

ARRUPE JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

FR. PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ WRITING CHALLENGE



**ARRUPE
JESUIT
HIGH SCHOOL**

2013-2014

***SPONSORED BY:
THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
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WHAT IS THE *PEDRO ARRUIPE, SJ* WRITING CHALLENGE?

The *Pedro Arrupe, SJ Writing Challenge* is an opportunity for students to express in writing what principle or personal ethic is a driving factor in their lives.

It is meant to publicly recognize young people who reflect upon and write about their personal beliefs and values through the lens of their Jesuit Catholic education.

GOALS

- . Build the Arrupe Jesuit writing community
- . Encourage students to explore their Jesuit Catholic identity through self-examination and writing
- . Improve narrative writing skills
- . Recognize exceptional writers within the Arrupe community

*THE PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ
WRITING CHALLENGE
AWARDS BREAKFAST*

WELCOME PRAYER

FR. TIM MCMAHON, SJ - PRESIDENT

BREAKFAST EMCEE

MICHAEL O'HAGAN - PRINCIPAL

**PRESENTATION OF
HONORABLE MENTION & FINALIST
AWARDS**

NICKY SCHIFANO

PRESENTATION OF WINNERS

GAIL & RHONDA ZIMMERMAN

READING OF ESSAYS

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO
THIS WRITING CHALLENGE, ESPECIALLY:

ESSAY READERS

DR. CHUCK ARNOLD
BARB ASTUNO
LARRY BEAN
MARGARET KELLY
BROOKE O'DROBINAK
JOHN PIMMEL
BILL WEINGARTNER
DR. GENE WIGGS

CHALLENGE SPONSOR

THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY
FOUNDATION

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WINNERS AND PRIZES

1ST PLACE

ANNE ZIMMERMAN

SCHOLARSHIP

NHAN TRAN, *CLASS OF 2014*

2ND PLACE

THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY

SCHOLARSHIP TO ARRUPE JESUIT

JASON KIBOZI-YOCKA, *CLASS OF 2016*

3RD PLACE

THE ZIMMERMAN FAMILY

SCHOLARSHIP TO ARRUPE JESUIT

JULIA RODRIGUEZ, *CLASS OF 2015*

FINALISTS

MONICA CORIA

KARINA DOMINGUEZ

REBECCA LEYVA-HERNANDEZ

CAROLINA LUNA

LINH NGO

ELLEN MAJOR

MARY MAJOR

DULCE VILLANUEVA

PROFILE OF THE ARRUPE GRADUATE AT GRADUATION
OPEN TO GROWTH
RELIGIOUS
INTELLECTUALLY COMPETENT
LOVING
COMMITTED TO JUSTICE
WORK EXPERIENCED

ESSAY PROMPTS BY GRADE LEVEL

NINTH: *Awareness of Good Will/Kindness/Love.*

When you reflect on your life so far, think about how you have been impacted by acts of generosity, compassion, care, service and love. At the time, you may not have recognized these acts as God's good will/kindness/love in your life. Describe an event or occasion when you've experienced good will/kindness/love in your life.

TENTH: *Discovery of Self.*

Based on your first two years at Arrupe Jesuit, how would you define what it means to be a man/woman for others? Describe how you have personally grown into this definition since coming to Arrupe Jesuit.

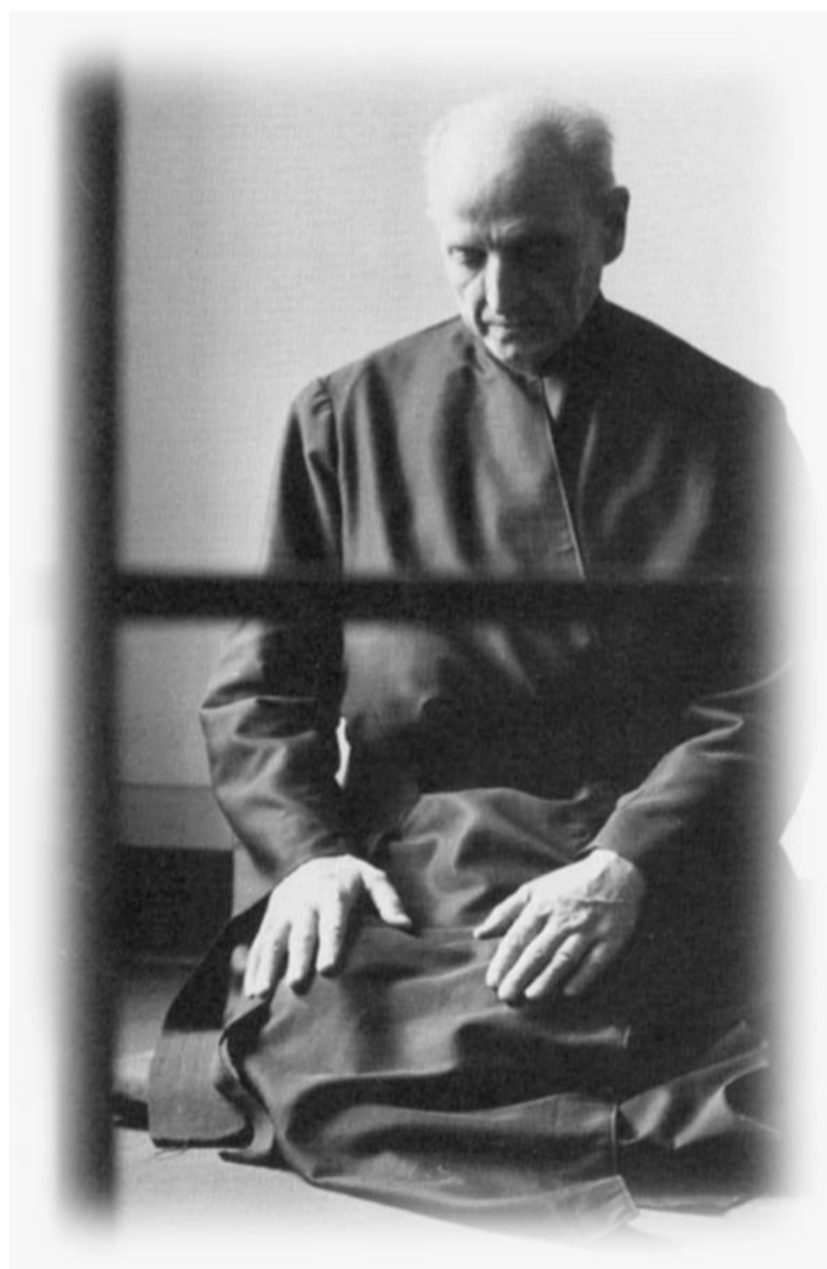
ELEVENTH: *Choices.*

While a student at Arrupe Jesuit, there have been moments when you have faced difficult decisions. Describe a situation or event in which you have made a choice that best reflects you as a man or woman for others. If you did not make this kind of choice, what might you have done differently?

TWELFTH: *Carrying It Forward.*

Look back over your time at Arrupe Jesuit. You've had opportunities to be a man or woman for others; additionally, you've been impacted by men and women for others both within and outside our school community. Now, envision how you will carry forward what you've learned from others and about yourself. How will what you've learned about being a man or woman for others impact how you live your life after Arrupe Jesuit?

THE
PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ
WRITING CHALLENGE
WINNING & FINALIST ESSAYS





Nhan Tran *Class of 2014 - 1st Place*

Seeing the spark of understanding in the freshman's eyes during my tutoring session with him, it was apparent that I had lit another candle. My wick was not shorter, my wax was not diminished, and my fire continued to burn. I trust in my perpetual flame, and I have lost nothing by offering light to those around me. Through my experience of coming to the United States and becoming an Arrupe student, I have striven to carry out the qualities that the Jesuit education has instilled in me: Open to Growth, Religious, Intellectually Competent, Loving, Committed to Justice, and Work Experienced. Most important of all, I have learned to be a man for others.

When I set foot on American soil in 2010, I felt like a flickering candle only able to babble a few words in English. After my first semester learning English at the Denver South High School's English Language Acquisition (ELA) program, I transferred to Arrupe Jesuit High School, participating in its unique Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP). As a first-generation student from a low-income family, I aspired to utilize the hands-on experience in the corporate world and immersed myself in the classroom with regular English speakers. My supportive friends, the faculty and staff at Arrupe, and the friendly co-workers at my workplaces have helped me improve my language skills by practicing pronunciation and conducting professional conversations. Besides providing me the opportunity to grow in a loving and intellectual environment which values the dignity of work, Arrupe has also encouraged me to participate in various school retreats and volunteer activities. Such experiences have grounded my own faith journey, helping me develop a passion for justice and equality for all people. Heeding the call of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching to give of myself in service to others, I have endeavored to put what I have learned at Arrupe into action.

Every Monday and Thursday after school, I stay after classes to help keep my peers from falling behind in Math and Science. As a student tutor, I have been able to share my knowledge and form collaborative relationships in which my tutees have in turn helped me with English. One of my frequent tutees is Richard, who is also my best friend. If Richard appreciates my facility with numbers, I admire his skillful use of words. He always improves the cadence and rhyme scheme of my poems. As Richard started to grasp the principle of Chi-square statistics, I enjoyed finding my voice through poetry. Ultimately, our poems were published in an anthology called *A Celebration of Young Poets*. Through this collaborative friendship, I have been able to deepen my skills in poetry while enriching others' lives.

Upon graduating from Arrupe Jesuit High School, it is my strong desire to carry forward these six Jesuit qualities of the Arrupe Graduate at Graduation, as well as to continue being a man for others. I am motivated to seek new opportunities and challenges in my academic journey, not simply to benefit myself, but to inspire others as well. Guided by the principle of Solidarity—"loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world—in the Catholic Social Teaching, I am willing to pass this flame of my knowledge on to those around me. I envision myself attending a school with a reputable engineering program. With the passion of sharing knowledge and the opportunity to participate in the university's various research centers, I will be able to engage in hands-on research while collaborating with other engineers to bring our ideas to fruition.

My experience at Arrupe has instilled in me the essence of giving back to both the local and global community. I plan on joining the school's chapter of Engineers Without Borders to help implement engineering solutions to improve the world. As I continue my educational voyage, I am prepared to take advantage of every opportunity bestowed upon me. I aspire to absorb everything an American education has offered me and use it for the benefit of my countrymen when I return to my homeland.

The late Father James Keller once said in his book *You Can Change the World (1948)*, "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." Arrupe Jesuit High School's education has given me the perpetual flame of "Open to Growth, Religious, Intellectually Competent, Loving, Committed to Justice, and Work Experience" to illuminate my own way to success. Throughout my tenure at Arrupe, I have developed intellectually and morally, as I have come to understand the benefits of shared knowledge and mutual influence. Success, I have found, is not always about personal accomplishment. In collaboration, we reveal our potential.

After the tutoring session, as the freshman simplified the fifth root of a complicated expression without my help and calculator, I could see his candle ignited. My dedication to service illuminated my own path. I lose nothing by bringing light into the lives of others. Instead, I learn so much more, and my flame grows ever brighter.



Jason Kibozi-Yocka *Class of 2016 - 2nd Place*

Being a Man and Woman for Others

My name is Jason Kibozi-Yocka. I am an African-American student of the Arrupe Jesuit High School community, and am currently in my sophomore year. During my two years at Arrupe, I have learned the definition of being a man and woman for others. A man and woman for others is a person that sacrifices something and is willing to help and sacrifice in the service of others. Be it time, money, reputation, etc. A man and woman for others is a person willing to follow these simple words of Christ: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." A person who is willing to give for the good of others rather than receive for personal gain. All this I learned and am continuing to learn throughout my experience at Arrupe.

During my freshman year, I first stumbled upon the Graduate at Graduation. In it, it expresses Arrupe's concern and urge for its students to be men and women for others. During this time, I would begin to get a grasp as to what being a man and woman for others truly meant. Initially, I thought that to be a man and woman for others, was to simply help others. But truthfully, it is much more than that.

I began to realize this the first time I attended one of Mrs. Brin's volunteer opportunities, the Soup Kitchen. When I first hopped into that van, I was doing it for personal gain and didn't even realize it. To honestly reflect on my motives, I was only doing it so that it would look good on my college resume and so that I could get my required volunteer hours in for the year. But when we first arrived to the facility and began to assist in providing food for the homeless people, I can truly say that I had a change of heart. Seeing the line of people coming in and hearing them say "Thank you" to us was very satisfying. I was placed on "refilling duty" for a while and got to hear one old man's tale, a tale of how he was forced to drop out of high school and ended up on the streets; of how he couldn't find work and was living homeless for over 20 years. I couldn't even bear to think of all the hardships he had been through, or how I had been so selfish yet so fortunate and ungrateful. He didn't deserve what happened to him; no one does. He gave me some words of wisdom that day: "Stay in school maine. Trust me, you can't get very far without an education." I left that day with a good feeling, a feeling that I wanted more of, a feeling that would lead me to the Ronald McDonald's house on the Arrupe Day of Service.

During this time I became more aware of what a man and a woman for others is. A man and woman for others doesn't require appreciation. I learned this when I was responsible for cleaning glass throughout the building with Windex. Humorously, a little boy saw me with two Windex bottles attached to my belt, a container of wet wipes, and a trash bag slung over my back like a cape. He pointed at me and called me "Windex-man". I doubt I will ever forget that experience. During this time though, I encountered almost none of the people we were cleaning and working for, aside from the little boy, because most were at the Children's Hospital across the street. Although I had almost no interaction with them, I felt the same feeling of being appreciated, just for being there and doing it. I would get a dose of both of my prior experiences early in my sophomore year.

Last year in December, I attended the Fr. Woody's Christmas party. I was a volunteer elf. I worked alongside a college freshman and graduate of Arrupe, named Janeth Gomez Bustillos. She was an extraordinary young lady who taught me more about what a man and woman for others is. A man and woman for others is willing, and loves to help others. During my time as an elf, we would talk to the families that were placed at our table, pass around a list where we got their age, gender, and shirt size, and then we would take the list upstairs where we would collect gift boxes from age and gender categories. We packed the gifts into two black plastic bags, took them downstairs to our table, and delivered them to the appropriate person. Then we would repeat the cycle like it was routine. We were quite the team, getting through more than 6 families that night. When we had been working for a long time and most of the other groups were taking a lunch break, we were offered the chance to take a break. I probably would have taken it, but Janeth refused to. She claimed that she was enjoying our duties and didn't want to stop. So I complied. We continued to work until we were exhausted. We even went outside our job description and assisted with cleaning up, and setting up the tables for families. Then, I realized and began to see that a man and woman takes initiative to help others. So, glancing over and seeing that our whole team--which consisted of: two elves, our manager, and our table's waiter--was fatigued, I took the initiative and went up to get us some lunch. I brought down 3 sandwiches and even went out of my way to get everyone a cup of what they wanted to drink. I felt so good about it for some particular reason. It felt like I had actually and truly been a man for others.

I would have never felt that way and done what I would've done if it wasn't for what I had learned along the way. A man and woman for others gives out of the goodness of their own heart, and asks for nothing in return. A man and woman for others doesn't do it to be seen or for personal gain, but for the sake of helping another. A man and woman for others is a person that sacrifices and is willing to help to make another's life better even if it is only in a small way. Even with all this, the definition continues to broaden. A man and woman for others is a mystery that will truly take a lifetime to uncover.



Julia Rodriguez *Class of 2015 - 3rd Place*

It was one of those rare moments at work when all of the call lights were quiet during the two o'clock shift change. Most of the staff at Julia Temple Healthcare Center were in a meeting while I, working as a certified nurse's assistant (CNA), covered the floor. On my way to stock supplies, I noticed that a resident's room, I will call her Jane, was empty. Worried, I knocked on the open door and called her name. From behind the bathroom door I heard crying and opened the door to find Jane sitting on the bathroom floor, in her own waste, hysterical.

After suffering from a stroke, Jane is often confused and has a speech delay; this makes engaging in conversation difficult. I tried repeatedly to coax Jane off the floor so I could help her but she was inconsolable. I wanted to help Jane but I also had other people depending on me to get things done. I knew if I put the gait belt, a device used to move patients who have trouble balancing from one position to another, around Jane's waist and stood up she would probably follow me off the floor. Using the gait belt, I could have Jane cleaned up and in bed in time to answer the impending rush of call lights. But I also knew that doing so was not what Jane really needed.

I could hear the ding of call lights in the background as I crouched on the floor next to Jane and asked her what was wrong. Her hysterical crying made it seem like she did not understand me but I asked again and waited. It took five minutes before she had calmed down enough to stop shaking. Jane grabbed my hand and started stuttering, an indication that she was trying to speak. I waited, slowly putting my gait belt around her waist and guiding her up from the floor. I worked silently as I began to clean Jane up. Jane's voice, her real voice, the one that represented the person she was before her stroke, strained to be heard in between her sobs. I was lowering her into bed when she finally was able to say what she had wanted to all along. Through her stutter she whispered, "I am like a broken toy, worthless".

Up until this point, I thought I understood the residents on my unit who were left handicapped. I thought I had an idea of how hard it would be to have to relearn the basic skills that are often taken for granted. After all, hadn't I worked with countless residents who were in those very situations - how could I not be empathetic towards them? How was I supposed to be a woman for others and give Jane what she needed when I had no real concept of what she was going through? I couldn't. I couldn't give Jane her speech back or her balance or most importantly her independence.

This experience made me realize that just fixing a problem is not what being a woman for others means. Sometimes everything is simply not okay nor can I just make it so. Empathy is a powerful virtue but it holds little meaning for the person who is living what I can only try to comprehend. Jane stopped crying after she told me that she was worthless not after I told her that she was not. Jane did not want me to tell her that it all was going to be okay or to assure her that she would get used to her limitations. She wanted what we all do, to be heard. Being a man or woman for others means stopping to think about the deeper necessity of people as human beings. In Jane's case it was not just doing whatever would quickly fix the problem, it was giving Jane the power to restore her own human dignity. Cleaning Jane up would have fixed the problem I faced when I found her incontinent and in hysterics but what Jane needed was someone to listen to her.



Monica Coria *Class of 2017* - Finalist

God's Good Will

One day, my friend Adriana told me, "Monica in order for us to get scholarships we have to get involved in clubs and do service hours." When she told me this, I thought to myself: "I still have three years at Arrupe Jesuit High School to get involved in clubs." Adriana talked to me about the soup kitchen; she said it was a great and easy way to do service hours at our school and is an event that is carried throughout the year. I was not interested in joining the soup kitchen, given that I did not want to stay two hours after school. I also have never attended any extra curricular activities, so I was not motivated to try something new. Adriana kept pushing me to attend the soup kitchen but I did not want to. At one moment I was annoyed. Now that I reflect on this, I see that I was being impacted by acts of generosity and care. At the time I did not recognize these act as God's good will.

Moreover, two days before the soup kitchen, my friend convinced me and I decided to attend the event. When I was in the soup kitchen, I started to notice that I was surrounded by poor, homeless people. Adriana never told me the purpose of the soup kitchen was to serve food to the poor. Being there made me think that I was sent there by God. I reflected on my life and realized that I have a lot of resources, opportunities, and a family in my life.

When serving the poor, one old man said to me, "You have been blessed by our father." At that moment I did not understand what he was saying or why he was saying it to me. Now that I think about it, I have realized that I have been blessed by him. I believe this was God's good will because I did not know how to appreciate what I have. I was forcing my parents to give me more than what I deserve. At the end of the Soup Kitchen, everyone said goodbye to us with a smile on their face, thanking us for providing a plate of food for them. Once again I started to reflect on my life, something that I had never done before. God opened my eyes in that moment. The first thing that came to my mind was when I forced my parents to buy me a new phone, a phone that I did not need in that moment, given that I had one and it was working perfectly. I just made them spend money on something not needed. This was the first thing that came to my mind because that money that was spent on a new phone could have been used for something else: for food for example, something the homeless people are always looking for.

I was impacted by an act of generosity, care, and love by my friend Adriana, since she did not have to talk to me about having to do service hours in order to win a scholarship. Instead of keeping the opportunity of the soup kitchen to herself, she shared it with me so we can both be affected by it. At the same time, I learned a big lesson that I had to learn. I learned how to appreciate what my parents do for me, how to respect them, and how to value all I have and not take things for granted.



Karina Dominguez *Class of 2014* - Finalist

Arrupe's Garden

We all picture life as we get older perfect and beautiful, like a flower, until we meet the nasty reality. The truth is that nothing is perfect or complete in life. What we fail to realize is not every flower is the same. Some stems may be fuzzy poky, thick, long, short, even rotten. Some petals we encounter in life will be red, yellow, orange, blue, maybe even rainbow. What we fail to see is that we all begin from the same ground: a different root but the same mission.

Through my journey at Arrupe Jesuit High School, I've encountered many rotten, beautiful and helpless flowers on my way. Sometimes all a person needs is a smile to boost their day, like a flower needs a bright smile from the sun. All a person needs is to be given dignity to show the world they're still alive.

To be a man and women for others begins with respect; by empowering a person in any situation. A person can donate money and change a home but that money will eventually run out and won't change a life. Being a man and women for others doesn't mean giving money as much as it means helping and changing a life, making an impact on the soul. Just by spending your time with others talking or a simple "Good Morning" is being a man and women for others.

Changes begin with actions, whether it is the action of the muscles in your face or building a house for the less fortunate. Regardless, if you're the one being helped or the one helping the feeling after feels wonderful. It's a tingling sensation that fills our heart with happiness. It feels a little like love. It's like the water that a flower needs to maintain life.

Through Arrupe I have learned, regardless of the type of flower you are, it doesn't distinguish the love you can bloom to others. Sometimes we may not have much but were capable of more than we think. Through these four years and through the rest of my life I will be the gardener to nurture all the broken, lost, rotten and helpless flowers.



Rebecca Leyva-Hernandez *Class of 2015* - Finalist

No one is perfect. I cannot forget the past, the memories that come to haunt me. I feel like a flower in a desert where no water exists. The person who kept me going is no longer here by my side. In freshman year I lost him. March 17, 2012 changed me forever. As I kept going to Arrupe and kept attending Theology class, I learned something. Who am I? Who do I want to be? In my breaking point, I found God in my dark shadow.

Usually when someone goes through tough times, they blame God for everything that is out of their control. When I lost my cousin, I blamed God. I was mad at everyone and everything that were once so close to me. I was mad that God took the person who I loved most. He was young and had so much more to live for. My tears were endless and there came a point where I became numb. Pain was a constant routine everyday. Everything was out of my control. I did not know the cure to cancer. In fact, no one did. I used to ask myself why it couldn't be me instead of him buried eight feet underground. But as I kept going to Theology class, I understood why God lets bad things happen to people. My interpretation is when we go through difficult situations we come closer to God through prayer and hope. Everytime God puts us through difficult situations that are out of our control, He is testing us. When bad things happen do you still have faith in God? When good things happen do you still pray and appreciate God? I realized that I shouldn't take my anger out on anybody. Not my friends, family, God and not even myself. The choice I made was to love everyone around me. I believe everyone deserves to be loved and respected. Evil things happen in this world because love isn't being reached to the person who is doing these bad things to everyone else. God told us to love our neighbors. This might be hard, but it's the only way to be at peace.

Evil things surround this world everyday and everybody is scared to stand up and say something. I don't want to be a bystander. I want to help people through tough times, through their times of grief and loneliness. Maybe I can make a difference in the world one day. I am capable of anything that I set my mind to do. Arrupe has taught me that. I strive to be the best I can be. If I am a better me, then that might inspire people to be a greater self. This world needs more good people. People should be able to feel safe in this world. If no one feels safe, then we are not living, we are just surviving. God created us to love one another and to love ourselves.



Carolina Luna *Class of 2015* - Finalist

Selfless Decisions

There are parts of life that never work according to schedule. The big game is on at the same time as a family member's ballet recital, or there's an incredible party at the same time babysitting is necessary at home. Deciding between two events, like the above, is difficult especially when the choices are equally exciting. Unfortunate scheduling forces many, including myself, to have to choose between the two desired options. My schedule was planned out to perfection. I would attend a life changing retreat, Kairos, one week and the following week I would compete for the long awaited Mock Trial competition. A winter storm shattered my schedule causing the Kairos retreat to end a day early. The completion of Kairos was rescheduled for the day of my Mock Trial competition. There was no way I could attend both. I had to choose between the two events I was immensely excited about for months. My decision ended up being one that benefited everyone and not just myself.

Choosing between Kairos and Mock Trial had my head spinning. I had two different groups trying to convince me what the right choice would be. Kairos leaders and friends who had experienced the retreat explained how life changing and beautiful the last day of Kairos was. They encouraged me to become excited about having another day to connect with God and fellow classmates. I was drawn to the idea that Kairos was filled with surprises and discovering oneself. I wanted to allow the retreat to change me and make me a better person like it had for past students. Meanwhile, my Mock Trial teammates reminded me of how hard I had worked to master my important role. I thought of every meeting we spent together working hard towards this honored competition. I thought of how unfair it would be for me to abandon them. I knew my love for Mock Trial was pushing me towards choosing the competition. My wishes were to experience both events, but that was not possible. I was stressed all week as I tried to figure out which decision would please everyone. After analyzing the situations closely, I knew Kairos was a once in a lifetime experience, but the whole point of Kairos was to become closer to God and become a woman for others. This insight led me to decide to go to the Mock Trial competition because the decision gave me the opportunity to support my team and live the ideals I learned in Kairos.

Choosing a family member's ballet recital over the big game and choosing to babysit over attending a party are both selfless decisions. It is stressful to have to deal with a scheduling-caused decision but it is important to think about others and not just oneself when making the decision. I had to deal with a scheduling-caused problem and knew my decision had to involve what others needed as well. I thought about my teammates needing me and I couldn't even imagine disappointing them. After everything, I was able to find a way to live the Kairos ideals of being a woman for others without actually being at the retreat. Although I was looking forward to Kairos, I knew the righteous choice would be attending the Mock Trial competition. I decided to show my teammates that I value their work and commitment by not disappointing them. Knowing I acted in favor of others made the previous stress and worry go away. In the end, these difficult decisions that involve others test one's humility and selflessness.



Linh Ngo *Class of 2015 - Finalist*

We often take for granted the things that deserve to be appreciated the most. The old cliché holds firm and true: you always know what you have, you just never think you will lose it. Two weeks prior to April 6th, 2012, my uncle and I took on a project to remodel a bedroom at his house. We often discussed about the project but it was always postponed due to various reasons: too busy, too lazy or not enough money. Finally, we decided to act on it.

On the evening of April 6th, 2012 the newly remodeled bedroom was finalized. That same night was my grandma's last night at home; the bedroom was hers. My grandma was often admitted to the hospital because she was feeble. At that time, I thought it was another rough night for her but I was unaware that I could potentially lose her forever. I went to bed that night imagining Saturday afternoon with her in her new bedroom. The next day, my family informed me about grandma's condition. I refused to accept the potential loss and believed that she would sail through another tempestuous storm and return home. I believed that it was another one of God's tests of faith.

For the next week, loved ones from all over the area visited her; many flew to Denver and stayed because they believed in the potential loss too. I dismissed the thoughts of visiting because I did not want to see her fragile and vulnerable body lying on a hospital bed. I wanted to wait and see her well, coming home and setting foot in her new bedroom. My family criticized me because of my refusals but they could never understand. Everyday my grandma's health worsened. I hated hearing about her health reports because it was like listening to horror stories- it never ends well. She was unable to breathe on her own and was breathing through a tube in her mouth. She was unable to chew solid food and her stomach was slowly failing. The doctors announced that was she was going to die whether she underwent an operation or not. My family chose not to keep her on life support because they wanted her to proceed painlessly.

The night of April 20th, 2012, I asked my aunt to take me to visit grandma. Before entering her room, we were suited up with facial masks, gloves and blue coverings. Once inside, I speechlessly stood by her scrawny yet peaceful body and sobbed. In the corner of my grandma's right eye was a single teardrop. The sight of her motionless body broke my heart. I was glad that I was wearing a mask because it hid my sorrow. On April 21st, 2012, my grandma passed away. I masked my facial expressions when I heard the announcement. I waited for the house to empty out and took a shower. My heartfelt emotion was revealed; I bawled.

My grandma was a loving wife, a devoted mother and a benevolent citizen. Everything she did was for the sake of others. She demonstrated the values of being a woman for others. I, on the other hand, failed to appreciate the most compassionate person in my life. I failed to act quickly because if I had commenced the bedroom project earlier, my grandma could have benefitted from it. If I had spent more time with her, I would not feel so regretful.

My grandmother's death taught me to be more loving. Freshman year, I was often perceived as cold and reserved by people. After her death, I became more outgoing because I realized that coping alone was too painful. If she was alive, she would have wanted me to dedicate more of my time serving others. It was because of her death that I became more involved in my community. Her influence urges me to become better. I want to make choices that would make her proud. I began to communicate with people outside of my social group. On Sundays, I assist in teaching Vietnamese class to 10-13 year olds at the Queen of Vietnamese Martyr's Church. After school on Wednesdays, I tutor for lower classmen who need assistance. Occasionally, I help out at the local soup kitchen. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" and that is what I am trying to do; I am trying to find myself.



Ellen Major *Class of 2015* - Finalist

At Arrupe Jesuit High School, there are many opportunities to be “a man or a woman for others,” to use your time and talents to serve those in need. I didn’t start taking advantage of those opportunities until my sophomore year, when I joined the Generals for Justice. Generals for Justice is a club that tries to educate the school community at Arrupe about the local and global issues that challenge justice in our world today. As a part of the club, the members were encouraged to volunteer at the Escuela de Guadalupe and help tutor the K-5 students there for an hour a week. Thinking of how those hours would look great on college applications and how I would be able to spend time with my friends from Generals for Justice, I signed up and hopped on the school bus to Escuela de Guadalupe once a week. I made the decision to start volunteering based entirely on how it would benefit me. Spending time with the Escuela students benefited me in ways I could never have predicted. Their openness, sincerity, and intelligence amazed me.

The first time I went to Escuela de Guadalupe I was a little intimidated by the sea of four-foot scholars. They, however, were completely comfortable with the strange group of teenagers invading their school. Immediately they began calling us over to help them with their homework and proudly proclaiming every thought that entered their mind. Those miniature human beings were so certain of who they were and how the world worked, they weren’t scared of any change life threw their way. I envied their self-assurance. Their fearless optimism and confidence in themselves were qualities that I aspired to. It was definitely not what I expected when I made the choice to volunteer, but the students became my role models. They completely changed my mindset about volunteering. I began to care about the students and do my best to help them in whatever they needed, whether that was schoolwork, coming up with games on the playground, or just having someone to talk to. Tutoring at Escuela de Guadalupe became an event I looked forward to every Wednesday.

As the weeks went by, I got to know the students more and more. I noticed that in addition to being some of the most courageous and open people I have ever met, they were also genuine and honest. It was refreshing to know that the students would answer any question candidly. A lot of the time they shared their honesty even without being asked. More than one student there called me “weird” or “funny,” which I know I deserved. They weren’t honest only about my quirks, however. They were also honest about their thoughts, desires, and dislikes. They were honest with themselves and those around them, and I could see how this gave them their confidence and enthusiasm. The students of Escuela de Guadalupe showed me that honesty affects not only those around you, but yourself as well.

The students at Escuela de Guadalupe are extraordinary. They are just so smart! Most of them are bilingual and literate in both Spanish and English. Many of them finished their homework before we got there to help them with it. They struggled to understand new concepts in math and science, but they accepted our help and learned quickly from their mistakes. The intelligence of the students did not create any rivalry between them. Instead they supported each other, giving encouragement to their friends who were struggling and finding the perfect words to explain when we tutors were at a loss. Through my choice to volunteer, I learned from the students that the value of intelligence lies in how it is used to benefit others.

With just an hour a week, the Escuela de Guadalupe students impacted my life in a wonderful way. I made the choice to volunteer thinking only of myself. While tutoring the students at Escuela, my perspective changed. Those kids taught me how rewarding being open to change is, how honesty and self-expression are essential to knowing who you are, and that intelligence is best used helping those around you. I could spend months volunteering at Escuela, but I would never be able to help those kids as much as they have helped me. They showed me what it meant to be a woman for others and how it can lead to unexpected lessons from remarkable sources.



Mary Major *Class of 2016* - Finalist

Men & Women for Others

Over the two years in which I have attended Arrupe Jesuit High School, I have heard one particular phrase countless times: “Be a man or woman for others.” In my opinion, to be a man or woman for others means to put the needs of others before your own. I also feel that a man or woman for others possesses the six qualities that Arrupe has set for a Graduate at Graduation. These six qualities are: committed to justice, intellectually competent, open to growth, religious, loving, and work experienced. All of these qualities shape students into men and women who are aware of and appreciate the world around them and always try to help those close to them.

Personally, I feel that hearing the phrase “Be a man or woman for others” has impacted me and helped me remember to treat everyone I meet with respect and try to put their needs before my own. This phrase has shaped me in all aspects of my everyday life. On the court or on the field, this advice is crucial. In order to be a respectful teammate and show good sportsmanship towards my fellow athletes I have to show the qualities of being a woman for others. The same is true in the classroom environment when I am asked to help other students or need to ask for help from someone else. Also, at my Corporate Work Study job it is necessary to show respect and kindness towards my coworkers and supervisors. Lastly, it is extremely important to be a woman for other while at home or with family and friends. Putting the needs of others before my own will help to ensure an atmosphere of love and respect.

In conclusion, the phrase “Be a man or woman for others” has helped shaped me and made me realize how important respect and kindness are in my everyday routine. This is an important lesson that is beneficial to everyone in the world around me. As I will continue to hear this phrase throughout my next two years at Arrupe, I will strive to live it out and set an example of what it means to be a man or woman for others just as all the teachers and staff at Arrupe have done for me.



Dulce Villanueva *Class of 2014* - Finalist

Since my acceptance to Arrupe Jesuit High School, I have been given the opportunity to be involved in clubs, community service, and academics of a high caliber, in addition to the Corporate Work Study Program. Through these experiences, I have learned important skills that have influenced my career path and challenged me to continue setting and achieving my goals both personally and professionally. In addition, my strong academic performance has shown me that I have the potential to earn a college degree, become a successful business woman, and be an influential Hispanic leader. After Arrupe Jesuit, I will continue to carry forward all I have learned from others and about myself to impact my community as a woman for others.

As an Arrupe graduate, I will increase my intellectual competence by challenging myself to hold important leadership positions and to take advanced academics. During college I will seek out business internships and other leadership-based programs to increase my work skill sets. Aside from my work experiences, I will continue my strong academic performance, and complete my college education with honors. Post-graduation, I plan to attain a Master's degree. Demanding leadership positions and academics will not only increase my knowledge, but my wisdom to attain better virtues to help others express, analyze and learn from problems they might face.

After college graduation, I plan to find a position in a company that enables me to continue with my professional development. I plan to gain a complete understanding of what factors drive success in my area of emphasis: Business Management. Being work experienced will enable me to help create a better society and, with God's help, make better decisions that display high ethical standards. Through my job, I plan to promote a better production, distribution and management system by introducing and integrating innovations in my line of work. Ideally I would like to work in international markets to reduce the cost of products in third world countries and still provide quality goods. One of my main goals as an entrepreneur will be to help my community by establishing small markets in highly populated areas that offer quality foods at a reasonable price. This small business model will create more jobs and raise awareness about the importance of good nutrition. After building a professional foundation, I would like channel my experience into my own start-up marketing company.

Aside from being a successful student and professional, I want to help demonstrate God's love for all by dedicating my time and sharing my talents with others. My ultimate goal in life is to create an organization to help low-income students to attend a higher education institution. By being loving I want to plant the powerful desire to succeed and to help others without asking anything in return.

Arrupe Jesuit has greatly influenced me to be a successful role model for my peers and generations to follow. I will continue to support and empower my community by offering a moral response to the injustices and obstacles they face. I will use my education and career pursuits to enhance working and living conditions for my community, and serve as a good example to stay hopeful and hungry for success. Arrupe Jesuit gave me the opportunity to live powerful and humbling experiences; my mission is now to carry out what I have learned to impact the lives of those around me.

*Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than
falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.
It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in Love,
and it will decide everything.*

Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ
(1907-1991)