

Catholic School Week
January 2015
Alumni Speech

Hello my name is Raziel Santos, class of 2013, and I am currently a sophomore at Presentation High School. To be honest with you, when I found out that I would be speaking here today I had no clue of where to begin or what to say. I thought to myself, how am I supposed to compose the 18 years my family has been here for you in such a short amount of time? And then I remembered my first and last day of being a student at Resurrection. Crying on the first day as my mom dropped me off because I didn't want to go into this strange place. My first day must have foreshadowed my last day 10 years later because I was still sobbing. But for a different reason, this time I didn't want to leave. As I moved on to high school, I realized that this second home had instilled within me, knowledge, compassion, and faith.

Although I was never the perfect A student, I felt prepared as I walked into all my classes. My honors classes were not as difficult due to the demanding classes here. Resurrection had laid a concrete base for my educational career. They gave me the motivation so I would have the chance to take exciting classes such as AP Spanish and AP Biology as an upperclassman. I even had the chance to take clinical anatomy classes over the summer at Stanford University. Resurrection had me given plenty of opportunities to learn, even with the technology of iPads, which allows for students to adapt to different learning styles. These techniques had encouraged my newfound love for each of my subjects. Here at Res, I was one of those student council kids in the red sweaters that would give tours to interested families. At Pres, I am part of the presentation ambassadors club that also assists with interested families. I continue with this because I believe that my catholic education has helped shape me and I believe it could for so many others. All my fellow Res alums, along with myself, can surely say they have experienced this gratitude of knowledge.

Resurrection also influenced my devotion to service and pursuing what I love. The daily peace actions of the day helped me to live out the Presentation motto, "Not words but deeds." Every holiday, I loved being able to make lunch bags for the less fortunate at Innvision. The small actions of donating gloves and scarfs into the red love bin for this organization inspired me to want to do more. At my school, we donate 25% of the clothes, food, and toys Sacred Heart gives out during the holiday season. On my own time, I have had the chance to volunteer at Stanford Blood Center where the goal is to help save lives. I have been able to witness the people we have helped and the huge impact we have made. By being exposed to the community, the teachers gave me the confidence to reach out in a different way. I have been performing shows at Presentation and Bellarmine. I even the pleasure to perform a show called Guys and Dolls to the some of the students here. The confidence they gave me to entertain and make people happy still keeps growing. My love for wanting to better the world by service and entertainment would not have been as developed if it weren't for the people who influenced it here.

The constant reminder of spending time with Jesus inspired how I live my life. Faith is a huge importance in my family. I received first communion and confirmation on these very steps. This allowed for my leadership roles in the church to expand. I was the 2011-2012 religious commissioner on student council. I have been an altar server since 4th grade and a Eucharistic minister since freshman year here at the parish. At my own school, I am a peer minister which is the club that helps with all of the liturgies. I even sing with my school's liturgical band. What is great about Resurrection is that it is a nurturing environment that is very accepting of any belief. Everyone is welcomed to express their faith and thoughts.

I definitely did not express my full ten years of being at this school. With everything that Resurrection has given me, it would take me days to recount the wonderful memories that I will always cherish. I cannot explain how much this school means to me and how it has changed the lives of many other families. This second home full of teachers and friends, who are basically family, influenced me to make something of my life. Resurrection is definitely the place to be, and I hope you get the chance to make your own memories here.