

Katherine Mitrelis

Grade 12

Bio: I am a member of the Church of the Annunciation in Cranston, RI. I recently graduated from High School and plan on studying to become an Occupational Therapist. I have been working as a Certified Nurse Assistant for the past 2 years. In the fall of this year I will be taking my certification exams to become a Certified Phlebotomist and Patient Care Technician, wish me luck!



Covid 19 has affected almost every aspect of our lives, work, school, graduation, and church. I remember well the Sunday in March when our Oratorical Festival was supposed to be held. I prepared that entire week only to hear Saturday evening that the festival would be postponed. I remember how extremely disappointed I was, especially because this was my last year. It was on that day that I realized that church would be very different going forward. However, has Covid impacted my faith? No, it has not! It has impacted the way we gather as a church family; it has impacted how often I see my church friends, but it has NOT impacted my belief in God. Many have asked where is God during this Pandemic, why would He let so many innocent people die? As for me, I know where God is, He is in all the healthcare workers, myself included. I am a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and work at a local nursing home. I started when I was just 17 years old and have seen a lot especially with Covid-19. I have experienced the passing of several residents that I have gotten to know well. When someone passes, it is customary to prepare the body for the funeral home pickup. I take this responsibility very seriously since I feel that I am the last person, in the nursing home, to service these residents before they leave us. I am comforted to know that they are no longer suffering, and that they are with God. I see God in so many stories of kindness, generosity, and love, especially in these trying days. Despite the sadness that surrounds, we must choose to look at the good, for it is there that we will see God. This reminds me of the Footprint Poem, "The Lord replied, the times when you see only one set of footprints, it is then that I carried you." I love this poem; it helps me always remember that God is ALWAYS with us!

The pandemic has definitely changed the way we worship, but thanks to technology, we have an option to worship. I believe streaming the services has encouraged people that might otherwise not attend or regularly do not attend services to join in. To be honest, I do find it difficult to concentrate on the service at home, due to the many distractions. I do miss being in the physical church, surrounded by the icons, candles, the smell of incense and my church family. What I miss the most, though, is taking Holy Communion. The one thing that

cannot be replicated at home. I pray for the day that all will go back to normal, or what will become our “new normal.” However, until then, as Benet Wilson sated, “extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures.”