

Christian Avancena

Mrs. Ackerman

Church History

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No Regrets

"Maybe you could do it?" When the fourth-grade teacher at our local parish school stepped down from her position after 12 years of teaching, the head of religious education had asked if I could fill in for her in the following school year.

I loved helping other teachers carry out their lesson plans. And experiencing the smiles and laughter of the students brings a joy that I'll be sure to cherish forever. However, becoming a teacher was an idea I had never considered. At first, I resented the idea, thinking that I didn't have enough time on my hands and that the position was a much larger commitment than I could handle. However, after confronting me about all the great things that came with teaching religious education, Mrs. Farina convinced me to take the position.

As a new teacher, it's not difficult to recall the first day I taught. I was excited yet anxious as the 13 students began to pour into the classroom one by one. My thoughts raced as I scurried through the lesson plans in my head while attempting to remember the Tips for Public Speaking video I watched on YouTube just minutes prior. By the end of class, I gained a newfound appreciation for teachers as I was extremely exhausted from all the talking and tasks I had just completed within such a small-time frame. After a few more classes, however, this experience, more than anything, has helped me realize just how fortunate I am to be a student at a school with similar values.

Last school year, when I first transferred from my home town public school to Our Lady of Lourdes, the one thing that stuck out to me was how open teachers were to discussing morality. When we studied Macbeth at my local public school, we had gone through the different literary aspects of the classic tragedy, and that was it. However, when I transferred to Lourdes, I was baffled by the amount of biblical references my teacher, Mrs. Pinelli, had made. I kept asking, how come morality, the most important thing we can take away from these ancient texts, wasn't taught to me before?

Catholic schools, unlike public schools and other secular institutions, adhere to the importance of living a moral life. This applies to both Catholics and non Catholics alike as the moral teachings of the Church are applicable to everyone no matter what the belief. The universal idea of being charitable in all our actions and prudent in all our thoughts has been ingrained within all of us here at Lourdes and in other Catholics schools across the globe.

It is for this reason that I am infinitely grateful to call myself both a student here at Lourdes, and a teacher at my local parish school. At the end of the day, I'm happy to say that I don't regret my decision to take up Mrs. Farina's offer and that I certainly would have if I hadn't. Experiencing the academic and personal growth of both my students and fellow peers within a community which values a moral life is something I don't think I'd get to experience anywhere else.