

# Discovering a New World in My House

Sister Andrea Hýblová, FSP



**BEFORE YOU READ:**

1. The author lives in a convent with 70 sisters. Explain what a convent is. And what does “sisters” mean in this context?
2. After reading the title, what do you think this essay will be about?

After the coronavirus outbreak, I was sad because I had to stay at home. No more walking through the park; no more Wednesday coffee with Ms. Robin, our teacher; and no more visiting the library. All our classes were online. I missed the

“air” of school. I missed discovering the new world around me.

After some days, I decided to learn from my new teachers – my sisters. I am a Catholic

**This pandemic time has taught me to stop and “lose” time for another... It is a big unexpected gift for me.**

nun, and I live in a *convent* with about 70 *sisters*. I discovered a new world in my house! Because I stay all day at home, I have more time to sit with the sisters in the dining room. I have time to help them with kitchen duties or with cleaning. I found the courage to ask questions. I discovered my talent to listen to their stories.

This is my “on-life” school where I learn from my sisters. I hope that my ability to understand English and express myself gets better. But I have discovered that it is even more important to truly be able to understand other people. This pandem-

ic time has taught me to stop and “lose” time for another, to try to see the other person with new eyes, to express support and gratitude to them. It is a big unexpected gift for me.

**AFTER YOU READ:**

1. What is the “unexpected gift” that the author has received?
2. The author says, “This pandemic has taught me to stop and ‘lose’ time for another.” Why does she use quotes around the word “lose”?
3. A pun is a play on words. Explain the pun “on-life” school.
4. Read some of the articles on pp. 12, 13, 15, 19, 24, 26, and/or 32. Summarize the types of “gifts” people describe getting during the pandemic.
5. Have you received any unexpected gifts during the pandemic? Write about them.

Sister Andrea Hýblová is a member of the Daughters of Saint Paul. Originally from the Czech Republic, she is in the U.S. to study English and to explore new ways to communicate the love of God. Sister Andrea is a student at the Adult Learning Program of Jamaica Plain Community Centers in Boston, MA. She is grateful for the possibility to keep learning online and “on-life.” She dedicates this piece with thanks to her teacher Ms. Robin and her friend Ms. Zuzka.

