

This last year has been an interesting one to say the least. One thing that I have found particularly hard, especially for my family, is the lack of access to church. I am not a super religious person but everyone in my family is. Seeing them having to adapt to new ways of life and overcome challenges specifically with religion has been hard. Being able to go to church and sit down with your friends for coffee and donuts after the mass was something that my family definitely took for granted. My grandfather and sister were heavily involved with the church and have been my entire life.

During this pandemic there were weeks that my grandfather and sister would go without being able to join the congregation in person because it was something you had to register for online weeks in advance. As of recently my grandfather started taking part in leading a zoom call for other parish members to join in on. This is something that happens daily and is very reminiscent of what it was like having those donuts with coffee after mass. They will all pray the rosary with each other or just pray about things that are happening in the world or in their lives. Both my sister and grandfather also have been participating in food drives or fundraisers for many communities in our county and our state.

I have been able to attend a few church masses, fully masked and socially distanced, and through this have realized how necessary it is for some people. Those older people who have no one to talk to and rely on church for anything social. I also think of children who do not have role models in their lives without going to church and being in a youth organization. This pandemic has made me realize the impact a religious organization can have in someone's life and how detrimental it can be without it.

#REL101