

Keep the Pen in His Hand

I, like many other Catholic/Christian teens, have “given in” to youth group after years of faith formation, only to find it was nothing like I expected. I have not just made friends and ate mini corn dogs, I have embraced God in a whole new way. Instead of thinking youth group is a roadblock in the highway of my teen life, I now think of it as a “gas station”, a place where I can reflect on how far I’ve come in this earthly life and where I’ll go in my future. My Catholic/Christian education has influenced my personal values by helping me with my choice of friends, a better understanding of hard situations, and my opinion on adulthood.

Have you ever had a friend who is full of putdowns? They never have a nice thing to say to anyone. Even though this friend is mean and cold-hearted, they are popular, and always have the best of everything. Being around them makes you feel popular too. In the Ten Commandments, it tells us to not covet our neighbor’s goods. You shouldn’t be hanging out with this person if it only makes you

feel popular. Do they make you laugh? Do they include and pray for you? Youth group encourages us to interact with everyone, and treat everyone with kindness and respect. It doesn't matter if friends have the best things, it matters what they have inside.

My Catholic education has helped me better understand hard situations. I am adopted, and before youth group, I didn't really understand why my birthmother let me go. On September 17th, 2005, my father was delivering a baby girl. The mother knew she couldn't take care of this girl, what with having two kids in hard times. Her sin had taken the pen out of God's hand, and she would have to pay the price. She told the doctor (my father) her situation and he informed her he and his wife were in contact with an adoption agency. Three days later, I was adopted by my father and mother. My Catholic education has helped me understand why my birthmother had to let me go. My faith has helped me understand God's plan for me.

Like many other kids, I have an opinion on my future. As I learn more about the Lord, I know what kind of career I should have, one that is good for both me and society. I have also changed my opinion on choosing a spouse. I have learned, in order to have a healthy relationship, there are many factors to consider. It is a good idea to find someone who is a believer so we can support each other in our spiritual love. I want to share the sacrament of marriage with someone special.

Besides teaching me about Jesus, youth group has taught me some powerful lessons! I learned that God works in mysterious and unexpected ways, but whatever he does, trust in him. I better understand hard choices, such as my adoption. My opinion on adulthood is coming together, helping me to better understand God's plan for me.