

### What My Catholic Education Means to Me

**God. Family. Bishop Dunne.** Such simple, yet powerful words. My God, my family, and my Catholic education are three main fibers in my life inseparably intertwined to make the rope of my being. Much like the “Glory Be,” everything in my life “as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be” revolves around God, family, and Bishop Dunne Catholic School. Thanks to God, I was born into my family. Thanks to God and my family, I am attending a Catholic school. Thanks to my Catholic education, I have been given a map with which to guide my moral compass and gain a true appreciation of my faith. Thanks to God, family, and Bishop Dunne, I can aspire.

So what does my Catholic education mean to me? The significance of my Catholic education is best summed up in these words— love (God), opportunity (Family), and clarity (Bishop Dunne). As I consider the words of Saint Thomas Aquinas, the patriarch of Catholic education, “Three things are necessary of man: to know what he ought to believe; to know what he ought to desire; and to know what he ought to do.” I have been graced with the knowledge of my Father. My family has taught me to dream great things and set goals for myself. Finally, my Catholic education has given me the clarity to know what I must do. Without “Catholic” in front of “education” above, I leave it to chance that I will be graced with teachers who take the development of my body, mind, and soul as a true responsibility to God. Instead, because my education *is* Catholic, I am a student in a loving environment. I have a course before me that is guided and clear. The light of my faith guides me through the thickest fog, and prepares me for life’s challenges. My Catholic education is like the lighthouse to a ship at night.

Equally illuminating, my Catholic education has not only sharpened my mind through superior teaching, it has strengthened my vision for a better tomorrow. Therefore, when I am a leader in the future, I can add my strong Catholic morals as another fiber in my being. Now, it is up to me to give back to my community. From tutoring at St. Cecilia’s and Zavala Elementary schools to Diocesan led mission trips to Honduras, my Catholic education has presented many opportunities to serve and to lead... to aspire. When Cardinal Rodriguez spoke at our recent fundraising dinner, he urged us to repay “love with love.” In this spirit, I will also repay the love of my Catholic Education by providing the same map and moral compass to future Catholic students. Whatever my future holds, I will be prepared— thanks to God, my family, and my Catholic education.