Sundays, I began attending daily mass via TV streaming on YouTube.

All of a sudden, through the power of technology, I could attend mass in Quiapo Church or Our Lady of Manaoag Church in the Philippines, attentively listening to the homily of the Priest.

I tried to be an active participant of the Divine Mercy, Rosary and the Precious Blood of Jesus novena every day.

Reading the Bible Diary, "Meditation Each Day", the "Daily Bread" and "Mornings with Jesus", encouraged me to get closer to God and to know Him better.

I am not a very prayerful person, but having to adapt to a global pandemic, I was pleasantly surprised by how much my faith strengthened.

*Grateful, thankful, blessed.*

I am blessed to have a spouse who is patient, caring and attentive to my needs, especially now that I have been on dialysis treatment since May last year.

He drives and picks me up from the Dialysis Center three times a week, sacrificing his sleep but not his love for me.

I am blessed to have a family who are loving and generous, and are always there for me, in good or bad times.

I am blessed to have friends who remained faithful and thoughtful over the years.

I am blessed to have a second family, my Cursillo family, especially my Chosen Flock family, who are always very supportive and loving to me, always praying for my well-being.

I am blessed by their generosity and kindness during this pandemic. Their hearts are so beautiful because I know that God is in them.

The lyrics of "What a Wonderful World", sung by Louie Armstrong, inspires me, filling my heart with joy, peace, hope and love.

*Matthew 6:21 "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."*

Despite its ups and downs, the aches and pains as a result of aging, I have a beautiful life.

Indeed, it is such a nice feeling to wake up in the morning realizing that God has given me another day to live.

*Grateful, thankful, blessed!*