In late April 2020, a brief survey was sent to the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, Covenant Companions, and staff. We received more than 70 replies. In this issue of Blessings, we will share a few of the responses to the question, “In this time of physical distancing what are you most grateful for?” The responses are interspersed with photos sent to us by Sr. Shirley Krull sharing “some of the joys of these days of prayer, love and hope” from her home in Wheaton, IL.

“A safe home, a fridge and cupboard full of food, freedom to be able to stay at home, and the technology and creativity to stay connected with community, friends, and family.”

Sr. Glenna

“The ability to connect in other ways, my health and the network of friends who keep in touch.”

Fr. Phil

“My family, my faith, my job, my house and yard, food on my table, technology.”

Jennifer H.

“We are grateful that our immediate family is together at home. The contraction of our world has heightened our awareness and appreciation of what exists in our immediate environment; spring, our garden, the birds at the bird feeder. Generally, the scale of life has gotten narrower, but also deeper. We are grateful for our stripped down to the essence of experience of Lent and Easter. Sometimes it is good to leave the pageantry and just hear the words. This revealed to us how intimate and personal the disciples experience of the original Easter was.”

CC Dave and Joanne
“In this time of physical distancing what are you most grateful for?”

“My health and the health of my family.”

CC Frank

“The growing intensity of relationship; The focus on the most important aspects of life; Gratefulness of God’s presence and love of our sisters and my wonderful persons who are assisting our communities. My sisters, who took loving care of my mother infected by COVID-19.”

Sr. Magdalena

“I am grateful for people’s kindnesses … which are many and varied.”

Sr. Alice D.

“My life, our Community, my Wheaton Franciscan sisters and brothers, family, friends, streaming liturgies, ease of getting essential groceries and prescription meds, my car, positive messaging re: COVID-19, those on the front lines serving with generosity and love, my faith and growth in consciousness, etc. I could go on and on.”

Sr. Diane

“That none of the Sisters have contracted the virus.”

Sr. Dorothy