

Life in the Time of COVID-19

I never thought I would here myself utter the words, “oh look they have chicken today,” when shopping in my local grocery store. Or that I would ever have to worry about whether I had enough toilet paper to last through the week, but here we are. My problems seem simple compared to the economic crash that our economy has taken and the immense loss of life around the globe. However, the fear of what can occur is present day and night and its one connection I think we all share right now.

I constantly worry about my mother and brother who are facing additional challenges because of their jobs and it makes me feel entirely helpless. My brother, who we haven’t heard from in over a week, has been working in private security in Afghanistan for months and things have gotten worse since the pandemic. He can’t talk about it much or tell us exactly where he is, but it feels like when he was deployed after 9/11.

My mom is a nurse and she’s been struggling to get through the day with the overflow of patients and work they have had. She keeps her work shoes, lab coat, and jacket in the car and changes immediately when she gets home before ever coming through the door. She constantly has headaches because of wearing the masks because they prevent her from wearing her reading glasses, but she doesn’t have a choice. Every time I hear her cough, I feel this sense of dread come over me.

For as many times as she has heard ‘thank you,’ she’s also noticed people avoiding her if she is wearing her scrubs in public. My mother is an amazing woman and has been a nurse for over thirty years. I hope people can overcome their fears and panic to understand the sacrifice that medical personnel everywhere are making. I just hope that my mother is not faced with the same challenges we are seeing in Italy and Spain.

I think it is time that we all look to our families and be thankful for the people and life we have been given because none of it is ever guaranteed. Each day we watch news reports vigilantly and hope for good news, but so far, there has been very little. Our lives have undoubtedly been changed and may never return to what we once knew as normal. However, the only way for us to move forward and collectively face this challenge is together. Being thankful for the sacrifices of ever person who continues to work and serve in their own capacity is essential to maintaining our increasingly fragile economy and community as a whole. There has to be a light at the end of the tunnel, right? All we can do is hope.