Und hier der Brief von Frau Carmen Dapilos:

Greetigns dear Barbara!

Your message is a great surprise, reading your messae with teary eyes. Really it's October, the celebration of St Martin is approaching.

It is such a long story to write, because this country just like the other countries were caught unaware of this Pandemic. But Filipinos suffered so much due to mismanagement, disorganized, and corruption of the governement officials. The news day to day reveals heart breaking issues, this makes me cry writing this mail being reminded of the sad news here.

Look, so many are jobless due to bankruptcy,  so many privates schools closed due to no enrollment. Families have not enough for their chidren's needs as food.  We opened our schools last August, our teachers accepted to receive 50Euro monthly with no Insurances because it is all what we can afford to provide them or else we will close. Face to face learning/teaching is prohibited, so we printed modules since the months of Quarantine and locked down. Our Kinder teachers go from house to house to do the teaching, while one or two Kinder pupils hide coming in our schools, the teacher teaches them with classroom closed for fear that they might be caught by government officials as policemen going around not in uniforms,

 During the past months, at the height of the lockdown, a very welathy friend in Manila trusted me to provide kilos of rice for the Aetas and to the neighboring families here. Twice he did it for the families who were so surprised and very grateful, and I shared oure teachers as well.

I am so grateful for remebering our pupils here. Thank you, though the Hygiene articles as dental supplies, bath soaps. children's used clothing and shoes are of great help here, but what your parents decide would be alright for our pupils here. Beside the restrictions of the government, still Saint NIkolaus will surprise our pupils,

My best wishes to all your teacher teams, pupils and parents. You are always in my day to day prayers.

Sincerely,

Carmen

P.s.

Normally, at this time of the year, I am there in Germany. But I can not take the risk of travelling, so I decided to apply for an extension of my stay here.