

Transcript of Oral History Interview with Katie Penunuri

Interviewee: Katie Penunuri

Interviewer: Anonymous

Date: Unknown

Location (Interviewee): Unknown

Location (Interviewer): Unknown

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Abstract: Katie Penunuri talks about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted her beliefs. She also talks about what changes her religious community has made to participation and what community services activities they engaged in to help those affected by the pandemic.

Anonymous 0:00

I'm speaking with Katie Penunuri who is involved with the Catholic Church. For the first question: how has COVID-19 affected your faith or beliefs?

Katie Penunuri 0:12

I don't think that it has really affected it that much other than a positive way. I mean, it always, it made me feel strong in my faith and to trust that, you know, my higher power has a plan and that we will be able to get through this through the practice of my beliefs.

Anonymous 0:36

Okay, yeah. A lot of people feel strongly about that as well. For the next question it's: is your religious community still gathering currently?

Katie Penunuri 0:49

Well, not really. I mean, you don't have remote Mass. I wasn't able to celebrate Easter with my family. And my church though it is, it is still open for private prayer.

Anonymous 1:03

And how has the COVID-19 affected your participation in your religious community?

Katie Penunuri 1:09

I mean, I still practice and I, and I still do believe in my community. So, yeah, I like I still intend to be a part of it and do everything that I do. It's just harder now with this in the way as a barrier.

Anonymous 1:28

Okay. Thank you. For the third question: is your religious community supplying or engaged in any kind of community service in an attempt to help alleviate issues caused by the pandemic? If so, what are the efforts?

Katie Penunuri 1:44

Um, yeah, my specific community has a relief fund for COVID-19 and it goes towards a lot of different things like food and diapers and different personal, like, care supplies. There's rental

assistance funds. So there is a lot and these kind of all go towards places like domestic violence shelters, working with child welfare, and childcare and after school programs.

Anonymous 2:13

Okay, thank you so much for answering these questions and for participating in this interview.

Katie Penunuri 2:20

Thank you.