

## Serve with Great Love

By Isabella Nguyen

*“Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love” — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

If you have a heart full of grace and love, you can serve no matter who you are, where you come from, and what people think about you. In the quest for peace and justice, I can use my gifts and talents to share God's love in service to others by volunteering my time and gifts to the Church and others, donating to the less fortunate of my community, and encouraging others to pray more.

I devote a lot of my time and gifts to help the Church and others. For example, I sing at Mass on the weekends in one of my school's choirs. I also read at my school's Masses for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade on Wednesdays. This shows that I like helping my church and others as much as I can. This also shows that it makes me feel like I am becoming more and more like a true follower of Jesus. I enjoy helping the world become a better place by helping the Church and others.

I enjoy donating to the less fortunate of my community. For example, I donate non-perishable food to my school's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and other food drives. I also donated to a charity that provides clean water to communities that do not have any. This shows that I care about helping the poor and less privileged. This also shows that I enjoy knowing that all my efforts will make a difference in someone's life. I like helping the poor live a better life like the rest of us.

I enjoy encouraging others to pray more often like Jesus, who taught us to pray as much as we can. For example, I make rosaries that inspire other people to pray more often. I also remind my family and my friends to pray when they forget they are supposed to. This shows that I feel passionate about helping everybody go farther in their journeys to salvation. This additionally shows that I devote a lot of my time helping others deepen their relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. I appreciate knowing that I have inspired someone to pray more and maybe even encourage others to pray more too.

You should not care about what people will think about you, if you will get praise, if you are pleasing everybody, if this will make you popular, or how much money you will earn. If you have a heart full of grace, and a soul generated by love, you will be great in God's eyes for caring about the things that matter. This is important because this will be what matters at the final judgment. Did you obey God's will, or the will of man? Did you care about what God thinks, or what man thinks? Did you care about helping others or helping yourself? Are you helping this world become a better place for us all and achieving salvation or just achieving a happy life on earth with the approval of others?

I challenge you to give some of your time and gifts to the Church and others, donate to those less fortunate than you, and encourage those around you to pray more no matter what anyone thinks because our life on this earth is temporary. Our real life will begin if we did God's will enough to reach salvation.