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Senior Independent Project

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See the Good

The anticipation of being a senior at Holy Child is unmatched. While growing up in such a special community, you witness countless fun and unique traditions. Since I entered Holy Child in my freshman year, I have been impatiently waiting to be a senior. Watching the seniors dance and sing in their corner of the dining hall, I could sense that each senior class had grown closer over the years. I was so eager to experience the things the leaders of my school had celebrated. Along with my peers, I did not know that my last day at Holy Child would be my last. Our final day was the Friday before March exams. That morning, we had celebrated one of the many wonderful Holy Child traditions, a breakfast to commemorate 100 days until graduation.

Over spring break this past March, I did not do much. I had been exempt from my March exams, so I had an additional week off. Those three weeks consisted of quality time with my dog, watching late-night NBA games, and a lot of *Grey's Anatomy*. As the days of my three-week staycation passed, each day felt more and more unreal as news of the coronavirus continued to spread. At first, there were only a few cases in my residing county of Westchester. Quickly, there were hundreds of cases, then thousands, and so on. The world was changing; schools and businesses were closing, people were losing their jobs, and major events were being canceled. This pandemic has resulted in a reality check; what jobs and businesses are deemed essential? Do I wash my hands enough? In March, Fox News reporter, Louis Casiano, identified 'essential workers' as "workers in law enforcement and public safety, food production, health

care providers and emergency personnel, among others” (Casiano). Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the entire world has altered their way of life. In fact, a survey found that ninety percent of Americans “say they are washing their hands more frequently or more thoroughly or longer” (Apr).

Living during a pandemic has sparked drastic changes to everyone’s day to day routines. We have been forced to rapidly accept and efficiently carry out social distancing to flatten the curve. “Flattening the curve refers to community isolation measures that keep the daily number of disease cases at a manageable level for medical providers” (Specktor). The math behind social distancing is quite simple. If social distancing is not practiced, one person will infect two and a half people in five days and ultimately 406 people in thirty days. However, if social interactions are reduced overall by seventy-five percent, then one person will only infect two and a half people in thirty days (Lu). In my tenth grade Social Justice class with Ms. Pickett, I vividly recall learning about Catholic Social Teachings, also known as CST. One of CST’s major themes includes an option for the poor and vulnerable. This comes to mind when I see people not practicing social distancing. The poor and vulnerable in our communities need to be protected at all costs, but especially during this time. As important as it is to limit social exposure for the health and well-being of your own family, it is equally as important to do so for the health and well-being of the whole world, specifically the poor and vulnerable.

At Holy Child, the spring of senior year is filled with festivities. Between the senior sleepover where the entire senior class sleeps in the Kelly Gymnasium, senior pranks, and being able to dress down during the third trimester, the traditions seem limitless. The seniors’ college decisions are also at the forefront of the fun, honored through a college t-shirt day, skirt signing,

and college cakes. Thanks to Holy Child's student government's creativity and dedication, each senior received a sweet home delivery earlier in May. Student government leaders baked each senior cupcakes designed after their college! Although our senior spring has not gone as expected, our class has authentically come together.

John Steinback once wrote, "A sad soul can kill you quicker, far quicker, than a germ." Since the coronavirus outbreak, we have learned to not take the little things for granted, like eating lunch with friends in the dining hall or sitting next to someone in a classroom. We have had the opportunity to spend valuable time with our families. Personally, I have become more active these past few months, frequently going on walks with my dad! We have united with the rest of the world, chanting from our homes as we show our appreciation for all essential workers. We have reassessed our priorities. As the saying goes, you can't have a rainbow without a little rain.

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