



Catholic Schools Week | January 31 – February 6, 2021

Second Place Essay Contest

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Journey to Christ

A Catholic education has been something I have thankfully grown up with throughout my life. From grade school to high school I have realized the importance of Catholic education and the impact it has not only with knowing who I am but also knowing who God is and how he is important and fulfilling in my life. Throughout this time in a Catholic school I have realized how impactful faith, excellence, and service are in the process of knowing myself and how I continue to develop and express my faith outside of school and in my life.

To begin with, one of the most important outcomes of a Catholic education is the faith I have for God that has been developed throughout this educational experience. Faith is very important to me because I have grown to know God and myself better, and I have developed a stronger relationship with God. As a matter of fact, the meaning of faith itself is very special and important. Faith means to have complete trust and confidence in someone or something and

trusting God is something I strive to do everyday. I take time to reflect and connect with my faith in God, whether it's learning more about him or simply praying. I try to get to know him better and learn more about him and because of this I am assured that I am truly made in God's image just like everyone else around me.

Secondly, excellence has been something that a Catholic education has helped me develop and fully express. My catholic education has helped push me to be the best version of myself. I am comfortable expressing who I am and what I believe. Moreover, it has helped me reach high standards and reach goals I thought were unreachable. For example, because of my leadership skills, I was chosen to be a leader for my senior retreat called Kairos. That is very important because that means my faith and hard work led me to being able to lead and guide people to God and Catholicism. That gives me the confidence to go above and beyond what is expected of me and because of this, my mindset has grown and I have learned to persist, push through, and never give up. Therefore, my catholic education has prepared me to be a better person each and every day and to face the world's challenges with love and compassion.

Finally, another important outcome rooted in my Catholic education, is service. Serving gives me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and help those in the community around me. Moreover, it is the opportunity to show the world what I have learned in a classroom setting and to put into action what I know. I have very much enjoyed serving throughout my time in grade school and high school. From helping out little children at a summer camp to serving warm food at a St. Teresa of Calcutta soup kitchen, the impact serving has had on me has been life changing. I am given the opportunity to connect with people and reflect upon the new experiences I am given. Furthermore, I value my life and realize how important it is to help your community and how that alone can truly make a difference.

In conclusion, the faith I have developed, the excellence I have shown, and the service I have accomplished, all come from the help and support I was given through and because of my Catholic education which upholds the fundamental value of Christ's unconditional love. Hence, My Catholic education has helped me open my mind and heart to love and act as a disciple of Christ. I am absolutely grateful to have had received an important and meaningful education that I know many don't have the opportunity to receive. Therefore, because of this education, I will continue to develop a close relationship with God who above all things has been, is, and will continue to be a major part of my life, giving me the freedom to be able to continue to fully develop and understand God's reflecting love in our world.