



Good morning, my name is Emily Maite Siles Rojas. I live in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) and I study at the Domingo Savio School E.P.D.B.

Face-to-face classes were suspended in March, and, sadly, haven't started again.

As we don't have good health services and a lot of people need financial support, the virus is affecting my country economically. The school environment is badly affected because online classes are not as effective as face-to-face classes, and not everyone has access to the necessary technological resources.

Thank God, the pandemic has not economically affected me as much as other people. Some of the problems I've had are not being able to be with my loved ones and my friends, not attending class, and not being able to go to church.

The suspension of classes has really affected me because I'm not getting a proper education and I'm having many technological difficulties. During this time, I've attended online classes and online church, I've supported my dad at home, and I've tried to be a better person. I quarantined with my dad and brothers at home, and currently, we continue living together.

I've felt terrible because a lot of people died because of this. Simply knowing that there were and are a lot of people with no roof over their heads and not being able to help them is just sad. It's really hard not being able to hug or get close to anybody because you are scared of getting infected. It's even worse to realize that there are people who aren't taking precautions and continue not to think about themselves or anybody else. Basically, we've had to learn to live with fear.

During this time, I've learned to appreciate my family and everything we have at home, however big or small. I've learned the value of solidarity and of helping people. I've learned to appreciate my friends, and that love and affection are not only expressed through physical actions.

*Restarting
to transform*