



Congratulations to Abraham Vanegas, Noah Ager, and Geovanny Lopez for winning this year's Catholic School's Week Art and Essay Contest!

They each received \$50!!!

Catholic School's Week: By Noah Ager

Faith is an important aspect in everybody. It help us see God, and believe in Him. I was blessed enough to be baptized as a Catholic. When I was three years old I told my mom I wanted to become a priest (maybe because I was inspired with the people I am surrounded with). My mom is the youth director for I.H.M. church. Fr. Rodel Balagtas, the former pastor, is my Godfather. The main reason is basically to preached the word of God.

Now, I am a proud third grade student at I.H.M. school. Going to a Catholic School has helped me a lot with my faith. Students at I.H.M. school come together every morning to pray before classes start. We take time in the middle of the week to celebrate Mass. Faith, knowledge, and service are at the very root of my school experience. Knowledge helps me grow in my faith, which leads me to desire service. The same way, service gives me knowledge that makes my faith stronger.

Thanks to my wonderful experiences at school, I am able to relate and understand my religious beliefs. Knowing and learning the values of faith, knowledge, and service are important. They complement each other. I hope and pray that God will guide me throughout my journey as I am only starting to take steps in achieving my goals.

Catholic School's Week: By Geovanny Lopez

Catholic Schools' Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. I have been enrolled here at Immaculate Heart of Mary School for about eight years now. The education in this school has been important to me because I have learned that God loves me, that I am one of His sons, and that I need to respect others. This school offers programs, such as tutoring, sports, and choir. The teachers here do their best to help the students by making sure they understand each day's lesson. Therefore, this school plays a big role in my faith, academic excellence, and service.

Faith is a strong belief that cannot be imposed on someone, but is born deep inside one's heart. In this school the students receive their faith foundation, such as knowing who God is; He is the creator of humanity and sustainer of the universe. We also believe in Him as my Father who provides everything I need, as well as trusting Him and hoping that He will help me throughout my life. One learning expectation of the school's teaching is to educate Children of Faith and Morality. This means that I, as student, should have a strong faith in God and practice a system of conduct.

Knowledge is a skill acquired by a person through experience or education. It is also a powerful tool that can represent a variety of things depending on a particular context. First of all, something that I have learned through knowledge is how to work with numbers. Working with numbers teaches me how to do problem solving, how to multiply them, and how to divide them. Second, I have also learned several types of religions from around the world. Knowing about different types of religions such as Islam, Buddhism, and, Judaism, has shown me about the different beliefs and how people practice their religion. Lastly, learning how our earth works has shown me the different ways living organisms survive in the wild. One example is how plants need sun to obtain energy, as well as water and soil to grow.

Service is the action of helping or doing work for someone. This school offers service through food drives, donations, charities, and altar serving. A person who devotes their life to serve God will be loved by God. One of the school learning expectation says "children of citizenship and community." This means that children should be good citizens and helpers to create a good community. Each trimester, junior high has to complete a certain amount of service hours, but students always do more because they have a passion for helping others.

In conclusion, Immaculate Heart of Mary School is a great school because it celebrates another year of Catholic education for all the students. Catholic Schools' Week is a week full of activities. Faith is significant because I learn how to have a strong basic faith foundation. Knowledge is very important because it is a skill that I will always need throughout my life. Furthermore, service is important because through this skill I can build a strong relationship with others. Therefore, faith, knowledge, and service has affected me positively throughout my life.

Catholic School's Week: By Abraham Vanegas