

What My Catholic Education Means to Me

At my first Mass as a freshman at Bishop Lynch, over a thousand of us filled the bleachers and basketball court. We were told that today our gym would be transformed into a cathedral. It was incredible to see all of my classmates praying together, and the choir's joyful singing inspired me. I still feel this sense of community at each Mass and as a member of the A Cappella choir this year, I'm reminded of how blessed I am to go to a Catholic school where we are encouraged to express our faith and share it with others. The words of the hymn "We are Called"* , sung at our Thanksgiving Mass, express the values, lessons, and joy that have been given to me because of my Catholic education and the loving support of my family.

We are called to act with justice... Through the years at St. Thomas Aquinas and Bishop Lynch, my teachers have shared their love of learning with me. Not only have I learned how to conjugate Latin verbs and write research papers; I have learned the elements of our Catholic faith and how to put them into action. As we learn to discern *Veritas*, truth, we find and instill justice in our lives.

We are called to love tenderly... In many classes, especially Theology, we are taught to see the dignity and immense value of each human being. As an Ambassador, I realize the importance of guiding incoming freshmen as they transition from grade school to high school. Our Pro-Life club echoes this love of humanity – whether we're praying for unborn children or providing malaria nets to protect the lives of people a world away.

We are called to serve one another... There are so many wonderful opportunities for service at Bishop Lynch. When I volunteer, I look beside me and here are all these great people serving, too. From tutoring younger students before school to helping special needs children off campus to building houses for the homeless, our faith guides us to enrich the lives of others.

To walk humbly with God! This verse is possibly the most difficult to achieve. I hope that through the gift of my education, I will continually be guided to do God's work.

Catholic education means the world to me – it has shaped me to be the person I am today and calls me to stand for truth, love and serve others, and pursue humility.

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December 7, 2010

* "We are Called" by David Haas, inspired by Micah 6:8