

The pandemic has brought devastating change to all areas of life, in particular, through the gross overreaching of government power. When the shutdowns first occurred, I became unemployed and my son was now homeschooled. As a single mom, I had to do whatever I could to find work and a way to keep a roof over our heads. The shutdowns continued and my son and I were forced into poverty. My job prior to the shutdowns was in the hospitality business and I also worked part time as a fitness coach. The 13 weeks of unemployment with the extra \$600/week from the federal government was just enough to keep gas in my car to travel to and from any odd jobs I could find, which turned out to be a shopper for InstaCart. It was a very competitive job, with so many people looking to work that it often became a battle over who would get the jobs and who picked up the scraps.

This shutdown was coupled with the mask and vaccine mandates that further divided the already stressed country and economy. The “science” contradicted itself and the media was no longer to be trusted. One had to learn to survive in a world and country that no longer supported its citizens, but instead pitted one against the other while slowly removing our Constitutional rights.

One of the rights that were attacked was our freedom of religion. We could no longer worship and attend Mass, and worse than that, we no longer had access to the Eucharist. People became completely isolated and had nowhere to go for support at the time we needed each other the most. Attending Mass and receiving the Body of Christ would have gone a long way in keeping people well.

I pray this never happens again. I pray we have the courage to stand up against those who have the power to turn our great country, The Republic of The United States, into a socialist tyrannist country for their own power and greed.