



An update on the lives of our friends in the Philippines – GentleHands Orphanage. Run by Charity Graf... a letter to Fr Gerry as follows:

Dearest Gerry,

Yes.... it is astonishing the numbers we have of this virus. The government is lying and covering up and misrepresenting the situation. They don't really care about the masses and our economy is in shambles. Our current president is not taking a very tactical approach to things. The hospitals are closed- people are dying in the halls and arriving dead on arrival mostly because there are long lines for consulting and other issues. Private hospitals are totally full. There are no beds left for COVID patients.

Very frightening for those who may need medical attention. Thankfully, we have been self-sufficient for many years so we have been okay. I quarantined GHI on March 15 and we have remained cocooned since then. No staff in or out. That's 4 1/2 months now. I lost a few staff because they can't come back which has meant that i have been on duty quite a bit. Which has been trying but, in the end, so very positive. I know each child quite intimately now haha!

I am the teacher of 83 elementary students at present.... I have been very thankful for the time to sow into the hearts of these children. You know that they have memorized many verses and passages of the Bible- we are working on the Lord's prayer at the moment and it is so incredible to hear them all say it at once. Happy sigh.

Most of my staff are young and this has been quite a challenge to keep them focused. It is astonishing to me how the generations have changed. From yours to mine and now to this generation. Work ethic, gratefulness, stick-to-it-ive-ness.... things that were hammered into me as a child. So, I have found myself parenting the entire organization. God give me more wisdom is all I can say

I continually need prayer and welcome your words of wisdom and encouragement any time. How I would love to have a cuppa with you.

Please stay safe and take care of yourself.

Love as always,
Charity

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