

Imagine a world in which Catholics had no one to distribute communion to them, no place to attend mass, no way of receiving holy sacraments, and most likely no form of spiritual guidance for them to consult when they are struggling in their everyday lives. Millions of Catholics from all around the world might possibly have a place to worship, but with no one there to manage and run the Church, who would go there unless they wanted to pray in the chapel? Catholic parishes and communities would not be able to function the same if there were no priest there to help.

Imagine one day all priests, religious brothers, and nuns disappear. A baby girl is born into a Catholic family, but with there being no priests to baptize her, the child's parents give her a little ceremony and pray for her and pray for the return of the religious men and women. This little girl grows to the age where she would have been able to receive Holy Eucharist and First Reconciliation; however, no priests are around, so the child's parents once again pray with her and teach her the importance of the sacraments.

There are millions of children, adults, and elderly that have no way of receiving sacraments or attending mass. They can, however, pray the rosary and teach their descendants to pray. Eventually families will not be as connected to the Church as our generation and past generations were, but they will still have Bibles and many other forms of prayer.

## In A World Without Religious Leaders, Page 2.

Nuns work in hospitals, schools, orphanages, and churches. Without them present, there would no longer be a well-kept Catholic community. Every Catholic school was started by a bishop, nun, or some religious man or woman. Without all those people, the only Catholic schools that would be built would be by wealthy members of the community, but even then there would be no priest to pastor there, and there would only be regular teachers to educate students.

Religious men, such as brothers, inspire many men to want to become brothers. They are a wonderful example of living a selfless life in such a selfish world. Brothers live in ministries and they do any type of job that is accustomed to their talents and gifts that God has given them. Pregnancy and Adoption Services, Senior Centers, Immigration and Legal Services, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Ladies of Charity, and many other Catholic organizations continued to thrive because of our religious brothers, sisters, and priests.

If someday we were to lose our religious brothers, nuns, and priests, all Catholic communities would be missing friends, leaders, and counselors in Christ. Ministries in third-world countries would be lead only by volunteers, schools would be missing teachers and priests, and every diocese from all over the world would have no bishop to lead them. A world with no priests, religious brothers, or nuns is a world in which I do not want to live.