

# THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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St. Augustine High School

## Saving Lives with Social Distancing



By Nicholas Sajor ('21)  
STAFF WRITER

During this unique time in our lives, every Saintsman must do their part to stop the spread of this contagion and help end the ongoing crisis. This new disease has been labeled COVID-19 (short for coronavirus disease 2019) and emerged in December of 2019 in Wuhan, China. Since then, the virus has spread all over the globe, infecting hundreds of thousands and causing (at time of publication) over 75,000 deaths.

Due to the severity of this new disease, it is essential that everyone does their part to limit its spread, and in the process, save lives. Social distancing is the simplest and most effective method to stop this virus from infecting more people. Put simply, social distancing is avoiding large groups and close personal contact so as to limit the potential for a virus jumping between human hosts. A term often used in the medical community to show the value of social distancing is ‘flattening the curve.’ This phrase refers to a graph that represents the virus’s infection rate, where a steeper curve shows more infections. Essentially, to ‘flatten the curve’ means to stop the virus from infecting more people, which will bring about an end to this pandemic.

When dealing with the broad concept of social distancing, it is helpful to break it down into two general categories: systematic and personal. Systematic social distancing is when companies, governments (state, federal, local), or other organizations stop holding large events where people are in close proximity to one another. This method is often used to force people, both by force



Downtown is empty and quiet and San Diegans avoid social contact. Joaquin Torre ('21)

of law or force of circumstance, to not attend areas with large crowds. Many organizations have chosen to undergo this process, as is the case with every major sports league, which have either canceled their seasons or played games without fans, while movie theaters, beaches, concerts, all of Broadway, and many stores and restaurants have shut down.

For the students here at Saints and most

school districts across the country, in-person learning has been halted and students are staying home and doing their work over the internet. While many of the aforementioned measures are voluntary, California is under a mandatory stay-at-home order issued by Governor Newsom, ensuring that every Californian is legally required to engage in social distancing practices.

On the other hand, personal social dis-

tancing is, essentially, staying at least 6 feet away from others as much as possible. The general radius of a person from which this virus can spread is six feet, so staying outside that range will drastically reduce your chances of becoming infected. Therefore, if everyone constantly stays at least six feet apart, the virus will not be able to infect more hosts. Also, coughing or sneezing will disperse the virus into the air and outside the 6-foot radius, so either sneeze and cough into your elbow or at least 2 tissues, then wash your hands.

While social distancing is a key life-saving measure, the time needed for these actions to be effective is, as of yet, unconfirmed. The world medical community is conducting tests and studies to determine the time needed to not become infectious and whether or not you can get COVID-19 a second time after recovering. While these tests are in the labs, it is best to be cautious and continue to socially distance until this crisis is over, or at least until California’s statewide stay-at-home order is rescinded.

In these uncertain times, many aspects of typical life have been upended in response to the ongoing crisis. Following the advice of the world medical community will be the most straightforward way to overcome new challenges and secure a return to normalcy. Social distancing may be inconvenient and unenjoyable, but unless we take these measures, unpleasantness will endure much longer. Why

So, remain at least 6 feet apart, stay safe, and know that we will get through this together so long as everyone understands and employs the necessary tactics to flatten the curve and beat this virus.

## COVID-19's Unforeseen Effect on the Web



By Joseph Selfani ('21)  
EDITOR

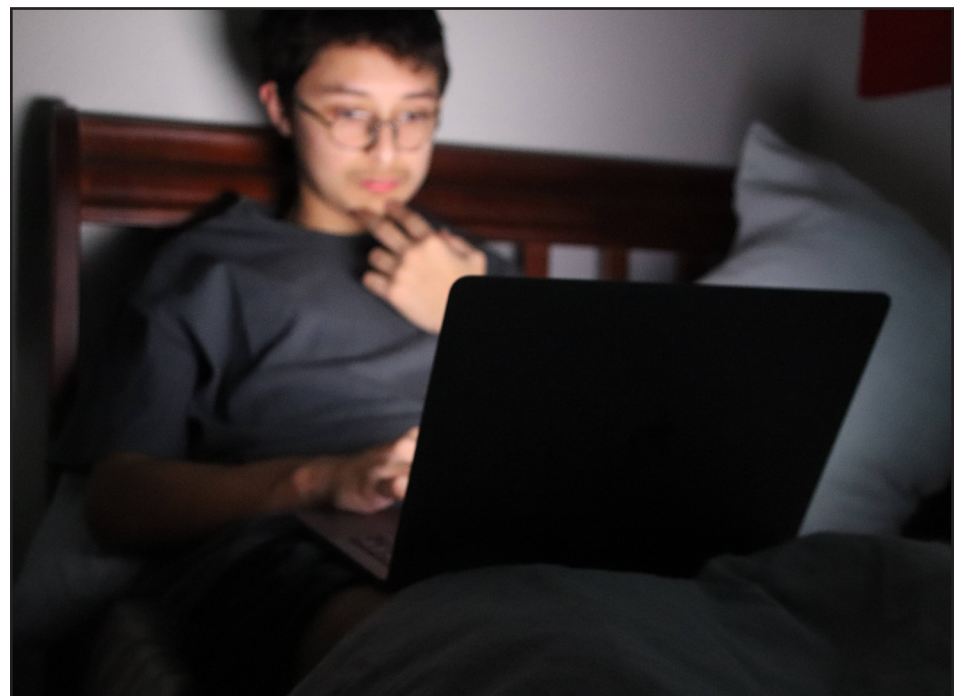
It comes as a shock that millions of people in the United States, in the span of a couple of weeks, are now stuck at home in quarantine. The effects it has created are known to many, and, although street traffic has become nonexistent, internet traffic is way, way up.

People may notice that their internet and websites might be slower than usual, and that is a direct result of many more people being active online right now. It is interesting to see what effect the quarantine will have on certain websites, services, and online platforms that will experience increased or, in some cases, decreased activity. The information available right now paints a fascinating picture as to the immediate effects of stay-at-home orders, and it can predict the long term effects it may have on internet usage.

To perhaps no one’s surprise, online gaming is on the rise. According to statistics provided by Valve, the number of users increased by two million (from 17 million to 19 million) in late January to early February of 2020 and increased by three million in March of 2020 (from 19.5 million to 22.5 million). In addition, the number of active users rose by one million (from five million to six million) in March. The

only explanations for the uptick in activity are the quarantines in China in January and February and the quarantines in the United States in March. Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, a popular first-person shooter game released in 2012, saw its number of active players reach 1 million users (from 700k the month before) for the first time in March 2020, and it held that number for the rest of the month.

Video entertainment is also up. While there are no direct metrics available for free online to research traffic on a website, socialblade.com and downdetector.com are useful tools to check the progress of a specific channel and outages with websites, respectively. To determine usage for a video platform, *The Augustinian* took the top 25 subscriber/follower accounts in the U.S. on YouTube and Twitch and averaged their percent increase in views from February to March of 2020. The results showed YouTube with about a 10% increase (with some channels up as much as 50%) and Twitch with about 50% overall. While the metrics may not precisely reflect the performance of the whole platform, it does show the increase in viewership and uploads from the top creators of their website. In addition, using downdetector.com, one can see that Netflix had a major increase in outages, with 37 reported in March com-



As more people are staying home, internet usage is skyrocketing. Joaquin Torre ('21) pared to only 4 published in February. This increase in outages is seen across the board on most social media platforms like Snapchat, Instagram, and Facebook, with an exception being Spotify.

According to an article released by *Quartz*, the top 200 most streamed songs on Spotify actually dropped in listeners since February in all European countries and the United States. Apart from de-

creases in Spotify usage, Shazam, an app that identifies and plays music, has seen downloads from both the App and Google Play stores falling by 50% from February to March according to *Statista*. According to the BBC, U.S. music streaming “fell by 8.8%” during the week of March 13-19, and the use of music-streaming apps like Spotify “fell by about 8%.” Interestingly,

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# College, Confusion, and the Coronavirus

 **By Angel Perez ('21)**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As thousands of students prepared themselves for their SAT test on March 14th, many of them received news that has become common in recent weeks. Facing the impending threat of COVID-19, the highly infectious virus that has sent the world into a frenzy, numerous testing facilities were forced to cancel their administration of the test.

Although some of these institutions announced a March 28 test make-up date, CollegeBoard moved quickly to squash any hopes of taking the exam in March, and, soon after, the May administration of the test was canceled internationally by order of CollegeBoard. This assessment (or the equivalent ACT), which many students view as a pivotal piece of their college applications, was required by a staggering 95% of colleges and universities across America. However, with the explosion of this frightening global health pandemic, modifications will be made that may change the college application and admissions process for millions.

With the cancellation of both the March and May SATs as well as the April ACT, a massive move by a great number of post-secondary institutions to become “test-optional” has begun. Case Western Reserve University, a highly ranked college in Cleveland, was one of the first schools to become test-optional due to the coronavirus.

“Understanding how much turmoil this is injecting into the process, it’s just so clearly, in our view, the right thing to do,” said Rick Bischoff, the vice president for enrollment management at Case Western Reserve, to NPR about the need for colleges to adapt in the wake of this situation.

Many more schools have similarly deemed this move “the right thing to do.” In an announcement that shocked many counselors, students, and parents alike, the University of California system announced on April 1 that the chain of nine schools would temporarily suspend their standardized testing requirements as well as the minimum grade thresholds for admissions as a result of the



**UCLA is one of many schools that are now test-optional due to COVID-19.** *UCLA* be going test-optional for the class of 2021, but we will wait and see what they do in the next admissions cycle.”

“The COVID-19 outbreak is a disaster of historic proportions disrupting every aspect of our lives, including education for high school students, among others,” UC President Janet Napolitano said. “The university’s flexibility at this crucial time will ensure prospective students aiming for UC get a full and fair shot — no matter their current challenges.”

However, this decision has caused many future applicants to wonder how college decisions will be affected. The UCs, which have historically rejected the prospect of making standardized tests optional in order to improve equity, typically receive approximately 200,000 applications each year according to the UC Office of the President. Although it may prove beneficial for many smaller universities to stray away from the SAT or the ACT, it seems unlikely that UC admissions officers will be able to truly review 200,000 applications without the limiting criteria of standardized testing and minimum grade thresholds.

“For current juniors, UC and CSU are going to be test-optional for next year, but this will not be a permanent change.” Saints counselor Dr. Rey said. “I am sure that many other private and out-of-state public colleges will

These historic questions are causing many to wonder: How will these schools accurately assess and compare students’ academic prowess without an unbiased understanding of how each student performed on the identical assessment?

Although some universities, including the UCs and the California State Universities, recalculate each student’s GPA to create a maximum ceiling, GPA can vary greatly between schools based on class difficulty and availability. While a student at Saints can earn a semester GPA of 5.00 in their senior year, some schools do not offer weighted AP or Honors courses, capping those students’ GPAs at a comparatively low 4.00. Although the number of students achieving at this exceptionally high level is low, this possibility cannot be negated, and students whose GPAs are restricted may face greater difficulties in the coming application term without the ability to level the playing field through standardized tests.

Yet another major aspect of many students’ academic careers is the infamous AP test. With 38 unique exams offered each year,

most of which include both multiple-choice and free-response portions, approximately 4 million exams nationwide were taken last year according to the Hawaii State Department of Education. These assessments, which are traditionally between 2 and 4 hours in length and may only be administered in highly secure facilities, are scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with any score above a 2 qualifying students for college credits at many universities.

In light of the current health situation, however, the CollegeBoard has issued a statement that the administration of the exams will be drastically different than ever before. “We’re developing secure 45-minute online free-response exams for each course,” the statement said. “You’ll be able to take your exams on any device you have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone. You’ll also have the option to write your responses by hand and submit a photo.”

Although some believed that this would cause the number of high scores to spike due to the reduced range of information on the exams and the potential for cheating, CollegeBoard has explained that the exams are scored on a curve, and, with the elimination of multiple-choice sections and stringent time restrictions, academic dishonesty will be next to impossible.

Additionally, the statement clarified that “Colleges support this solution and are committed to ensuring that AP students receive the credit they have worked to earn. For decades, colleges have accepted a shortened AP Exam for college credit when groups of students have experienced emergencies.”

This news came as a comfort for many students in this trying time, but the uncertainty that all high school juniors are currently experiencing is creating a great sense of uneasiness for many.

Without a clear idea of what will come as the COVID-19 situation progresses, all the class of 2021 can do at this point is wait and hope for the best. For any students with questions about the position that they now find themselves in, the counselors are available for virtual meetings upon request.

# Making the Switch: Distance Learning

 **By Manny Butler ('22)**  
STAFF WRITER

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Saints has temporarily shut down to prevent the spread of the disease. Since students still have to learn, teachers have had to adapt their classes on short notice to go fully online. Of course, the teachers have had to adapt in different ways based on the classes they teach, their teaching styles, and how much online work their classes do already.

While it has been a big change for both students and teachers at Saints, there are certain advantages of online learning that the coronavirus has given us an opportunity to experience. Many teachers, such as Mr. Chesser, are using Zoom as a way to interact with their students to lecture and have discussions. While this face-to-face interaction does not provide the same advantages as a traditional classroom setting, there are many other tools that have allowed teachers some sense of ease during this otherwise difficult transition.

“It is convenient to submit and grade essays through turnitin.com and Canvas,” Mr. Chesser said.

Another advantage of the current online learning system is that having three classes per day instead of six lightens the workload a bit. This has allowed students to put more into each class every day.

“I have seen more thoughtful work from more students than usual,” Mr. Davis said.

Breaking up the classes into three per day gives students more time to do their work in a given class, reducing the stress that comes



**Zoom's video capabilities make it a good substitute for face-to-face instruction.** *Zoom*

with trying to get through as much as possible in a set amount of time.

“I think that during this time some students have been able to think about their Spanish and not just feel that they had to rush through assignments so they could get that checkmark,” Mr. Davis said. “We are also very lucky to have the WebSam and conjuguemos.com, which are great tools to learn Spanish online.”

Other advantages of coronavirus-induced online learning will provide more broad and long-term outcomes for the Saints community.

“I think that one of the advantages is that this has forced educators to expand their skill set, especially those who have been slow or resistant to embrace the educational technology world,” Mr. Granados said.

He also said that, since education has become more and more of a consumer product, the effectiveness of educational practices is being examined. He explained that “lecture-style pedagogy” and “the utility of an in-person professor” at the university level has been exposed as less essential than most people think.

“In a historical and societal context, the timing for this type of grand experiment couldn’t be better,” he said.

Of course, there are many disadvantages to online learning as well. The principal issue is that there is less time spent in class.

“When we had class, we had 4.5 hours in class per week, which reduces to one hour for Tuesday-Thursday classes online,” Mr. Chesser said. He also stated that the limited amount of time spent in class inhibits his abil-

ity to answer questions face-to-face.

There is also the point that classes are done in a classroom for a reason: it’s the most effective way of learning.

“A disadvantage is in the effectiveness; educational technology isn’t new, and is widely seen as a supplement to and not a substitution for our current face-to-face classroom model,” Mr. Granados said. “The adjustment on my end has been through the delivery of lecture notes and instruction on how to complete problems.”

He explained that he decided to use Twitch because it was the best way for his large number of students to receive instruction.

Mrs. Walp chose to take a different route by recording videos and uploading them to Canvas for her students to review. This has allowed her to accurately and succinctly convey her material without needing to modify her overall lesson plans. Additionally, these videos have given her the avenue to work with students on example problems in order to effectively prepare them for tests and quizzes.

It’s clear that the teachers had to do a lot in order to get their classes online in such a short amount of time, as they have been thrown into a situation never before faced. Fortunately, Saints possesses a capable teaching staff that has been able to adapt efficiently to the new environment, and they’ve done a great job. Regardless of the current situation, this has served as an opportunity for teachers and students alike to learn new skills and adapt to the constantly increasing capabilities of educational technology.



# Editorial: People Before Politics



President Trump has extended social distancing guidelines through April. *The New York Times*



By Kai da Luz ('21)  
EDITOR

“Wow!” is about the only thing that comes to mind every morning when I awake from my slumber and realize while staring into the mirror that THIS is the new normal. At the time this story reaches the Saints community we will be enjoying our Easter Break. The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on every American’s daily life, ushering in a period of chaos and mass hysteria in the United States as it currently leads the world in recorded coronavirus cases. Anytime a crisis comes to the doorstep of the American people, it is the government’s duty and responsibility to step in and intervene. It prompts one to ask: how has the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, been dealing with this outbreak? While the government has done a lot to stem the spread of the virus, a lot of their work has been half-measures that do not provide sufficient enough results for the American people.

One of the main issues with the government’s response has been their initial slow or tempered approach. If we are going to face the virus head-on, it only makes sense that the most effective approach is one of fast action, yet the story in America for the moments leading up to the full quar-

antine have been a series of slight changes. For example, we saw the restriction on meeting sizes change from no more than 250 people to 150 people to ten people to an advisory against gatherings of any kind. Another example can be found in the business world of America. Instead of closing all non-essential businesses early on, closing each industry one by one in the early stages brought America a tedious solution that left many out in the cold and vulnerable to exposure to the virus as they were still called into work. This slow and staggered progression arguably put more Americans at risk, an unnecessary danger that could have been avoided had the government taken a more direct approach.

Moreover, the current government’s legislation is not nearly enforced enough. Even with the government’s “encouragement” to stay home and the closure of many businesses and schools, people in America still seem to have places to be and things to do. It is quite puzzling to be told again and again that we are in quarantine, but then to find multiple cars on the road. While the government in our country can spit laws and restrictions out all they want, a real change will not happen until they enforce said laws. Another problem with the government’s lack of precision is the essential business debacle. Companies are

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built to make money, and some companies do not like the idea of their in-store locations being closed down so much that they try to argue their business is “essential.” Among these companies is GameStop, who tried to argue its viability for essential status as it was essential for communications equipment and technology. Though GameStop’s plea was eventually declared a farce, the fact that the government did not act more swiftly with the closure of non-essential businesses, especially as the virus began to take hold in the U.S., produced much wasted time and made their efforts less effective.

Although federal reaction to this crisis has been slowed and was initially ineffective, the government is now pushing for many bills and initiatives that will help heal America’s wounds and guide her through this hardship. One such positive is the stimulus packages that the government is rolling out to help struggling families financially, as well as the various assistance programs for those who have become recently unemployed. Another bonus about our government is the certain level of autonomy that each level of the government enjoys. Even though the federal progression in the assault on the coronavirus has been slow, governors like Gavin Newsom in California and Andrew Cuomo in New York took bold steps early on for preparedness against the pandemic, moving swiftly with protocols that did more for the American people sooner. Unfortunately, that lev-

el of autonomy secured in our republic also allows some governors, such as those from Arkansas and Wyoming, to still hold out in the wake of the virus from issuing orders to stay at home.

The truth is, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Without bipartisan support for measures that will lower the impact of the virus in the U.S., more and more Americans will suffer. The governors of the eight states that are holding out from joining the nationwide coalition are all Republican. Furthermore, various Democrats have been using the COVID-19 epidemic to attack the current administration, creating more obstacles in our battle against this virus. Too often in our country, politics come before people. The number of total cases in America has risen above 500,000 and is growing every day. In March, The Century Foundation estimated that the jobless rate will be nearing 20 percent. American individuals are suffering more and more every day because those in both parties of our government cannot stop their fighting, swallow their pride, and work together for the sake of the American people. Our great republic is supposed to focus on protecting its populous first and foremost, safeguarding their rights of “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” It is an absolute necessity that we pull together as a nation and deal with the crisis, putting people before politics to show the virus and the world with pride that we are the *United States of America*.

## A Message from the Managing Editor



By Thomas Vedder ('20)  
MANAGING EDITOR

I am not going to lie to anyone who is reading this, this situation is awful. There was always a knowledge that all of this would end. However, this feels as if it was all taken from us. As we wait for an announcement from the administration, the second half of this year seems as if it is gone for good.

This will be my last issue as Managing Editor and the last article that I will write for The Augustinian. As I end my two and a half years as a member of the paper, I want to take time to reflect on the current situation and what this paper means to me.

The situation that we find ourselves in is a once in a lifetime occurrence. All sports and majors events have been shut down and we have been reduced to hermits in the most connected society ever to exist. There are a lot of unknowns and a lot of anxieties.

We really don’t know the extent of the threat that this virus might pose to our society. At this point, it seems unlikely that we will be able to finish out our school year with a sense of normalcy. Looking at the recent declarations from our governor and State Superintendent, it seems as if the state government is skeptical that schools can resume by the end of May. That means that I may have



The counselors will assist students with their college search via SCOIR. Kai da Luz already spent my last day as a student on campus at Saints.

My last four years have brought a lot of tremendous highs and some terrible lows. The friendships I have made and the lessons I have learned from the ones I have lost have helped to prepare me for this next adventure in college. It seems as if it just ended prematurely. I was always aware that there would be a last day, I just never realized that it might be today, or three weeks ago for that matter. There seems to be something missing.

All of the friendships we never got to form. All of the broken friendships we never may be able to mend. No prom and possibly no graduation. Some may say that our pain and anguish is not valid. That, since there are people dying, how this virus affects us is meaningless. However, just because there are worse things happening in the world, our pain is not invalid.

If I can leave you a final note it would be this: do not take those around you for granted because the world owes us

nothing. As cliché as that might sound, it still rings true. I have been blessed with a support group around me and people who care about me. Things have not always been easy. I have struggled with anxiety and depression for several years, and, much of the time, I have felt alone. However, these people that I got to create a newspaper with six times every year have helped to make me feel whole.

Of course, there have been other people who have helped me, and those people know who they are. Still, the ability to just spend 8 hours after school working on something that was bigger than myself helped to give me purpose.

I say all of this because I took the routine of my own life for granted and took those around me for granted. Sometimes depression tricks you into thinking you are alone even when you have people in your life who love you.

If this terrible situation can help with anything, let it teach you this essential lesson. Reach out to a friend or a loved one who may be lonely, and, if you are struggling with mental health issues, talk to a professional. We can make each other stronger. Tough times like these have the potential to bring out the best in humanity.

Thank you to the Saints community for everything over the last four years, and I hope that all of you and your families stay safe during this time.



# Missing School Leads to Missing School



By Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)  
EDITOR

Although it is only the month of April, 2020 is already looking to be a year like no other. COVID-19 has affected nearly everyone in the world to some extent as nations rush to quarantine their inhabitants and to enforce social distancing. Among those quarantined are athletes, the elderly, babies, the majority of adults, and stay-home moms. But that's not all. There is another group experiencing the intrinsic wonder of quarantine, a group of restless and sleep-deprived individuals fueled by unhealthy amounts of caffeine: high school students.

A simple measure with dramatic effects, quarantine serves to thwart the spread of the dangerous virus and has been accepted as sufficient means to stay healthy by most of the population, except the brainiac college students who insist on ditching the “lame” measures of social distancing to celebrate spring break. After all, you know what they say, “Spring break is the healer of all things”—that is, until one gets a dry cough and a fever.

Saints was quick to transition to an online system after hearing that the San Diego Unified School District was closing down schools, and after an apocalyptic-like clearing out of student lockers, quarantine in association with the online Saints experience ensued. My quarantine experience should be similar to that of other Saints-men as we are all, or should be, attempting to learn diligently through online means and abiding by the new societal norm of quarantine. That being said, my own daily routine goes something like this:

Every morning begins generally the same. Although I am able to technically “sleep in,” I still manage to screw up, ignore my alarm, and roll out of bed just in time for my first class. As I log into the Zoom class, my computer reflects an image of my drowsy face and asks a deep and personal question: “Do you wish to start your camera at the beginning of the meeting?” I observe the makeshift mullet that has grown on my head and quickly select “no.” About 15 minutes into the class, my stomach begins to growl and I decide to quickly burst downstairs to scrounge for some food. As I return to my room with a couple of tangerines, I discover that I have become behind on the new topic and frantically rush to copy down the notes before they disappear into digital oblivion.

Before I know it, it is time for the second class of the day, or as I like to call it: “Block 2.” This class just occurs through Canvas, a method I prefer over the obnoxious Zoom who always tries to spy on my



Mauricio Torre ('20) demonstrates a typical day of quarantine.      Joaquin Torre ('21)

face. I quickly try to complete all the assignments as they are given to avoid forgetting about them later. The main issue with a Canvas-only class is that you never really know when it is over. Once, I thought “block 2” ended so I took a quick 20-minute power nap and eventually awoke to a quiz which had started 10 minutes prior. To my luck, the teacher awarded me with a delightful prize guaranteed to make any student ecstatic: a drop quiz.

The final class is always the best class because before I know it, it is over and I am done with school for the rest of the day. However, it is also at this time when all of my teachers seem to post multiple assignments and lengthy announcements. As a result, I lock myself in my room and promise myself not to leave until I have finished an adequate amount of homework. At around two, when I am finally finished, I stumble downstairs in search of food but instead find something, or rather someone, else: a parent.

COVID-19 might be causing significant harm worldwide, but if anything, it is making great strides in providing extensive “family bonding” in the lives of many high schoolers who are stuck at home. In my quarantine experience, the “bonding” generally consists of my parents nagging me to go outside, do chores, or get “exercise,” whatever that means.

But, really, quarantine is as bad as you think. Generally, I spend most of my day sitting in a dark room listening to music just trying to pass time. Sure, I could do what my parents call “something productive,” but that’s not really what I am about.

School is not that much easier as the stress is, if anything, augmented because there is this notion that I cannot really do anything.

With finals just being canceled, the likelihood that we get to return to campus is extremely low, if not impossible, and such a reality causes me to sadly profess three words I never thought would come out of my mouth during my high school experience: “I miss school.”

I miss coming to Saints in the morning despite usually barely staying awake. I miss all my classes from the energetic experience of a Mr. da Luz lecture to the socratic-seminar-turned-political debates in Mr. Chesser’s AP English Language class. Although the online classes provide a minor resemblance to the physical class, I would classify them as “knock-off brands.” I suppose either way you are still getting the same item, but the name-brand is always better. Always.

I am unsure if other Saintsmen feel the same way that I do. I understand that many of them might enjoy the online experience more than actual classes mainly because they can stay in bed all day and avoid putting on any form of a collared shirt. Despite the stress that many students are currently feeling, this has also served as an avenue for students to bring their grades up with these new online opportunities.

In this trying time, it is essential that Saintsmen support each other and work together to adjust to this new system. To all Saintsmen stuck in quarantine, in order to survive, you must do three things: complete your homework, hide your face on Zoom, and try to enjoy yourself.

► WEB USAGE

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the BBC article states that their radio programs increased by 18%, and another radio station, Global, said, “Online radio listening had risen by 15%.” In addition, the BBC article listed several topics that have seen a fall in web traffic, including financial planning (down 69%), low-cost travel (down 63%), football (down 62%), home repair and DIY (down 23%), buying and selling homes (down 25%), and dining out (down 18%).

As a response to increasing internet traffic, Europe and the United States forced Netflix and YouTube to reduce streaming quality to Standard Definition from High Definition to prevent the “internet from collapsing,” according to CNN Business. To put it into perspective, video “accounts for over 60% of data delivered from internet providers to consumers, with Netflix accounting for just under 12% of total traffic” and YouTube “accounts for another 12%.”

It goes without saying that with quarantine measures being put in place and stay-at-home becoming the norm, internet usage will rise; however, not every topic and service is a winner from this increase in traffic, as is seen with Spotify and Shazam. It will be a great experiment to discover the limits that the coronavirus will take us to in terms of internet usage and the response from internet companies as the virus affects global internet capacity, and many of these companies will be forced to take action and adapt to the by-products of this constantly growing pandemic.

Dear Saints community,

Despite the trying times we now find ourselves in, it is imperative that we remember the importance of our upcoming holiday. On Sunday, April 12, we will celebrate Easter, thus commemorating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As this Lenten season comes to a close, we must reflect on the significance of this occasion and remind ourselves of the most consequential sacrifice in our lives: Jesus’ sacrifice of his own life on the cross in order to cleanse the world of sin. This holy day is pivotal to our spiritual lives, and The Augustinian wishes the entire Saints family a happy and memorable Easter. Despite circumstances making traditional Easter celebrations difficult, we urge all Saintsmen to cherish the essence of Easter and spend time with their families on this festive day.

Warm regards,  
Angel Perez, Editor-in-Chief

# The Struggles of Distance Learning

By Matthew Cross ('21)

