

## LIVING IN THE HERE AND NOW

For two years at Coloma and elsewhere, life has been an invitation to meditation, listening to media messages and prayer.

Prayer for all humanity, for all the earth's healing. News of destruction of lives by new disease which was given a name spread throughout the world: Corona Virus! Corona Virus! dreaded and shocking. Destructive without selection and short notice. Overwhelming and frightening to all!

Prayers were offered to the almighty by children and adults, poor and rich, believers and non-believers. An untold fear covered the universe! Thanks to the scientists, hopeful news slowly started to revive our hearts and to encourage our feeble faith. God Almighty heard the prayers of many.

While scientists were not at work, active life was put to halt. The known order of activities was challenged. Public places were suddenly closed, little children could no longer go to school or play with neighbours. Oh Lord, what a silence!!

## STAY HOME

The invitations from authorities advanced into a command, then into necessary self-obligations and duty, to stay home. First month was okay but as time passed silence around Coloma became too much. Coloma without children for months!!! Thanks to the teaching and support staff who were brave to stay with us. Together we lived in hope of reopening. No movement except on foot, bicycles, and private vehicles with permission to move. Movements were restricted to medical vehicles!!! A boda-boda was allowed to move for given hours carrying patients or food.

## THE SILENCE

Only birds and animals, crickets and frogs had what to say, but silence in itself was a message around us and a call to prayer. Yes, it is a time to reflect on, when finally, examination class came back to school, our minds relaxed a little. The silence of twelve- and thirteen-years old pupils was incredible! The time spent at home and little time to prepare for exams created more silence. Children were happy to be back but they behaved like adults who were set for business. It took time to get them to relax.

## THE GIFT OF SILENCE



Sr. Immaculate

Sr. Eileen  
- Professor

Philomena

Maria Goretti

Jeannett

Coloma community lived the first months of lockdown in style. Sr. Eileen Maher was our teacher and community creativity was real. She taught us sewing and designing of table clothes as each requested. We worked very hard and benefited a lot for we were joyfully kept busy. We had fun creatively and now we admire the fruits of the time.

## UNITY IS STRENGTH

To many of our Coloma friends and supporters we heartily say thank you very much. We have been kept busy and the staff who are still with us have not only been company to us but also have put their other talents to preparing for the re-opening of schools when it will be happening. The spirit among our staff has been and is encouraging.

When we talk of talents, we put in consideration ideas shared on how to manage living in the fear of contracting Corona Virus. Different ideas on local herbs to use were given and the concoction was made for children and adults and it did help a great deal.

This is October 2021, many months of silence and serious work on our gardens, construction work and keeping our environment as livable as possible. Our dear cows did well in reducing grass all around us or else we would be in a real forest.

## HOPEFUL MOMENTS

Finally, the Covid vaccine came about and with doubt but in faith we got the first and then the second jab. We pray a lot for scientists and medical personnel. Let us continue to offer our silent prayers for the healing of mother earth.

We have been praying with each one of you sisters. For the sick and weak to keep eyes fixed on our Lord. The strong for good health and hope filled moments for a better tomorrow. Our founder's prayer became very meaningful to us as days of silence turned into months and months into years. Thank God now communities can visit one another, pray together and have meetings. We will always remember these two years.

Communication by email and phones became more important than ever. What a tough period this has been! Dear Lord, for our dear ones and millions who were overcome by this disease, may they rest in eternal peace. Thank you, Lord, for your comfort and care for our mother earth.

All at Coloma community are grateful for spiritual and financial support which has encouraged us as we continue to work and live-in hope for full opening of schools. We have three postulants as a great gift to keep us thinking young again. We praise God for that!

A lot of joys are shared as this same year Sr. Olivia made her final vows. Sr. Leonidas and Sr. Immaculate also joined our community.

We greet you all.

Love and prayers,

Coloma community.

